

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 30 NOVEMBER 2000

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY IN EAST AYRSHIRE

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the proposed development of the community safety partnership in East Ayrshire with an emphasis on the strategic planning process and to seek approval, in principle, of the draft Community Safety Strategy for further consultation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 1997 the Council demonstrated early commitment to community safety by creating the post of Community Safety Officer. This commitment was further demonstrated in 1998 by the expansion of the remit, and the renaming, of the former East Ayrshire Accident Prevention Committee together with the approval of the Council's Community Safety Strategy.
- 2.2 Since that time there have been a number of changes, both national and local, in the way services to the community are planned and delivered. In addition, recent national studies of the new community safety partnerships, by Audit Scotland and the Scottish Executive, highlight good practice and recommend ways to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of partnerships.
- 2.3 Copies of the draft strategy are available in the Members' Information Point. Additional copies are available from the Administration service.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Accordingly, it was decided to review the Community Safety Strategy in light of the changes and additional information briefly outlined in paragraph 2.2. Initial consultation with key partners, including the members of the East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum, has now taken place and the draft Strategy is attached for consideration and approval in principle for further consultation.
- 3.2 The draft strategy defines community safety as the protection of everyone's right to live without fear for their own or other people's safety, recognises that success is dependent upon a partnership approach and sets out a number of aims with related targets.

- 3.3 The Council Plan, particularly the key priorities in relation to a safe, stimulating and sustainable environment, and the service plans and targets of partner organisations will impact directly on the aims and targets of the Community Safety Strategy. The strategic partnership group will ensure the mainstreaming of community safety by integrating it into community planning, best value, service planning and delivery for all partners.
- 3.4 A study of community safety partnerships in Scotland, "Safe and Sound", published by Audit Scotland in May 2000, recommends that partnerships be represented at a strategic level by the local authority, police and fire services and the health board or trust. The role of the private and voluntary sectors, housing associations and racial equality councils should also be considered. A key role is played by elected members, not only in terms of political commitment and leadership, but also of their extensive local knowledge of community priorities and concerns.
- 3.5 It is suggested that the Community Safety Strategy will formalise a three tier partnership structure. The first tier would comprise the strategic partnership group, the existing Community Safety Forum would be confirmed as the operations group which would manage, task and implement actions and the third tier would be composed of appropriate task groups which would deliver on key priorities.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is proposed that any initiatives arising from the Community Safety Strategy would be met by partners' existing budgets or from external funding sources.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The review of the Community Safety Strategy and establishment of a three tier partnership structure accord with the Council's commitment to the protection of the weak and vulnerable and the promotion of social inclusion as set out in the Council Plan.
- 6.2 The review of the Community Safety policy is in line with the objectives set out in the Council Plan.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The consideration and refinement of the Strategy by the strategic partnership group will ensure the mainstreaming of community safety and formalise links with partner organisations. The three tier partnership structure will provide further clarity of purpose and will ensure that community safety priorities are established, resourced, managed and actioned in an effective and cohesive manner.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree:-
- (i) to approve, in principle, the draft Community Safety Strategy for further consideration and refinement by the strategic partnership group;
 - (ii) to the establishment of a three tier partnership structure as outlined in this report; and
 - (iii) that it be remitted to the Director of Community Services to make the necessary arrangements and submit a further report on the development of the Strategy to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

9 November 2000

WS/AJS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. "Safe and Sound" a study of community safety partnerships in Scotland published by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Accounts Commission, May 2000.
2. "Safe and Sound" self assessment good practice guide for community safety partnerships published by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Accounts Commission, September 2000.
3. "Threads of Success" a study of community safety partnerships in Scotland published by the Scottish Executive, November 2000.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 554391 and ask for Miss Alison J Smith, Principal Officer – Licensing and Community Safety.

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AGENDA