

REPORT TO: Personnel Committee - 12 January 2004

REPORT ON: Communities Department - Building Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities - Community Safety Warden Initiative 2004-2006

REPORT BY: Head of Communities and Assistant Chief Executive (Management)

REPORT NO: 16-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the establishment of posts to implement the Community Safety Warden Initiative 2004-2006 subject to Scottish Executive confirmed external award funding (Report No 795-2003 approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on 8 December 2003 – Recommendation 2 refers).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- 2.1 approves the establishment of the following externally funded fixed term temporary posts to 31 March 2006:-
- 20 FTE Community Safety Wardens, graded GS2, £12,789 - £13,416, plus allowances;
 - 5 FTE Senior Community Safety Wardens, graded AP2, £15,582 - £16,866, plus allowances;
 - 2 FTE Clerical Assistant, graded GS1/2, £10,067 - £13,416.
- 2.2 notes that Recommendation 2.1 will only progress if Scottish Executive funding is confirmed as a result of the bid application outlined under Report No 795-2003.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The financial implications of these proposals totaling £650,000 per annum will be met in full from the Scottish Executive – Building Safe and Attractive Communities Funding Award for the fixed period from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2006.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Report will have an impact on the following Local Agenda 21 themes:
- People live without fear of personal violence from crime.
 - Health is protected by creating safe, clean, pleasant environments.
 - All sections of the community are empowered to participate in decision making.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This initiative will seek to target the reduction of anti social behaviour, vandalism and crime to minority communities resident and using the targeted community areas.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Report No 705-2003 outlines the Scottish Executive's commitment to tackling anti social behaviour by the promotion of a range of measures.
- 6.2 Councils have been provisionally allocated funding to include within measures the piloting of a localised community safety warden initiative working alongside existing and new complementary Council Department and Voluntary Organisation led services.
- 6.3 The funding requires to meet clear Executive criteria and is time limited for a period of 2 years to 31 March 2006. It is also subject to agreement on a Community Neighbourhood Agreement (termed A Compact) and performance standards yet to be announced.
- 6.4 The Best Value Group, currently investigating the best options for implementing this initiative, have agreed the following:
- key stakeholder request is for effective local neighbourhood operational shift deployment between 15.30 hours and 24.00 hours, 7 days per week outwith school holidays and additional deployment within school holidays.
 - due to the differences in size, layout and community identification the development will be heavily influenced by intelligence supplied by deprivation data, crime patterns, anti social behaviour/community mediation activities and the ongoing experience of the Warden personnel and local communities.
 - the Compact will include clear commitments to performance over Warden activities and assistance from local communities on the understanding that resource deployment will follow need and be subject to ongoing evaluation and review to maximise best value.
 - the Wardens will be uniformed and highly visible to enhance community contact and personal safety.
 - prior to operational duty, a period of compulsory training will be contracted involving a number of key organisations.
 - wardens will operate from local bases where messages can be left by the public or interviews arranged.
 - the focus will be on operational visibility and communication with the public.

7.0 THE NEXT PHASE

- 7.1 To allow the Council to prepare for this initiative, it is necessary to have consent to allow the implementation team to plan recruitment, training and support arrangements.
- 7.2 Such arrangements will consider community consultation and agreement, warden deployment, safety, training, communication/transport and uniform procurement.
- 7.3 The initiative's support services budget for 7.2 above are provisional at present until more development work is completed on options, costs and local community requirements.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Committee is asked, therefore, to consent to the establishment of the staffing deployment as outlined in the recommendation 2.1 and costs within Appendix 1.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The Best Value Group, Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), and the Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have all been consulted in the preparation of this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 The following background paper, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, was relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report:-

Policy & Resources Committee – Report No 795-2003 - Building Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities: Guidance to Local Authorities and their Community Planning Partners on Preparing Submissions for Wardens and other Community Based Initiatives to Tackle Anti Social Behaviour: Final Submission.

S. Murdoch
Head of Communities

19 December 2003

J.C. Petrie
Assistant Chief Executive (Management)

19 December 2003

APPENDIX 1**BUILDING STRONG, SAFE & ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITIES – COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDEN INITIATIVE**

Designation	No of Posts FTE	Grade	Budget 2004-2005
Community Safety Wardens	20	GS2 (SCP11)	336,827
Senior Community Safety Wardens	5	AP2 (SCP20)	118,572
Clerical Assistant	2	GS1/2 (SCP7)	27,554
Recruitment and Training			16,500
Initiative Support Costs, Accommodation, IT Administration, Training, Transport, Uniforms, Radios etc. (Provisional)			100,547
TOTALS			650,000

Notes:

- 1 Cost Basis - December 2003
- 2 FTE equivalent allows flexibility to offer posts of reduced weekly hours.
- 3 Warden costs based on a 4 day rotating shift pattern tasked 14.30 hours to 24.00 hours (7 days per week) and is inclusive of irregular hours, weekend working and employer costs.
- 4 The shift hours total 34 per week with 3 hours per week tasked annually to cover emergencies, sickness and school holiday extensions coverage.