

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services

Social Justice Committee: 12 April 2006

Subject: Anti Social Behaviour: Strathclyde Police

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report seeks Committee approval to provide Scottish Executive anti social behaviour funding to Strathclyde Police to support initiatives to tackle anti social behaviour.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council will carry forward an underspend of £438,000 from 2005/2006 and this will be added to the allocation of £1,765,000 for 2006/2007. The total available funds for 2006/2007 are therefore £2,203,000. This funding must be spent on achieving, or making progress towards the achievement of the outcomes set out in our anti social behaviour outcome agreement 2005-2008. This funding will ensure the continuation of our existing services to tackle anti social behaviour established under First and Second Round Funding.
- 2.2 Underspends under Second Round Anti Social Behaviour Funding awarded to the Council during 2005/2006 have enabled resources to be allocated to support additional initiatives to tackle and combat anti social behaviour.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 Under the terms of the Anti Social Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004, every local authority together with the relevant chief constable is required to prepare, publish and review a strategy and outcome agreement for dealing with anti social behaviour in their area.
- 3.2 West Dunbartonshire's anti social behaviour strategy and outcome agreement is in place. Key to the success of the strategy will be the identification and targeting of areas where anti social behaviour problems are prevalent.

- 3.3** To assist the operations of Strathclyde Police in tackling crime and anti social behaviour, it is proposed that a grant of £100,000 be allocated to Strathclyde Police to allow an increase in resources to proactively target identified “hotspot” locations in West Dunbartonshire. (“Hotspot” areas are geographic areas of focus where there is a disproportionately above average incidence of criminal and anti social behaviour activity).
- 3.4** This sum of funding will enable the Police to provide an additional 5,000 hours of staff time to target identified “hotspot” areas. These resources will be flexible, and officers can be deployed at specified locations at specific times and days where anti social behaviour activity is most likely to occur.
- 3.5** The Police work closely with the Anti Social Behaviour Task Group and the Council’s Community Wardens and ASIST team in identifying problem locations. Representatives from the Council’s ASIST/Community Wardens teams attend Strathclyde Police “L” Division’s fortnightly tactical tasking and coordinating meetings. Informed by the tactical assessment, and the use of resources available, the Police prioritise the proposed tactical activity for the division for the next period.
- 3.6** The Police Analyst, approved by the Social Justice Committee in December 2005, will assist in the identification of problem areas through examining information from various sources to identify patterns and trends of anti social behaviour activity.
- 3.7** To ensure that resources are targeted at areas identified through analysis of crime and disorder incidences, a Service Level Agreement will be developed between West Dunbartonshire Council and Strathclyde Police.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** None.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** As indicated at 2.1 above, the Council and community planning partners receive Scottish Executive grant funding to tackle anti social behaviour in West Dunbartonshire. While the initiatives previously approved by the Council are in progress, 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.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to agree to make a payment of £100,000 to Strathclyde Police from Scottish Executive grant funding for tackling anti social behaviour.**

David McMillan
Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services
Date: 29 March 2006

Wards Affected: 1-22

Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

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