

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE - 18 AUGUST 2003**

**REPORT ON: MINUTE OF AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE TAYSIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

**REPORT NO: 541-2003**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

This report outlines the background to the development of a Minute of Agreement which records how the Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership will operate.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee remits the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) to conclude the Minute of Agreement for the operation of the Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership on behalf of Dundee City Council and agrees to the proposal that Dundee City Council acts as host authority for the Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership which includes responsibility for administering the single budget.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Criminal Justice Social Work services are 100% funded by the Scottish Executive. In April 2002, the Scottish Executive introduced the concept of a single shared budget for each Criminal Justice partnership.

### **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The work of the Partnership contributes to community safety and to the policy objective of assisting communities to live without fear of personal violence from crime.

### **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Minute of Agreement will ensure that the work of the Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership is conducted in a fair and transparent manner.

### **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

6.1 The Social Work Committee, on 18 June 2001, approved the establishment of the Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership for the delivery of Criminal Justice Social Work Services across the boundaries of Angus, Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils.

- 6.2 Members of the Committee will be aware that there had been a series of discussion between the Scottish Executive and COSLA, following the publication of the consultation document "Community Sentencing - The Tough Option" in 1998. Discussion and debate centred around the issue of how Criminal Justice Social Work Services should be delivered. The conclusion reached by the Minister for Justice, Mr Jim Wallace MSP, in May 2000, was that Criminal Justice Social Work Services should remain the responsibility of local authorities, who should work together to form 11 mainland partnerships or groupings. This model of local authority partnerships was agreed by COSLA and the composition of the partnerships was approved by the Scottish Executive in April 2001.
- 6.3 When the Social Work Committee approved the establishment of the Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership, it was agreed that a Steering Group would be established to oversee the work of the Partnership. The Steering Group has comprised of Conveners of the relevant committee within each council, the three Directors and three Heads of Service responsible for Criminal Justice Social Work. At the same time, a Partnership Management team, consisting of the relevant Heads of Service and Service Managers from across the Partnership was established. It was also agreed that further work would be carried out by both groups to define how the Partnership should operate.
- 6.4 The Minute of Agreement has been developed by the Partnership Management Team and was approved by the Partnership Steering Group on 30 June 2003. It outlines:-
- The constitution of the Steering Group and the relationship between the Steering Group and each of the three Councils
  - Operational arrangements
  - Financial arrangements
  - Arrangements for the commencement and termination of the agreement

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Minute of Agreement has been the subject of extensive consultation across the three Councils and in particular has been considered by the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Depute Chief Executive (Support Services).

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report, however, reference has been made to the Scottish Executive document "Community Sentencing – The Tough Option", published in September 1998 and to Committee Report 398 - 2001.

Alan G Baird  
Director of Social Work  
Date

8th August 2003