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**REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 1 DECEMBER 2009**

**SUBJECT: MORAY CITIZENS PANEL - SAFER COMMUNITIES SURVEY 2009**

**BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to consider the findings from the Safer Communities Survey 2009.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising the statutory power of the Council to advance wellbeing under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **The committee is asked to consider the findings of the Moray Citizens Panel Safer Communities Survey 2009 and note the changes in perceptions and improvements in statistics since the previous survey in 2006.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Craigforth has been actively undertaking research on behalf of the Moray Community Planning Partnership from January 2009 to present in relation to Safer Communities.
- 3.2 The survey was issued to the Citizens Panel, as well as equalities groups and other representative groups active within Moray. A copy of the full survey is attached (**Appendix**).
- 3.3 The survey asked individuals about their experiences and perceptions of crime and antisocial behaviour within their area. These were further broken down into categories of antisocial behaviour, crime, fire, home and road safety to reflect the operational groups of the Safer Co-ordinating Group.
- 3.4 The results very much mirror those of the 2006 survey in respect that rubbish/litter and dog fouling still remain the most common problems in Moray as identified by the respondents, with violence and harassment being the least identified problems.

- 3.5 Public drunkenness and underage drinking is identified as the next most common problem, particularly in Lossiemouth, Keith and Buckie.
- 3.6 Drinking in public and the behaviour of young people were highlighted by a fair proportion of respondees as a problem.
- 3.7 Community Wardens have increased their profile by 15% to 79% since 2006 and a significant 33% increase in proportion of public who were fully aware of community wardens and their role.
- 3.8 Two thirds of respondents reported that a fear of crime and antisocial behaviour impacted on their lives, 19% of which report it is a 'major' impact on their lives.
- 3.9 Community measures and initiatives that the public would like to see as priorities are antisocial behaviour and road safety initiatives. These were ranked highest priority along with facilities for children and young people. Other initiatives ranked highly were alcohol campaigns, more community wardens and use of CCTV.
- 3.10 In relation to home safety there was no significant variation in numbers of accidents since 2006. The more common type of accidents were trips or falls which accounts for a third of all accidents. The largest proportion of accidents have taken place in the bedroom.
- 3.11 17% of respondents or their family had been involved in a road accident but they had been fairly minor. Public opinion was that Moray has a higher rate of inexperienced and drink drivers than other areas. Also that road conditions are poorer in Moray. Respondents felt that there was a need for more speed restrictions and traffic calming measures. The respondents also strongly disagreed with the statement that road accidents had reduced in Moray over the last 5 years.
- 3.12 Awareness of fire safety messages was relatively high and they reach a large proportion of homes throughout Moray. The majority of respondents had made a change to their home or lifestyle as a result of fire safety concerns.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) *Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan***

There is not a direct local outcome within the Single Outcome Agreement for Community Safety but it is under the remit of the Safer and Stronger theme group.

##### **(b) *Policy and Legal***

The Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 places a statutory obligation on The Moray Council to tackle antisocial behaviour.

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

The cost of the consultation and research was funded by the Community Planning Partnership.

**(d) Consultations**

No specific consultation has been undertaken but a report is being submitted to the next meeting of the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group.

**5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The committee is asked to consider the findings of the Moray Citizens Panel Safer Communities Survey 2009 and note the changes in perceptions and improvements in statistics since the previous survey in 2006.**

Author of Report: Andy Jamieson, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator  
Background Papers:  
Ref:

Signature: 

Date : 19/01/09

Designation: Chief Executive

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