

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE
REPORT ON: COMMUNITY REPARATION ORDERS
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK
REPORT NO: 588 - 2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the provisions contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill relating to Community Reparation orders and to seek approval for Dundee to become a pilot site for the introduction of these orders.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee

- 2.1 Note the provisions contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 for the new court disposal of Community Reparation Order
- 2.2 Agree to Dundee City Council becoming a pilot site for the introduction of this disposal
- 2.3 Request officers to consult with the Community Safety Partnership and other relevant organisations on the proposed arrangements for the establishment of a Community Reparation Scheme
- 2.4 Request officers to provide a further report on the outcome of this consultation including detailed proposals for how such a scheme would operate.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of the scheme would require to be fully met by the Scottish Executive's 100% funding arrangement for Criminal Justice Social Work services.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The proposed development of a Community Reparation Order scheme would contribute to the policy objectives of meeting local needs locally and living without fear of personal violence from crime.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 The Anti Social Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 has recently been enacted. The Act contains provision for the introduction of Community Reparation Orders (CROs) which will provide Courts with an additional sentencing option in dealing with anti social behaviour.
- 6.2 The Legislation envisages that these Orders will be able to be used by the Sheriff and District Courts where an offender is convicted of an offence which involves anti social behaviour. These are likely to be cases involving offenders who have not accumulated a large number of previous convictions and would not currently attract a disposal such as Community Service or Probation. The disposal would involve offenders undertaking between 10 and 100 hours of activity which is focussed in "putting something back" into the communities they have offended against. Although there is no upper age limit on these orders, they are envisaged to be particularly relevant to young offenders.
- 6.3 The Scottish Executive have indicated that they intend to pilot these provisions in three localities across Scotland, one city, one urban and one rural area. Dundee has been suggested as a potential city site due to the level of business passing through local courts which may fall within the target group for CROs.
- 6.4 Draft guidance has been produced by the Scottish Executive on how the new Community Reparation Orders should be established. This emphasises the importance of consulting with local organisations on how local schemes should be developed, reporting publicly on these consultations and reviewing arrangements for the scheme no less than annually.
- 6.5 The Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership Steering Group is supportive of Dundee's suggested involvement in this pilot and it is considered that the wider Partnership will be able to benefit from the experience gained in Dundee.
- 6.6 There will be human resource implications arising from these proposals which will be addressed in detail in a subsequent report to the Personnel Committee.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) were consulted in the preparation of this report
- 7.2 In addition, further consultation would take place as outlined in recommendation 3.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

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Director of Social Work

Date: 12 August 2004