

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 14 JUNE 2004

REPORT ON: APPLICATION FOR BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUNDING - NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICERS

REPORT BY: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY PLANNING) AND HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 359-2004

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for a funding proposal to improve Police services within the Kirkton and Hilltown communities. This is to be done in tandem with relevant Community Planning partners and undertaken in a targeted fashion aimed at addressing pertinent priority community safety issues identified by local stakeholders via the recent Local Community Planning process and other local engagement activities.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 Approve the funding proposal set out in this report.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The full cost of the proposal detailed in this report is £80,000, which will be met from the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund 2004/05 allocation to Dundee City Council from the Scottish Executive.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Eligibility for access to funding under the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund is determined by the Scottish Executive on the basis of need. There is a close relationship between the Local Agenda 21 targets and the output agreement approved by the Scottish Executive in response to Dundee's Better Neighbourhood Services Fund proposals.
- 4.2 The proposal contained within this report responds to local concerns and needs, and will assist with implementation of the Area Regeneration Plan for the targeted neighbourhood. The measure contained within this report will have a positive impact on a number of Agenda 21 targets.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The resources made available through the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund for geographic neighbourhoods are targeted on those areas which fall within the most disadvantaged 10% of enumeration districts at the time of the 1991 Census. The funding is also targeted on those areas which already have Social Inclusion Partnership status, and is intended to have the effect of equalising opportunities and enabling local authorities and their partners to sustain a higher level of public sector investment in these neighbourhoods than might otherwise have been possible.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Better Neighbourhood Services Fund Co-ordinated Neighbourhood Management Initiative is focused on the two communities of Hilltown and Kirkton. To date more than £2million has been allocated for specific project investment in these two areas. The majority of that funding has been directed towards addressing community safety issues e.g. improved street lighting, CCTV, off-street car parking, road safety, shed alarms, issue of a community safety booklet to all households etc.

The proposal outlined in this report, if approved, would be met from the extension of Better Neighbourhood Services Fund announced by the Scottish Executive in December 2003. Also, the proposal will seek to build on previous and ongoing initiatives and will respond directly to the expressed wish of local people for an additional police presence on the streets of the two target neighbourhoods.

7 PROPOSAL DETAILS : NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICERS

- 7.1 An application has been received from Tayside Police, Central Division which seeks funding for the appointment of one Neighbourhood Police Officer (NPO) in each of the two target areas for the period from 1st September 2004 until 31st March 2006. The deployment of these two officers will allow for a significant input to community safety issues and will result in specific outputs and outcomes which would otherwise not occur. It is pertinent to note that other BNSF pathfinder authorities have, from the outset, used BNSF to fund an additional Police resource within targeted neighbourhoods e.g. Inverclyde and North Ayrshire.
- 7.2 At a broad level, the role of the NPO will be complementary to the work of the Community Liaison Police Officers, Community Safety Worker and, in addition, in Hilltown the work of the Community Safety Wardens. It is important to note that the activities undertaken by the NPO will differ significantly from those of the Community Safety Wardens. Whilst the Community Safety Wardens will be more involved in reporting, the NPO will deliver specific solutions to identified community safety issues e.g. visiting older people living in sheltered housing with the aim of reducing their fear of crime. Their appointment will allow for a more intensive and integrated approach to be adopted with community planning partners and other community stakeholders which is not possible with the existing Police resources. Similarly with only, one Full Time Equivalent Community Safety Worker operating across both neighbourhoods there is insufficient time to tackle pro- actively the full range of presenting issues. By working closely with the Community Safety Worker the Neighbourhood Police Officer will, for example, provide the required level of professionalism to prepare a technically competent community safety audit and subsequent action plan.
- 7.3 Essentially, the NPOs will be totally dedicated to working in the BNSF areas of Kirkton and Hilltown and will spend some 75% of their working time in the neighbourhood interacting with residents, local businesses and local officers from community planning partners. This constitutes a significant increase in the presence of Police on the streets which responds directly to the demands of local people raised recently during the formulation of the Local Community Plans for Kirkton and Hilltown. Whilst day to day Police supervision would be handled by the existing Community Liaison Sergeants the detail of the NPO work plan will be directed to issues identified and agreed by local stakeholders via the Local Community Planning process and the BNSF Neighbourhood Partnership. The Partnership meets every two months and progress against the plan would be reported formally.

7.4 The principal role of the NPO will be to:

- work closely with all other pertinent organisations to investigate the nature of and develop solutions to youth related issues of concern to the wider community. This aspect will also involve some pilot work with the BNSF Support for Young People initiative e.g. attending School Referral Team meetings.
- develop a local traders/businesses supportive group which will look to promote crime prevention measures and reduce significantly the incidence of the sale of alcohol to individuals under the legal age
- identify community safety issues and in conjunction with the Community Safety Worker develop and implement via the Neighbourhood Partnership a local community safety action plan with relevant organisations
- work with older members of the community including sheltered housing tenants to reduce their fear of crime
- work with the ethnic population and shopkeepers to identify specific community safety issues relevant to this group.
- work proactively to establish additional Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and a Crime Prevention Panel in the Hilltown.
- undertake a weekly surgery in each neighbourhood

7.5 The additionality to be gained from this proposal must be measurable and attached at Appendix One is a table of the Outcomes and, at Appendix Two, the Outputs to be achieved. These are directed towards already identified community priorities but there is sufficient flexibility and scope to allow new actions and goals to be added if these are deemed to be a priority by the Neighbourhood Partnership. Without these additional resources, the related activities, could not be carried out in sufficient depth to achieve the stated outcomes and outputs.

7.6 Excellent communication will be an absolute requirement between existing Police services, the Community Safety Wardens and the NPOs and as far as possible all ambiguity will be removed so that when a specific issue manifests the different staff involved will know whom to contact in the first instance.

7.7 Given the complex nature of the role and responsibilities of the NPO's it is proposed that only experienced serving Police officers will be appointed to these posts. In total the cost of this initiative will amount to £80,000 to cover the period from 1st September 2004 to 31st March 2006. The Scottish Executive have advised that the additional year 4 BNSF funding must end on or before 31 March 2006.

7.8 It is proposed that the future of this initiative beyond this pilot period will be determined following a formal assessment which will evaluate progress against the stated outcomes and outputs and assess future needs in each neighbourhood. This evaluation will be completed by the 31 January 2006 following which a decision to mainstream this service from the Police budget and, or extend into other neighbourhoods will be taken.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, the Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning), the Directors of Housing, Leisure and Arts, Education, Planning and Transportation, Dundee Contract Services, Head of Waste Management, SIP Co-ordinator and the Chief Constable Tayside Police.
- 8.2 The elected members for both areas have been consulted on the development of this proposal as have community representatives.
- 8.3 The recommendation is based on issues raised by local communities and will contribute towards achieving the targets set out in the BNSF Local Outcome Agreement. Ongoing consultation will take place once approval to progress has been agreed.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

Chris Ward
Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning).....

Stewart Murdoch
Head of Communities

Appendix 1

Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target
Shopkeepers/Businesses will report a 5% reduction in the fear of crime	Fear of crime	To be established by 31 October 2004	5% less than baseline by December 2005
Older people living in sheltered housing will report a 5% reduction in the fear of crime	Fear of crime	To be established by 31 October 2004	5% less than baseline by December 2005
Reduce the number of calls regarding children and youth related issues by 5%.	Number of calls per year	Hilltown – 610 per year Kirkton – 522 per year	5% less than baseline by December 2005
Reduce by 5% the number of referrals made to the Children’s Reporter in relation to Breaches of the Peace and Fire-raising by children and youths. (Those aged 8 years –15 years inclusive and those aged 16 years and 17 years on supervision orders).	Number of referrals per year	To be established by 30 September 2004	5% less than baseline by December 2005
Reduce by 5% the total number of reported crimes relative to Fire-raising and increase detection rates by 5%	Number of Crimes Reported %Detection Rate Both per year	Crimes/detection rate Hilltown – 78/17% Kirkton – 41/37%	
Reduce the number of reported crimes to cars by 5% and increase detection rates by 5%	Number of crimes reported % Detection Rates Both per year	Crimes/detection rate Hilltown – 82/14% Kirkton – 69/12.5%	5% less reported crimes and a 5% increase in detection rates by December 2005

Reduce the level of vandalism by 5% and increase detection rates by 5%	Number of incidents reported % Detection Rates Both per year	Crimes/detection rate Hilltown – 89/20% Kirkton – 122/31%	5% less reported vandalism and 5 % increase in detection rates
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Appendix 2

OUTPUTS	BY WHEN
Develop a local trades/businesses supportive group	6 months from appointment
Produce a local community safety action plan which details specific action items, lead responsibility, timescales and outcomes to be achieved	6 months from appointment
Undertake 30 hours per week on high profile patrol	Ongoing
Visit all sheltered housing complexes at least once per month on a formal basis to provide information, support etc.	Ongoing
Work with ethnic population and shopkeepers to identify specific community safety issues for the group and thereafter identifying practical solutions	Initial report completed by 31 st March 2005
Identify and co-ordinate local Road Safety initiatives	Ongoing
Encourage and support the creation of a Crime Prevention Panel in the Hilltown.	Panel established 9 months after appointment.
Undertake a weekly surgery	2 months from appointment