



**REPORT TO: SAFER AND STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP – 5
JUNE 2008**

**SUBJECT: SAFER & STRONGER THEME GROUP - BUDGET
2008-11**

BY: CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Community Safety Strategic Group is invited to agree the spend against the 2008/09 Community Safety budget. The funding includes the two previous funding streams of Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **The Community Safety Strategic Group is invited to agree the committed spend against the 2008-2009 budget provided by The Moray Council.**
- 2.2 **As well as agreeing the spend the group is also asked to agree on the level of financial commitment to previously funded priorities.**
- 2.3 **Additionally the Group is asked to remit the development of business plans for the four priority areas identified under the Strategic Assessment before financial commitments are made against those priorities.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Since the inception of Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour the funding to progress this agenda has been provided by way of direct grant from Scottish Government. In the year 2007/08 a total budget of £460,000 was allocated by Scottish Government to the Community Safety Partnership in Moray, of which, Antisocial Behaviour received £335,000.

- 3.2 The Community Safety budget for 2008/09 has been allocated from The Moray Council general fund due to the removal of ring fenced funding. The total budget allocated to Community Safety in this year was reduced to £410,000.
- 3.3 Committed salary costs account for £119,515 of the budget with an additional £28,794 being allocated to partner agencies for joint funded posts. These posts support the delivery of the Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour legislation which places a duty on the council to implement all measures outlined in the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004. There is also a requirement keep accurate statistical information for the purpose of Governance and Accountability to Scottish Government and Community Planning Partners and the Council. This can only be achieved by providing adequate staffing to deliver the service.
- 3.4 £187,493 has been allocated to Grampian Police for Community Wardens salaries and expenses. This funding has been confirmed for 2008-9 to Grampian Police following the budget discussions.
- 3.5 As well as the salary costs stated, Community Safety funding is also committed to maintaining services required to fulfil our commitment to making Moray a safer place to live and work. These include CCTV and the Antisocial Behaviour Helpline, which accounts for £8,500 of the budget.
- 3.6 The provision of staff training is of vital importance, particularly in respect of Antisocial Behaviour as it is fairly new legislation, and staff must be trained to assist them in the understanding, implications and legal requirements of the Act. Additionally the Community Planning Partnership has committed to evidence-based priorities, as a result there is a requirement for accurate information and analysis. Give this, partner analysts must be trained to recognised standards to ensure reliability of their information to enable the theme group to set priorities and monitor delivery against them. £2000 has been identified for training.
- 3.7 The Moray Council has a statutory obligation to enforce the legislation relating to the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004. This necessitates providing legal services at all stages of the procedures. Legal Services also represent The Moray Council in the Sheriff Court when making applications for Antisocial Behaviour Orders. £5,000 has been allocated for this service.
- 3.8 The ASB legislation states that when a person is the subject of an ASBO or an ABC then they should receive support to enable them to comply with the orders. It is recommended that ASB continue to fund these projects as they fit into the priority of tackling Antisocial Behaviour.

3.9 There are four identified projects, which have been previously funded by Antisocial Behaviour and have been identified as by the Strategic Assessment as having a positive impact on such behaviour. Graffiti removal enhances the environment, while the other three provide an early intervention and alternatives to offending. There is a requirement to provide support to individuals who are subject to an ABC or ASBO.

The four identified projects are: -

- Graffiti Removal - The Graffiti Removal Service enhances the environment of communities in Moray and allows removal without having to locate owners of the property. Graffiti is removed free of charge from any premises irrespective of ownership. £10,000 has been allocated to this service in previous years.
- Duke of Edinburgh Scheme - The Scheme provides an activity that young people can be allocated in order to divert them away from minor offending and committing antisocial behaviour. There have been 25 young people referred to the scheme in the last financial year. £2,000 has been allocated to this scheme in the previous year.
- Acceptable Behaviour Contract Support (ABC) and Antisocial Behaviour Order Support - Moray Youth Justice provide the services of Sessional Workers who provide intensive support to individuals and families to assist them to successfully complete the order or contract. £10,000 was allocated to this service in the year 2007/08. Sessional Workers also facilitate the accessing of activities by people to divert them away from offending. In the last financial year there were 27 referrals for an ABC, of which 75% were successful.
- Street Football – This is a mobile football pitch, which is transported to all communities in Moray. It is regularly attended by in excess of 30 young people at every location. £5,000 was allocated to this in the year 2007/08. This provides a valuable alternative to ASB and petty crime and is supported by local communities and partner agencies.

The Group should consider whether they wish to continue these projects for the year 2008/09. They all fall within the priority of Antisocial Behaviour and support the drive to tackle such behaviour. The budget for these projects is £25,000 based on previous years' spend.

3.10 The Strategic Assessment has identified four priorities or themes and partners will work together on all of these themes. These priorities have also been identified in the Single Outcome Agreement. The priorities identified are:-

- Antisocial Behaviour
- Road Safety
- Home and Fire Safety
- Violence Reduction

Road Safety has previously been allocated funding of £3,500 and £25,000 was allocated to anti social behaviour project which are mentioned above from 2007/08 budget.

- 3.11 A number of current commitments are required to continue to meet Community Safety/ASB legislation i.e. staffing. Additionally the council has agreed to continue with the commitment to the warden service for this year. Smaller commitments include CCTV, ASB helpline and training. If the group decide to continue the funding of the four ASB projects, then the remaining budget of £33,698 should be allocated against priorities identified within the Strategic Assessment.
- 3.12 In order to fairly distribute the identified budget of £33,698 between Road Safety, Fire & Home Safety and Violence Reduction it is proposed that the Community Safety Strategic Group allocate the funding only upon receipt of business plans from the respective group. These plans should detail their proposals and give accurate costs and methods of monitoring and evaluating. This can be remitted to the appropriate officer to develop.

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans

The “Safer and Stronger” theme group of the Community Planning Partnership covers a wide range of issues which includes Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour.

(b) Policy and Legal

The terms of this report meets the statutory obligations of the Council in relation to antisocial behaviour and in terms of the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004. The Single Outcome Agreement requires Councils to monitor and report its performance against the outcomes.

(c) Resources (Financial, Staffing and Risks)

The budget allocated Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour 2008-09 is £410,000.

The budget breakdown is shown below: -

| | | |
|--|----------------|---------------------|
| <u>Staffing Commitments</u> | | |
| Moray Council Staff | £119,515 | |
| Partner Staff | <u>£28,794</u> | |
| Total | | £148,309 |
| <u>Ongoing commitments 2008/09</u> | | |
| Community Wardens | £187,493 | |
| CCTV and ASB Helpline | £8,500 | |
| Legal Services | £5,000 | |
| Staff Training | <u>£2,000</u> | |
| Total | | £202,993 |
| <u>Previous Project Commitments</u> | | |
| Graffiti Removal | £10,000 | |
| Duke of Edinburgh Scheme | £ 2,000 | |
| ASB Support | £10,000 | |
| Street Football | <u>£3,000</u> | |
| Total | | £25,000 |
| Strategic Assessment Priorities | | £33,698 |
| Total Spend | | £401,000 |

(d) Consultations

All Community Safety Partners participated in a three-day planning and consultation exercise, which centred on the Strategic Assessment and development of evidence-based priorities, which have been approved by the Community Safety Partners. As a result, the priorities were identified.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Community Safety Strategy Group agree the projected spend against the budget. The budget includes previous funding allocated to both Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour. Community Safety and Antisocial**

Behaviour funding is used to finance initiatives which support the priorities of the theme group and provide an infrastructure to deal with Antisocial Behaviour. It also allows the Council to comply with its statutory requirements under the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004.

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Background Papers: Budget 2007-8 & Strategic Assessment

Ref: