

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 19 AUGUST 2008

SUBJECT: GRAFFITI POLICY

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Communities Committee is asked to approve the Graffiti Policy to administer the free graffiti removal service offered by the Antisocial Behaviour Operational Group.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the statutory functions of the Council under the Government in Scotland Act (2003), to initiate, maintain and facilitate Community Planning.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Communities Committee is asked to approve the Graffiti Policy to administer the free graffiti removal service offered by the Antisocial Behaviour Operational Group.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Antisocial Behaviour section have provided a free graffiti removal service in Moray since April 2005, funded from the previous Scottish Executive funding. This service applied to all properties, irrespective of ownership.
- 3.2 The figures show that the number of reported incidents increased from 77 in 2006/7 to 84 in 2007/8.
- 3.3 Whilst The Moray Council has powers under the Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 to enforce graffiti removal on certain organisations. The Moray Council recognises that the owners of any property affected by graffiti are the victims of crime/antisocial behaviour. This can be distressing and the financial cost of removing graffiti can be substantial. This could be seen to be 'punishing the victim'. Many authorities have decided not to use these powers and as a result the power is being reviewed as part of the national, ongoing, Antisocial Behaviour Review which will conclude late 2008.
- 3.4 Arising from the Strategic Assessment, the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group has agreed that £10,000 be allocated from the Antisocial Behaviour budget for 2008-09 to continue this free graffiti removal service across Moray.
- 3.5 The Graffiti Policy is attached. **(Appendix 1)**

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The Safer and Stronger Strategic Group agreed to remove graffiti to support the overall vision of community planning which is "To increase the quality of life and well-being of everyone in Moray."

The Corporate Development Plan states in the Environmental Programme "Manage and improve the environment....for the benefit of residents, visitors and businesses." and in the Social Programme "Support and encourage measures that....enhance quality of life."

(b) Policy and Legal

The Moray Council has a statutory obligation in terms of the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 to tackle all forms of antisocial behaviour.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

£10,000 has been allocated from the Antisocial Behaviour budget for the free graffiti removal service for 2008-09. Once the budget has been used in the year a waiting list of graffiti removal will be maintained for consideration in future years.

(d) Consultations

Andy Jamieson, Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator, Willie Duncan, Area Manager, DLO, Paul Nevin, Paralegal and Bridget Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager have been consulted on the development of the policy.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Communities Committee is asked to approve the Graffiti Policy to administer the free graffiti removal service offered by the Antisocial Behaviour Operational Group.

Author of Report: Emma Armit, Project Officer

Background Papers: Graffiti Policy

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