

**Executive Report****HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR GEORGE CLEMENTS – PORTFOLIO HOLDER****TERRY CHILCOTT – LEAD OFFICER****1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT****1.1 Community Safety**Funding update

The Community Safety budget has been streamlined through the Safer Stronger Communities Fund since April this year, together with Neighbourhood Renewal funding, Community Empowerment Network Funding and the Cleaner, Safer, Greener funding. Some funding streams are reducing and disappearing altogether in the near future and we must mainstream council funding to compliment and supplement improvements within our neighbourhoods.

**1.2 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - Training**

Training has been taking place for Members of the Council throughout June and only one third of members signed up for the sessions so far. The last session is due to take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 9am until lunch time at Cleator Moor Civic Hall – so please come along if you are available. Additional sessions will be arranged for those who have not managed to attend one.

**1.3 Review of Community Safety Partnerships – Implications for the Council**

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, places a duty on the Council to consider crime and disorder reduction and prevention in everything that we do. The council is going to be made accountable once Royal Assent has been granted in the autumn. We will be audited to ensure each department has mainstreamed community safety and crime reduction into all its service provision and every department within the council.

We will be required to disclose information between CDRP partners so long as it is used for the purpose it was sought and it is necessary.

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety must become a member of the LSP to represent the Council's interests at LSP level.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be required to encompass the work of the CDRP. We need to set up a Scrutiny Plus which will involve partners to allow a cross cutting multi agency approach.

Introduce the 'Community Call for Action' where communities can secure a response from partners on a community safety issue. Ward Councillors will play a key role in securing a response from the 'Community Call for Action'.

The Scrutiny Committees will be used to look at cases that cannot be easily resolved.

Local Elected Members will be involved by relaying concerns to Community Safety partners.

National Standards are to be developed to ensure clarity is given to individual agencies on their required contributions, and their roles and responsibilities within the partnership.

#### **1.4 Respect Action Plan**

Implications for the Council with regard to the action plan include: -

- Need to consider sanctions for households evicted for anti social behaviour who refuse help.
- A mandatory respect and anti-social behaviour outcome in all Local Area Agreements (LAAs) by April 2007.
- Developing Neighbourhood Policing/Management across the country.
- Introduce a nationwide single non-emergency number
- Give every area the chance to have a Neighbourhood Charter
- Neighbourhood management and neighbourhood warden schemes in 100 new areas.
- Strengthen summary powers
- Consultation on introducing a house closure order
- Improving Anti Social Behaviour Injunctions (ASBIs)
- Improving Local Government Injunctions
- Improving ASBO's
- Giving rights of audience in court for Community Safety staff
- Increasing protection for public service workers and the public
- Directing people to support.
- Develop a Respect Standard for housing management
- Ensure senior representatives of CDRPs hold regular 'face the people' sessions
- Within the next year we will ensure that all Government funded regeneration schemes are accompanied by measures to manage behaviour.
- Ensure that all housing market renewal pathfinders' funding is dependent on putting in place plans to deliver the Respect drive.
- Delivering community payback
- Extending anti social behaviour co-ordinators to civil courts.
- Target disadvantaged young people through sport and art.  
Review the impact of youth activities.

### **1.5 Supporting People Inspection**

The Inspection by the Audit Commission of the Cumbria Supporting People Programme will take place in August. Officers have been working alongside the Supporting People team to ensure all documents and information required is to hand. A newsletter will be sent to Members nearer the time to keep you all informed of progress.

### **1.6 HMO LICENCING**

Officers have met the target date of 1 July, applications for licenses are being sent out to Landlords who have requested them. Once the applications have been received properties will be inspected, owners/managers will be assessed to ensure they are a 'fit and proper' person and a licence will be issued.

### **1.7 RESEARCH**

Research has been commissioned by the North West Housing Forum (of which Copeland is a member) into maintaining owner occupied homes when on a low income. Once the research has been completed and a written report is available this will feed into our private sector housing policies that in turn will help those people on low incomes to maintain their homes to a decent standard.

### **1.8 HOMELESSNESS**

I am pleased to be in a position to report that at the time of drafting this report we still have no families in bed and breakfast. There are still as many applicants but the increase in the number of properties we rent from Copeland Homes coupled with the preventative work officers are now undertaking is reducing the number of applicants in temporary accommodation.

### **1.9 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY**

The questionnaires have been returned and are being analysed. The response rate across the County was not as high as we had hoped but the results will be statistically valid for the housing market areas identified in the draft housing strategy. The results from the survey will be incorporated into the housing strategy that will be reported to Executive in July.

## **2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

None

## **3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Subject: Trusteel Houses  
Date of Decision: 4 April 2006  
Decision Reference: EXE/05/194  
Context:

**To clarify The Council's position in regard to support to occupiers of Trusteel Houses and to seek retrospective approval for appointment of consultants to oversee the programme.**

**Decision**

**That**

- a) the process as detailed in the report for supporting owner occupiers of Trusteel properties be approved; and
- b) the retrospective appointment of Atkins consultants/advisors to oversee the programme be noted and agreed

Subject: Renovation Grant – Debt Recovery  
Date of Decision: 4 April 2006  
Decision Reference: EXE/05/195

Context:

Note: This item was withdrawn from the Agenda due to additional information being received which may result in the debt being recoverable.

**Decision**

**That the item be withdrawn from the Agenda**

Subject: Possible Claim against the Council  
Date of Decision: 25 April 2006  
Decision Reference: EXE/05/216

Context:

This report updates Members of further progress made in respect of a possible claim against the Council and recommends a course of action.

During consideration of this item further information was given which could possibly lead to bringing the situation to a close.

**Decision**

**That a) the current position be noted; and**

**b) in light of the additional information and timescales involved progression to the next stage be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Portfolios Holders.**