

## **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**

##### **Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources**

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the Scottish Executive's proposals to 'Build Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities' and the opportunities this presents for East Ayrshire.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In March 2003, the Scottish Executive launched a consultation document setting out its proposals to utilise £30m to tackle anti-social behaviour, the poor quality of the environment and to help local people build strong, safe and attractive communities. The Council prepared a response to this document, which was approved at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 12 June 2003.
- 2.2 Out of the £30m allocation, the Executive allocated £20m to extend community warden schemes more widely across Scotland and £10m for other community based initiatives to address anti-social behaviour.
- 2.3 The Scottish Executive issued their response to the consultation exercise end June 2003, and subsequently issued guidance to local authorities and their Community Planning Partners on preparing submissions for wardens and other community based initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour on 14 July 2003.

### **3. EAST AYRSHIRE'S ALLOCATION**

- 3.1 East Ayrshire has been advised that, subject to a successful funding bid, they will receive £525,000 in 2004/05, £400,000 to support the development of community based wardens and £125,000 for other anti-social behaviour initiatives. It is also anticipated that, subject to successful review, a further £525,000 will be made available in 2005/06.

### **4. GUIDANCE ON THE PREPARATION OF SUBMISSIONS**

- 4.1 The guidance on the preparation of bids, issued by the Executive to the Chief Executive of each Council, advises of a two-stage submission process, with outline proposals to be sent to the Scottish Executive by 31 August 2003 and final submissions by 30 November 2003.

- 4.2 To assist with the development of the submissions, the Executive organised a full day seminar on 7 August 2003. This was attended by the Council's Community Planning and Partnership Manager and the Local Authority Liaison Officer from Strathclyde Police.
- 4.3 In response to the tight time schedule set out by the Executive, the Council and its Community Planning Partners have established a short-term officer working group to ensure the timeous production of East Ayrshire's outline and final submissions. The group is chaired by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager and has representation from relevant East Ayrshire Council Departments, Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

## 5. REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTLINE SUBMISSIONS

- 5.1 The guidance note issued by the Executive sets out their requirements for both the outline and final submissions. A summary of the requirements for the outline submission is detailed below:
- 5.2 **Identification of neighbourhoods:** The selection of communities is a decision for the Local Authority in consultation with their Community Planning Partners. The Executive has however indicated that they will expect local authorities to prioritise deprived neighbourhoods.

An analysis of crime related issues calculated per 1,000 of the population is presented at Appendix 1. Also, information on a range of indicators including secondary fires, offending behaviour statistics, plus the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2003 is shown.

This analysis highlights the existing pathfinder area of North West Kilmarnock and Shortlees as being the community with the most significant issues in relation to crime and ranks highly in respect of multiple deprivation. The second ranking community is Cumnock East (Barshare) and Auchinleck; although these communities have a lower rating in relation to deprivation, they are considered by Strathclyde Police as being highly appropriate for this type of initiative as the crime related figures demonstrate.

This is a similar picture for New Farm Loch that again features highly on the crime related indicators.

It is therefore proposed that three linked communities: the Pathfinder: North West Kilmarnock and Shortlees, Cumnock East (Barshare) / Auchinleck and New Farm Loch should be prioritised for warden activity.

- 5.3 **Key agency involvement:** A briefing paper on Building Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities was presented to the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group on the 6 August 2003. From this meeting, involvement was secured from both Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire Brigade. Once the target communities have been identified, it is proposed that contact be made with appropriate Registered Social Landlords, as key local stakeholders, to secure their involvement.
- 5.4 **Community involvement:** The requirement to engage with local communities is a crucial element of the final submission and once the target communities have been

agreed then steps will be taken to engage with local residents to develop Local Outcome Agreements which will, over the life of the initiative, be developed into 'Neighbourhood Compacts'.

5.5 **Community wardens:** With the anticipated available finance it is estimated that 16 community wardens and 2 supervisors can be appointed. The proposals for the main focus of activity are:

- public reassurance – by providing regular patrols of local communities
- acting as the 'eyes and ears' of local communities and local agencies
- assisting in the speedy resolution of incidents of anti-social behaviour, vandalism and environmental damage; and
- engaging positively with local people, including young people.

Draft job descriptions are currently being prepared and will be refined and expanded through discussions with Local Communities, Personnel Services and the Trade Unions.

5.6 **Links to other Executive funded initiatives:** Both the outline and final submissions require to identify appropriate links to other Executive funded programmes, e.g. Quality of Life Funding, Better Neighbourhood Services Funds, and Community Safety Funding. The working group is currently preparing an overview of these initiatives.

5.7 **Anti-social behaviour framework:** The requirement to develop an anti-social behaviour framework is highlighted within the guidance. This element of work has already been undertaken by Housing and Technical Services and will be reviewed to ensure full compliance with the guidance note.

5.8 **Other community based initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour:** The guidance highlights a range of additional measures to tackle anti-social behaviour that require to be considered as part of the final submission. These include:

- dedicated anti-social behaviour teams at community level
- intensive supervision
- use of mediation to resolve disputes
- supporting victims, witnesses and complainants; and
- acceptable behaviour orders.

The initiatives listed above require to be considered locally, and an indication of which programmes will be prioritised locally and funded via the allocated £125,000 requires to be included within the final submission.

5.9 The outline proposal for submission to the Scottish Executive by 31 August 2003 is attached at Appendix 2.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 An indicative funding allocation of £525,000 for 2004/05, repeated in 2005/06 will be subject to Ministerial approval of the relevant funding submission and satisfactory progress on implementation.

## **7. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The development of community based wardens and other anti-social behaviour initiatives complements the aims of the Improving Community Safety Action Plan 2003-2007 of the Community Plan.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 The Emergency Powers Committee is asked to:

- i) note the funding opportunities arising from the Scottish Executive's proposals to Build Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities and the timescales for the preparation of both the outline proposal and final submission;
- ii) agree to target the resources for the community based wardens and other anti-social behaviour programmes on the three linked communities identified at section 5.2;
- iii) remit the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to make arrangements for carrying out appropriate consultations with local residents and focus groups, together with Registered Social Landlords in the communities proposed for Community Based Wardens etc;
- iv) remit the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to ensure a timeous return to the Executive of both the outline proposal and final submission, ensuring appropriate partners involvement; and
- v) otherwise note the content of this report.

**Fiona Lees**

Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources  
26 August 2003

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Building Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities: Summary Report on the Consultation –  
End June 2003

Building Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities: Guidance for Submissions –  
14 July 2003

**Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Gwen Barker,  
Community Planning and Partnership Manager on 01563 554602**

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER:** Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources