REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 13 DECEMBER 2004

REPORT ON: DUNDEE COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDENS INITIATIVE –

PROGRESS REPORT 2004

REPORT BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 773-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report updates the Committee on the progress of the Community Safety Wardens initiative and seeks authority for the appointment of external consultants to evaluate the initiative.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 note the report to the Scottish Executive on progress to 30 September 2004 (as circulated to members).
- 2.2 note the local outcome performance indicators to be used for monitoring and evaluation.
- authorise the Head of Communities to seek the appointment of external consultants to evaluate the Initiative as per Scottish Executive external funding conditions.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The appointment of external evaluators will be invited via tender with costs met within funding support from the Scottish Executive 2004-2006.

4.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDENS INITIATIVE

4.1 The Community Safety Wardens Initiative seeks to promote the creation of building strong, safe and attractive communities, a key community planning objective.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The various dimensions of the Council's Equality Schemes will continue to receive specific attention by the Community Safety Wardens Initiative.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The Council have previously approved the deployment of Community Safety Warden Teams as follows:

Phase 1 • Hilltown/Bowbridge

Phase 1 • Douglas

Phase 1 • Whitfield

Phase 2 • Stobswell

Phase 2 • Camperdown/Lochee West

Phase 3 • Pitkerro

Phase 3 • Mobile resource to all above areas

To date Phases 1 and 2 are operational and recruitment is under progress for Phase 3 with deployment expected in January 2005.

Existing deployment has gone very smoothly with positive feedback from all stakeholders and the general public.

7.0 SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONDITIONS OF GRANT

- 7.1 The Scottish Executive require the Council to:
 - establish local outcome monitoring and evaluation of performance indicators.
 - compile a progress report to the Scottish Executive at six month intervals ie by 30 September and 31 March annually.
 - engage external consultants to evaluate the initiative over the period 2004-2006.

8.0 PROGRESS ON GRANT CONDITIONS

- 8.1 The first report to the Scottish Executive has been submitted and covers progress to 30 September 2004 effectively covering the first 3 months of Phase 1 Warden operational deployment.
- 8.2 The report outlines the focus of the Warden geographical deployment, local outcome agreements on monitoring and evaluation and the collation of draft operational statistics.
- 8.3 Progress against the performance indicators is a corporate responsibility involving all the key stakeholders and the local communities working together to deliver integrated local initiatives to achieve positive improvements.

Recent experience over the summer suggests that clear improvements can be gained when initiatives are co-ordinated and work to target antisocial behaviour.

The Council will ensure that in reporting statistics that the data is placed in context with narrative stressing the inter-relationship of interventions.

8.4 On 18 October 2004 the Scottish Executive offered guidance to Councils on the content specification of external evaluation. The Committee is asked to authorise officers to progress arrangements for the appointment of external consultants to carry out this evaluation to the specification provided by the Scottish Executive.

It is planned to seek tenders from a range of consultants experienced in external monitoring and evaluation activity.

Date: 3 December 2004

9.0 CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning), Depute Chief Executives (Finance) and (Support Services) and the Dundee Community Safety Partnership and Dundee Community Safety Wardens Initiative Advisory Group.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.

Signed: Stewart Murdoch Head of Communities