

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services)

Social Justice Committee: 14 March 2007

Subject: Anti Social Behaviour: Strathclyde Police

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with details of how the funding provided to Strathclyde Police under West Dunbartonshire Council's anti social behaviour budget is being spent, and seeks approval to continue to provide Scottish Executive funding to Strathclyde Police to support their initiatives to tackle anti social behaviour.

2. Background

- 2.1** At a meeting of the Social Justice Committee on 12 April 2006 approval was given to provide Strathclyde Police with £100,000 to help assist their efforts in tackling crime and anti social behaviour in West Dunbartonshire. This funding was effective from 8 June 2006. Furthermore at a meeting of the Social Justice Committee on 14 December 2005 approval was given to fund a temporary senior police analyst for one year at a cost of £33,000. This post became operational on 24 June 2006.
- 2.2** These funds allow Strathclyde Police to analyse and proactively target anti social behaviour "hotspot" areas by deploying officers on overtime in areas where there is a disproportionately above average incidence of criminal and anti social behaviour.
- 2.3** Progress on the use of the use of these funds was presented to the Social Justice Committee on 8 November 2006.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Strathclyde Police identify "hotspot" areas through analysis and a tactical assessment, and target resources at these areas to help alleviate crime and disorder.
- 3.2** A Service Level Agreement has been developed between Strathclyde Police and West Dunbartonshire Council that allows West Dunbartonshire Council and other Community Safety Partners including Elected Members to request additional

resources in locations where there is evidence of serious and persistent anti social behaviour.

- 3.3** Between 1 October 2006 and 31 January 2007, 1,419 hours of overtime have been used by the police to tackle hotspot areas. Coupled with the 1,892 hours used during the period June 2006 –September 2006 this leaves a current balance of 1,009 hours.
- 3.4** Appendix 1 provides details of the returns provided by Strathclyde Police for the period 1 October 2006 -31 January 2007. The table highlights the number of hours and location of where officers have been deployed and the results and detections from their overtime patrols.
- 3.5** The overtime patrols have been effective and the overall results indicate that there were:
- 895 people searched
 - 544 visits to licensed premises
 - 25 contact cards issued
 - 16 offensive weapons seized
 - 76 detections for disorder
 - 218 litres of alcohol seized
- 3.6** The above performance indicators show the results of actions taken when officers are patrolling only with the specific remit of tackling identified hotspot areas. No figures have been used from actions arising during their normal patrols, or on specific anti social behaviour patrols which are funded by Strathclyde Police.
- 3.7** Strathclyde Police advised that as a result of the "Faslane 365" campaign commencing in October 2006 there was an impact on their ability to mount additional patrols during that month. However, since this time the Police advise that they have had the capacity to increase patrols to address anti social behaviour and other crime and disorder.
- 3.8** The appointment of the police analyst in June 2006 has proved invaluable to a range of partner agencies including West Dunbartonshire Council, Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service and the Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.9** The analyst has compiled a diverse range of reports which have helped partners involved in the Anti Social Behaviour Task Group identify hotspots and other areas of concern. This has enabled the group to prioritise and develop action plans to tackle anti social behaviour in these areas.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** The police analyst will continue to be based in Strathclyde Police Divisional HQ, Dumbarton, under the direction and management of Strathclyde Police.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The Council and community planning partners have received Scottish Executive grant funding to tackle anti social behaviour in West Dunbartonshire in 2007/08. Sufficient funds are available to meet the cost of a grant of £100,000 to Strathclyde Police to allow them to provide additional resources to tackle anti social behaviour hotspots and to fund the position of police analyst at a cost of £33,000 per year.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** Any reduction in the funding to Strathclyde Police may impact on their ability to identify hot spot areas and to increase patrols to tackle anti social behaviour in these areas across West Dunbartonshire.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1** The funding provided to Strathclyde Police has enabled the police to proactively target anti social behaviour hotspot areas by deploying additional officers in areas where it is most required.
- 7.2** These additional patrols and subsequent detections provide reassurance to residents that action is being taken to tackle crime and disorder and helps contribute to making communities feeling safer.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to agree to use Scottish Executive grant funding for tackling anti social behaviour to:**
- i) Make a payment of £100,000 to Strathclyde Police to fund the deployment of officers on overtime for one year from June 2007.**
 - ii) Make a payment of £33,000 to Strathclyde Police to fund a Temporary Senior Analyst post for one year from June 2007.**

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Date: 16 February 2007

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Appendices: Appendix 1

Background Papers: Report by the Director of Housing, Regeneration and
Environmental Services, Social Justice Committee, 14
December 2005

Report by the Director of Housing, Regeneration and
Environmental Services Social Justice Committee 12
April 2006

Report by the Director of Housing, Regeneration and
Environmental Services, Social Justice Committee 8
November 2006

Wards Affected: 1-22

Appendix 1: Police Returns 1 October 2006 –31 January 2007

Area	No of person searches	No of visits to licensed premises	No of contact cards*	No of offensive weapons seized	No of detections for disorder	Qty of alcohol seized (litres)	No of hours
Dalmuir/ Mountblow	102	38	0	0	19	10	140
Dalmuir/Central Ward	31	28	0	0	1	0	80
Whitecrook Drumry/ Linnvale	70	16	3	1	14	7	168
Dumbarton Central	39	91	0	4	0	6	102
Bonhill East/Riverside	102	24	6	3	8	7	160
Dumbarton West	37	6	0	1	2	8	82
Barloan/ Overton Bellsmyre	54	21	1	4	0	13	65
Haldane/ Jamestown	142	26	4	0	9	58	177
Alexandria Town Centre/ Tullcihewan	41	49	6	1	5	18.5	146
Dumbarton East	133	180	5	2	11	37.5	72
Bowling/Milton Old Kilpatrick	27	10	0	0	5	2.5	41
Renton	23	13	0	0	2	6	56
Balloch	94	42	0	0	0	44.5	130
TOTAL	895	544	25	16	76	218	1419

* Contact card – The parents of young people who are found in a place nominated a 'hotspot' receive a letter from Strathclyde Police informing them of the circumstances and allowing them an input to advise their child accordingly.