

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF SAFER AND STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP

THURSDAY 5 JUNE, 2008

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors E McGillivray (Chair), M. McConachie, R Shepherd, D Stewart and Alan Smailes, Grampian Police.

IN ATTENDANCE

Bridget Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager, Andy Jamieson, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Grant McCutcheon, Local Authority Liaison Officer, Roy Anderson, Community Planning Officer, Gordon Holland, Transportation Manager, Ian Bruce, Environmental Protection Manager, John Ferguson, Community Planning & Development Manager and Jill Stewart, Chief Housing Officer

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor D. Ross, Liz Tait, NHS Grampian and Dave Thewliss, Grampian Fire & Rescue.

1. WELCOME

Councillor McGillivray welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Safer & Stronger Strategic Group. He advised that the Strategic group would be responsible for two of the single outcome agreements which are community safety and stronger communities. The Council have been working on community safety for some time and are well down the road of identifying priorities and carrying out action plans. He also advised that the stronger communities outcomes includes Housing, Inequalities and Community engagement and there was still some way to go on this.

2. COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES 2008-2011

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the group to agree the strategic priorities identified for Safer part of the theme for the period of 2008-11.

The Chair advised that the analysis included in the report had been used to determine the four priorities which were:-

- (i) Road Safety;
- (ii) Anti-Social Behaviour;

- (iii) Fire and Home Safety ; and
- (iv) Violence Reduction.

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that at the moment the strategic assessment only reflects the theme of community safety but this would be expanded to reflect stronger communities for the next meeting. She advised that they are on the right line as it had been held up by the Scottish Government as national practice and there was now a need to look at what issues are needed to be tackled and use the evidence contained within the assessment to support the same. She also advised that they would continue to do a quarterly monitoring report and would continue to get the analysis of information better.

Chief Inspector Smailes advised that the quarterly community safety report was held as best practice in the north east and was used for sharing of information and the priorities came out of the information contained within the assessment.

The group agreed to note the four main evidence based priorities that have been identified so far from the Community Safety Strategic Assessment completed in March 2008 and that an expanded Strategic Assessment would be submitted to the next meeting.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP QUARTERLY ASSESSMENT REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the group to review the Moray Community Safety Partnership's 4th Quarterly Assessment Report in order that they are aware of the previous performance of the Partnership against identified targets and outcomes.

Councillor McGillivray advised that this was a good news document which shows a lot of downward trends and he congratulated the teams in getting the figures down.

The Committee noted that there were more needles recovered in this quarter compared to previous quarters but were advised that there were more people reporting needles being found compared to in the past as there has been increased publicity on this issue.

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that the quarterly document would change over time and it was now starting to show the collective measure of anti-social behaviour and the downward trends. She advised that the group would continue to produce the document and refine the statistics shown. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that there were new Performance Indicators which have been identified for the future.

Following a question from Councillor Shepherd regarding dog fouling, the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that the Community Wardens deliver warnings to dog owners to pick up the faeces, but if they do not

comply they are issued with a fixed penalty. The Local Authority Liaison Officer advised that dog owners do not break the legislation unless they refuse to pick up after their dog. The Environmental Protection Manager advised that they have an eight month campaign running at the moment through adverts with Moray Firth Radio covering dog fouling, litter, tipping, etc and this would be monitored to see what impact it has.

Following a question from Councillor Stewart, the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that they would not use CCTV to target people allowing their dogs to foul but if someone was identified then the Community Warden would visit and give them a warning and if they re-offended then a fixed penalty would be issued. The group agreed that the co-ordinating group would look at this issue and possibly look at a campaign.

Following consideration the Group noted the performance of the partnership against 2007/08 targets and outcomes.

4. SAFER AND STRONGER THEME GROUP – BUDGET 2008-2011

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the group to agree the spend against the 2008/09 Community Safety budget. The funding includes the two previous funding streams of Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour.

Councillor McGillivray advised the group that they were being asked to agree the projected spend against the budget for 2008/09 of £401,000 of which £33,698 was set aside for priorities which the group would agree upon.

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager explained to the group what was involved in the ongoing commitments listed and advised that the previous projects listed in the report were in demand and she would review these over the next year. She also advised that the monies set aside could not be distributed until the priorities have been finalised and business plans would be brought back to the next meeting.

Further to discussions on the work carried out by the Community Wardens, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that an evaluation of the work done by the Community Wardens would be brought back to the next meeting.

Chief Inspector Smailes advised that the street football scheme had been a great initiative and wondered whether it would be possible to get monies from industries in terms of sponsorship as this may enable the £3,000 set aside for this campaign to be freed up for other issues. The group agreed to look into this.

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that within this Group, Housing and Inequality have to be taken on board as the agenda is divided between Safer and Stronger and all priorities have to be supported. The Chief Housing Officer advised that Housing currently have a strong strategic framework including the homelessness group and housing strategy group and that this

should not be duplicated as there are a huge range of partners who sit on these groups. She also advised that they annually present a review to the Scottish Government and she would be happy to bring this back to the Group.

The Corporate Policy Unity Manager advised that she would bring back further information to the group following discussions with the Chief Housing Officer and the Community Planning & Development Manager on how to pull all issues together with consideration being given to the best way to use Members and Officers time to focus on issues.

Following consideration the group agreed the committed spend against the 2008/089 budget provided by The Moray Council, taking into consideration Chief Inspector Smaile's comments regarding street football. The group also agreed the level of financial commitment to previously funded priorities and that the development of business plans for the four priority areas identified under the Strategic Assessment be put to the next meeting before financial commitments are made against those priorities.