REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 19 AUGUST 2008

SUBJECT: SAFER STRATEGY

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Communities Committee is asked to approve the extension of the deadline for the development of the Safer Strategy 2008-2011, which was due in May 2008.

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 invited to approve a new deadline of 31 October 2008, for completion of the Safer Strategy 2008-2011.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. As Members may be aware the Scottish Government has introduced a review of the Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour process. This resulted in a delay in the publication of Scottish Government guidance on formation of strategies and the strategic assessment.

3.2. In line with the Scottish Government Directive, a Strategic Assessment of Community Safety had to be completed to assist in informing the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership for the three years 2008-11, beginning April 2008. The Strategic Assessment could not be completed until after the:-

a) Guidance on the structure and format of the Strategic Assessment from the Scottish Government process was undertaken.

b) Required research and analysis of data and information, obtained from all parties was received.

c) Scottish Government approved the merger of the Community Safety and the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy into one document.

3.4 At the first meeting of the Safer and Stronger Theme Group the meeting considered the Strategic Assessment completed against the “safer” part of the theme. However, it was agreed that a revised assessment should be developed to include “safer” and “stronger” parts to cover the whole theme remit. This assessment will be submitted to the next meeting of the group to be held on 21 August 2008.

3.5 Given that the guidance and approval have been received from Scottish Government and the comprehensive Safer and Stronger Strategic Assessment has been completed, the Safer Strategy will now be produced during the next few months.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

The Safer Strategy will contribute to the strategic direction for the Safer and Stronger theme group within the Community Planning structures.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Moray Council have a stautory obligation in terms of the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 to review and revise the strategy on a regular basis.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks and Staffing)

There are no financial, risks or staffing implications arising from the delay in the production of the strategy. Any implications arising from the strategy will be highlighted during its development.

(d) Consultations

Scottish Government have been involved in the guidance and approvals required. The Community Safety Partners have been involved in developing the Strategic Assessments. The Safer and Stronger Strategic Group have been involved in the consideration of the Strategic Assessment.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Committee is invited to approve a new deadline of 31 October 2008, for completion of the Safer Strategy 2008-2011.

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Background Papers:
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