

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE – 28 AUGUST 2003

**BUILDING STRONG, SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITIES:  
COMMUNITY BASED WARDENS AND OTHER COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVES TO  
TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR****OUTLINE PROPOSAL****1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Following consultation with the Scottish Executive on proposals to tackle anti-social behaviour and to help local people build strong, safe and attractive communities, East Ayrshire has been awarded an indicative funding allocation for 2004/05 of £525,000, £400,000 to be utilised for community warden schemes and £125,000 to fund a range of other community based initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour. Subject to successful implementation and evaluation, a further £525,000 will be made available in 2005/06.
- 1.2 The Council has been tasked with submitting an outline submission on behalf of its community planning partners. There is already a strong foundation of community planning in East Ayrshire and all Partners are signed up to this initiative which clearly complements and enhances other Scottish Executive programmes that sit under the auspices of community planning, including Quality of Life Initiatives, Community Safety Partnership Awards and Community Based Youth Justice Initiatives. In particular, the Council, Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire Brigade, in partnership with local people and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), will drive forward the range of measures to make our communities stronger, safer and more attractive.

**2. IDENTIFIED NEIGHBOURHOODS**

- 2.1 Initial discussions with communities and key stakeholders, in addition to evidence of high levels of deprivation, crime and vandalism, have identified the following neighbourhoods as likely to benefit significantly from this intervention. A desire to build on the successes of the Better Neighbourhood Services (BNSF) and Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) funding and a recognition that early intervention in some communities has the potential to assist in reversing a downward spiral have further supported the decision that this initiative should be focused in these communities.
- The Pathfinder: North West Kilmarnock and Shortlees
  - Cumnock East (Barshare)/Auchinleck, with a specific focus on Barshare
  - New farm Loch.
- 2.2 Attached at Appendix 1, is a range of relevant statistics in respect of these communities. Strathclyde Police is committed to supporting this initiative and information received from them with regard to where these interventions could make a real difference, has supported the selection of the above communities.

### **3. OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSED SCHEME**

#### **Community Based Wardens**

3.1 The aims of the proposed pilot initiative are:

- crime prevention and public reassurance through wardens;
- regularly patrolling local areas to provide a high profile public deterrence to anti-social behaviour, vandalism and environmental damage;
- acting as a link between local people and service agencies in relation to anti-social behaviour, vandalism and environmental damage;
- assisting, where appropriate, in the speedy resolution of incidents of anti-social behaviour, vandalism or environmental damage through reporting, gathering information and providing evidence (including attending court);
- developing a pro-active approach to engaging with young people by providing information on social and leisure activities, and enabling them to raise issues of concern;
- engaging positively with local people, providing community safety advice, and assisting in reassuring and supporting vulnerable people and victims of crime, and
- making appropriate referrals to the Anti-social Behaviour Team and developing an awareness of community based initiatives designed to tackle anti-social behaviour.

3.2 Strathclyde Police Officers have been actively involved in developing the outline of the proposed warden scheme and the Police locally are supportive of the implementation of this initiative, including the proposed communities to be selected for the initiative.

### **4. COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVES TO TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

4.1 In relation to the above, East Ayrshire already has in place a range of best practice initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour, in line with the Scottish Executive's document 'Not Reinventing the Wheel'. These include a dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour Team, a mediation service and an 'acceptable behaviour contract' scheme.

4.2 To maximise benefits, it is the intention to further develop existing services by enhancing and complementing the current recognised practice, in partnership with RSLs and other stakeholders across all tenures.

4.3 With regard to existing initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour, protocols are already in place with Strathclyde Police and there are regular quarterly meetings between the Police and Council staff to discuss priorities and exchange views on trends and activities. These links will be further strengthened to support the activity of this initiative. The foundations are already in place for an anti-social behaviour

framework within East Ayrshire and this will be further refined for inclusion with the final submission in November 2003.

## **5. PROPOSED OUTCOMES**

5.1 The desired outcomes from this initiative are clear from its title, Building Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities, and match the message which we receive from our communities in respect of their priorities. The desired outcomes are:

- Strong communities, where there is:
  - increased involvement of local people in determining priorities and methods to address them
- Safe communities, where there are:
  - reduced crime levels, and
  - reductions in the fear of crime
- Attractive communities, with
  - improved estate management, and
  - improved upkeep of open and public spaces.

Outputs which will highlight progress in achieving the identified outcomes will be further developed in consultation with local communities and our community planning partners and agencies.

## **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

6.1 There is a solid and robust history of community involvement in shaping service delivery within East Ayrshire and the community planning partners will build on this foundation to ensure that local communities continue to be at the heart of local development. We are committed to ensuring that they are involved in determining priorities and the means of addressing them at a local level. Discussions with key stakeholders have commenced and we will work to develop initial local outcome agreements by November 2003, that will be developed over the lifetime of the programme into Neighbourhood Compacts.

### **6.2 When Will We Involve The Community?**

- At the beginning, to make sure that those who know most about the area have an opportunity to shape the way ahead.
- Throughout the life of the initiative, to make sure that, if things are not working, we have the opportunity to change.
- At the end of the pilot, to see whether people feel their Neighbourhood has changed for the better.

### 6.3 Who Will We Involve?

- Local people who are in the best position to know what needs improved in their Neighbourhood.
- Community Groups and Voluntary Organisations that provide a range of services for their members and for the public.
- Local Staff, who know the issues that local people raise with them.

### 6.4 How Will We Involve People?

We will build on the infrastructure and systems which already operate successfully within the BNSF and SIP areas.

In the Pathfinder area of North West Kilmarnock and Shortlees, we will contact local people through existing focus groups, which have proved to be an excellent mechanism for identifying the local agenda and priorities.

In Cumnock East (Barshare)/Auchinleck and New Farm Loch, we will adopt a similar approach to that used in the Pathfinder area, by issuing invitations to participate to households and establishing focus groups of interested parties.

We will involve 'harder to reach' groups through specific targeting with the assistance of existing forums, support groups and key public agencies and in particular, their outreach staff.

Once established, these focus groups will allow us to refine the activity proposed in the outline submission to ensure that local priorities are addressed. Over the lifetime of the initiative, they will allow regular review of our progress towards the identified outcomes from the perspective of local people. Having been involved since the outset, they will be in a position in March 2006, to make a judgement as to whether their quality of life has improved and their communities are stronger, safer and more attractive.

## 7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- 7.1 East Ayrshire Council will have overall responsibility for ensuring the effective monitoring and evaluation of the programme delivered to tackle anti-social behaviour, and for rigorous review of associated budgets.
- 7.2 Overall management responsibility for the pilot will lie within East Ayrshire Council and an assessment of the appropriateness of relevant departments within the Council to take on routine management is currently being undertaken. The identified service director will have responsibility for local implementation, local spend and effective user involvement, and for ensuring that a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary approach is adopted to ensure maximum benefit and impact in the delivery of this initiative.
- 7.3 Robust monitoring and evaluation procedures will be put in place. Baseline information against which progress can be measured will be further developed and will be in place by 1 April 2004. Further statistical indicators will be developed in the first month of the initiative.

- 7.4 Regular performance reports will be presented to the relevant Council Committee, Community Planning Core Partners Group and local communities, thus ensuring that performance targets are being met. The Council will have responsibility for scrutinising these reports and for ensuring that all necessary actions are taken, and reported regularly to community planning partners.
- 7.5 It is proposed that £20,000 of year 2-3 funding be ring-fenced to fund an independent evaluation of the pilot at the end of year 2. In addition, the community planning partners are interested in the East Ayrshire pilot being a case study for evaluation purposes.

## **8. LINKS TO OTHER INITIATIVES**

- 8.1 Within East Ayrshire, there is a history of strong partnership working that has been enhanced significantly by the community planning process. In identifying the areas in which the initiative will focus, consideration has been given to the links with other Executive and locally funded initiatives, for example Quality of Life Funding, Better Neighbourhood Services Funds and Community Safety. To ensure that all related initiatives are integrated and resources maximised for the benefit of communities, the Community Planning Joint Officers Group oversees all submissions and receives regular updates on progress.

## **9. THE WAY FORWARD**

- 9.1 East Ayrshire Council and its partner agencies will significantly improve the quality of life for residents within the identified areas by ensuring that we are flexible and innovative in our approach to service delivery. As community planning partners, we will ensure that we maximise the benefit of this funding by linking to other relevant initiatives and providing a solid foundation on which to secure lasting change for our local communities. Our existing commitment to partnership working and community involvement will ensure the effective implementation of the programme to tackle anti-social behaviour and build strong, safe and attractive communities.

## **10. LIAISON POINT FOR SUBMISSION**

For further information or clarification, please contact:

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