

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 14 April 2008

REPORT ON: Review of Dundee Community Safety Wardens

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 164-2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek Committee approval for the recommendations and proposals arising from the review of the Dundee Community Safety Wardens.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is asked to note the contents of the Community Safety Warden Review and approve the following:

2.1 All Community Safety Warden Teams will be deployed on the basis of intelligence led tasking on a phased basis by 31 March 2009.

2.2 All staffing implications are remitted to the Chief Executive.

2.3 Day duties will be introduced to reflect a growing requirement to liaise with schools and other youth provision on preventative educational programmes and to offer a reassuring community safety liaison particularly for the elderly by visiting sheltered housing complexes.

2.4 The Community Safety Warden Advisory Group composition and remit will be re-examined to reflect the move from designated geographical Warden patrolled areas.

2.5 The Head of Community Learning & Development will explore with the Divisional Commander, Central Division, Tayside Police options to extend the duties of the Warden service to assist in the reduction of antisocial behaviour.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All costs will be met from within the Department's revenue budget for 2008 - 2009 onwards.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Community Safety Wardens have been operational in Dundee since May 2004 and have been funded by the Scottish Government to 31 March 2008.

4.2 Deployment was initially based on the then Electoral Wards and was determined on the basis of the following criteria:

- levels of deprivation
- antisocial behaviour activity level
- crime statistics

Operational deployment progressed in three phases. Phase 1 included Hilltown/

- Bowbridge, Douglas and Whitfield. Phase 2 included Stobswell and Camperdown/Lochee West. Phase 3 included Pitkerro and the formation of a Support Team to cover annual leave and sickness absence in the designated areas.
- 4.3 The Scottish Government asked Dundee Community Safety Wardens to pilot a Mobile Team to be deployed on the basis of intelligence led tasking. This Team became operational in August 2006. Results from this pilot have informed Scottish Government thinking on the future deployment of Community Wardens towards a model of Intelligence led tasking based upon the National Intelligence Model.
 - 4.4 Performance is monitored against agreed criteria and reported using Scottish Government set templates as required. Additionally, reports are submitted to the Council outlining progress and achievements. Report for the period 2004 - 2006 was submitted to the Communities Committee on 21 August 2006 (Report No 438-2006 refers).
 - 4.5 The Dundee Community Safety Warden Scheme is highly regarded nationally and is recognised by the Scottish Government as being well run and at the forefront of demonstrating best practice.
 - 4.6 Dundee Community Safety Wardens have been the subject of an in depth external evaluation over two years by consultants Blake Stevenson and their report has been made available to Committee under Report No 438-2006 referred to in paragraph 4.4.
 - 4.7 The external evaluation by Blake Stevenson states *"Evidence gathered through focus groups with community members indicates that the initiative provides a visible, authoritative presence and an alternative to Police where there is a low level of crime. There is a sense that people are reassured by the Wardens' presence even if they have not directly used the service. The resident's survey found encouraging signs that an increasing number of residents perceive Wardens to be dealing quickly with problems, to be working well with the Police, to be well trained, and to know what they are doing."*
 - 4.8 Dundee Community Safety Wardens were also selected as one of the case study areas for the national evaluation commissioned by the Scottish Government and undertaken by GEN Consulting. Within this evaluation GEN has stated *"... there is evidence that the Wardens in Scotland are meeting the objectives set for them by the Scottish Executive and are improving living conditions within the areas they patrol."*
 - 4.9 Initial objectives and targets for the Community Safety Wardens in Dundee were determined on the basis of information available to officers and elected members in 2003. It is appropriate to review this in the light of experience gained over the last three years and within the context of the changing patterns of crime, antisocial behaviour and community safety priorities.
 - 4.10 The Community Safety Team Annual Report 2006 - 2007 highlights that the core work of Community Safety Wardens summarised under four main themes: Youth, Partnership, Environmental and Reassurance.
 - 4.11 A review has been undertaken on the basis that Community Safety Wardens in Dundee, while being positively reviewed by communities, Police and other partners over the last three years, have the potential to become an even more effective resource in the future by focussing more on the work they do well.
 - 4.12 Within the review extensive consultation was undertaken with the public, young people, partners, elected members and Community Safety Wardens. 5000 questionnaires were sent to random addresses in Dundee selected from the Electoral Register; to young people through Dialogue Youth; to key partners; to every elected member and to all Community Safety Wardens.

- 4.13 In addition, current statistics were obtained from the Community Intelligence Unit at Tayside Police on youth related levels of crime, antisocial behaviour and alcohol related incidences and the times these were committed.
- 4.14 Analysis of the data highlights the following key findings for Warden future efficient deployment.
- Core patrol times should remain unchanged at 14.40 - 24.00 hours.
 - Deployment should no longer be on the basis of designated areas but on the basis of intelligence led tasking to maximise the use of limited resources.
 - Warden deployment is required during the day to undertake an educational role within schools and other youth settings and to provide reassurance, particularly to the elderly.
 - Consideration should be given to extending powers to cover a range of issues. Suggestions include dog fouling, litter, vandalism, underage drinking and fly tipping. Other suggestions were made and could be condensed into two main categories: those dealing with abusive or intimidating neighbours and inconsiderate parking. *Respondents were particularly keen to stress that numbers of fixed penalty notices issued must not be used as a performance measure.*
 - Suggested Warden roles should focus on reassurance by continuing to provide high visibility and patrols, information/intelligence gathering and sharing with partners, being a professional witness as required and having the power to direct traffic if required.
 - Indicators/measures suggested included: should be less crime oriented and focus on youths causing annoyance and alcohol related youth calls, public reassurance, numbers of incidents dealt with and incidents referred to other agencies for action, levels of vandalism/graffiti.

5.0 PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT

- 5.1 The staff cohort has been reconfigured to maximise intelligence led tasking with dedicated Teams assigned to Police sector areas.
- 5.2 At present the Wardens will not be deployed during the evenings to Dundee City Centre or Broughty Ferry main centre as both these areas receive adequate policing during these periods.
- 5.3 There will be full consultation with the Trade Unions and key Partners over any changes in deployment patterns and the operation of legal powers.
- 5.4 The extension of powers will be operationalised after staff training and be subject to regular ongoing monitoring to assess its effect on the key public intelligence role of the Wardens and the confidence of the public.
- 5.5 The provision of increased Warden transport mobility will assist patrol coverage of the larger ward areas.
- 5.6 The unification and access to Warden database intelligence will continue to be refined and extended to key Community Safety Partners within agreed data sharing protocols.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

6.2 The following policy and operational strategic priorities are positively actioned by these proposals.

- Outcomes 9/10/11 Single Outcome Agreement, Scottish Government/Dundee City Council.
- Leisure & Communities Department Service Plan 2007-2011 Community Safety Pages 47/48.
- The Council Plan 2007-2011 Building Stronger Communities/Community Safety Pages 12/13.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning), Head of Finance, Divisional Commander, Central Division, Tayside Police and Dundee Community Safety Wardens Advisory Group have been consulted on the content of this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 The following background papers were referred to in the preparation of this report:

- Communities Committee, 21 August 2006, Committee Report Number 438-2006 Annual Report 2004-2006 - Dundee Community Safety Wardens Initiative
- Community Safety Team Annual Report 2006-2007
- Dundee Community Safety Warden Review

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17 MARCH 2008