

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 2 APRIL 2003**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARD PROGRAMME**

**Report by Director of Community Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the Scottish Executive Community Safety Partnership Awards and to seek approval for the appointment of four new temporary posts within the Community Safety section.

**2. BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

- 2.1 In 2002/2003, the Scottish Executive announced a funding package amounting to £12 million split equally over three years to Community Safety Partnerships. In East Ayrshire, the Community Safety Strategic Partnership comprises of representatives of Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire Brigade, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board, the Health Trusts and the Council. It is, of course, supported by the Community Safety Forum and there are imminent plans to establish a tactical group to support and advise the work of both the strategic group and the forum.
- 2.2 This framework is consistent with the model set out by the Accounts Commission in the 'Threads of Success' document.
- 2.3 The allocation is split into two parts, the first being a fixed 80% (40% based on population and 40% allocated to the percentage of crimes per head of population). This equates to a fixed portion of £94,196.23 per annum. The remaining 20% is subject to a bidding process based on Action Plans etc. For the financial year 2003/2004, the bid has resulted in an award of £20,578.78
- 2.4 Following consultation by the Strategic Partnership and the wider community it is proposed to undertake a number of projects to strengthen the infrastructure for the delivery of community safety. Community safety is high on the public agenda and is one of the key themes within the East Ayrshire Community Plan.
- 2.5 The growing importance of community safety has placed additional pressures on staff and has perhaps acted as a constraint to further development. It is therefore proposed to improve the capacity of the section by appointing an Assistant Community Safety Co-ordinator and a

Clerical Assistant. The approximate cost of these two posts is £30,200 per annum.

- 2.6 CCTV has developed steadily over the past few years and from the eleven cameras which were active in Kilmarnock in 1996, we now have a total of 38 cameras across the whole of the area. Monitoring is obviously a key part of the system and at present, 27 cameras are being monitored at Kilmarnock Police Office, and 11 cameras at Cumnock Police Office. The Home Office recommend that the maximum number of cameras to be monitored by one operative is 16 and therefore there is a demonstrable need to provide an additional operative at Kilmarnock. However, since monitoring is carried out over prolonged periods, the actual requirement is for two additional operatives. The annual cost is approximately £28,400.
- 2.7 £5,000 from the fund has been allocated to the Dialogue Youth Initiative which is being led by the Department of Educational and Social Services to promote community safety through a young people's smartcard.
- 2.8 It is proposed that the balance will be utilised for a wide range of smaller initiatives by members of the strategic partnership particularly in relation to drug abuse since 18% of the allocation must be spent in this area of work.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The Scottish Executive have provided additional funding for the next two financial years for community safety. In 2003/2004, this amounts to £114,775.01, and in 2004/2005, there is a fixed commitment of £94,196.23 plus a variable amount to be the subject of a bidding process.

### **4. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Nil.

### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report is consistent with the aims and objectives of the Council's Community Safety Strategy.

### **6. CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The additional funding will improve the capacity of the Community Safety section and enable greater co-ordination of existing projects. It will also assist in the delivery of innovative community safety projects and implementation of the Community Plan.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) approve the appointment of an Assistant Community Safety Officer, a Clerical Assistant, and two CCTV operatives on a temporary basis for a maximum period of two years;
- (ii) refer the matter to the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee in respect of their interest; and
- (iii) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford  
Director of Community Services

WS/JS

18<sup>th</sup> March 2003

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**NIL**

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