

**REPORT TO:           AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE - 3 FEBRUARY 2003   ITEM 1**  
**REPORT ON:           VANDALISM INITIATIVES**  
**REPORT BY:           PRINCIPAL INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT OFFICER**  
**REPORT NO:           86-2003**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Since the Audit and Risk Management Sub Committee of 23 September 2002, two particular anti vandalism initiatives have been advanced. Both aim to reduce and control the frequency and cost of vandalism suffered by Council properties throughout the City. The current annual cost of vandalism to Council property is approximately £850,000 per annum.

## **INITIATIVES**

### **a       Malicious Damage**

Six schools across the City were selected to receive a malicious damage survey. Following consultation and discussion with the Head Teacher at each establishment the survey was carried out by a small team comprising Risk Management staff, a Tayside Police Crime Prevention Officer, Education Property Officer and Facilities Co-ordinator.

A range of improvement recommendations have been made (eg additional CCTV coverage, closing off of recessed areas, anti climbing devices and relocation of exterior doors).

The cost of the measures is presently being drawn up and the eventual programme of works will receive a Risk Management Budget contribution of £30,000 in the current financial year.

As soon as the works have been completed their effectiveness in curtailing malicious damage will be monitored over a six month period and reported to a future Audit and Risk Management Sub Committee.

### **b       Graffiti**

Following meetings involving ECPD, Trading Standards, Corporate Planning, Legal Services and Risk Management a number of anti graffiti measures are being developed.

These may be summarised as:

- i       Voluntary Code for retail outlets on the sale of Spray Paints and broad Marker Pens to under 16's.

It is proposed that retail outlets selling these materials be written to by Trading Standards requesting they sign up to a voluntary code prohibiting sale to under 16's.

Public Relations are designing display posters and stickers advertising the code and the publicity material will be backed up with a Press Launch and visits to retail outlets by Trading Standards Officers. A copy of the publicity material is enclosed for Members' interest.

The cost of the publicity material is approximately £1,000 which will be met from the Council's Risk Management budget.

Staff costs associated with visits by Trading Standards Officers will be met from within the Environmental and Consumer Protection Department's overtime budget.

ii Graffiti Removal Kits

ECPD are arranging a demonstration for evaluation purposes and will report further.

iii Graffiti on Utility Companies' Boxes

Discussions continue with the major utility providers to determine how this unsightly problem may be dealt with.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Malicious damage and graffiti tarnish the City's image. Progress on counter vandalism measures and their effectiveness will continue to be reported to the Audit and Risk Management Sub Committee.