PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Environment Committee
20 January 2016

Community Safety Committee
3 February 2016

Community Safety and Environment Group Update

Joint Report by Director (Housing and Community Care) and Director (Environment)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Committee members on the current partnership activity and the activity which is currently being developed within the remit of the Community Safety and Environment agendas.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

The Community Safety Committee/Environment Committee receive reports of the Community Safety and Environment Group but one meeting in arrears.

2. PROPOSALS

This is the summary of issues raised at the meeting of 13 November 2015.

2.1 Road Safety

A report was submitted by the Road Safety Theme Lead providing an update on the various items of work which had been, are being, or would be undertaken to support improvements to Road Safety across Perth and Kinross.

C Haggart highlighted the Safe Drive Stay Alive event as being very successful, however, the lack of availability of funding is of concern. A proposal to extend funding if possible will be brought back to the Group in due course. The A9 installation of average speed cameras had also been highly successful with a compliance figure of over 99.96%, and a significant drop in excessive speeding.

2.2 Safer Communities

A report was submitted by the Safer Communities Theme Lead, N Russell, who provided updates in relation to partnership working and highlighted the following points:

The candidate for the Rural Community Warden in Aberfeldy had recently passed the fitness test.

Through the Graffiti Strategy, 245 pieces of graffiti had been identified and reported, with the strategy resulting in a marked improvement to the appearance of the City Centre. There are currently three very active 'taggers' in Perth and work is currently being undertaken to identify these people.

There is a counter-terrorism Prevent duty on local authorities as part of the UK's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The Council has established an Integrity Group under the "Letting Our Communities Flourish" strategy which accepted ownership of the duty on behalf of the Council, with the Safer Communities Partnership having accepted a co-ordinating and delivery role. There is close partnership working and counter terrorism is discussed with Police Scotland Counter Terrorism staff regularly. Work is being progressed in relation to this duty.

There have been meetings regarding how CCTV in Perth City Centre will be tackled and upgraded. Further reports to follow.

The Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 will be coming into force on 1 April 2016, and the Council's Environment Service is identifying a suitable lockfast container to support the surrender period.

Community Watch is now widely used in Perth and Kinross, following the formal launch on 28 October 2015 at Dewars Rinks, and the use of the system in Perth City is now being promoted.

2.3 Reducing Reoffending

A report on Reducing Reoffending was presented updating the Group on the current partnership activity, highlighting the following points:

- The One Stop Women's Learning Service (OWLS) for the multiple and complex needs of women offenders, has resulted in a significant increase in positive outcomes for women offenders themselves, families and communities. Although these figures may change the project has had a significant impact in terms of reducing reoffending.

- New developments with the OWL service are under way with the women themselves wishing to develop it beyond criminal justice. Work is also being progressed to get more agencies to work in the centre without incurring additional costs; six beds are being asked for from Skinnergate in case of need.

- The possibility of a women only unpaid work team is being considered due to the different and complex needs women have.

There is now a Community Justice Co-ordinator to support Community Justice Reform. Community Justice Authorities will be disbanded from April 2017. They will be replaced by Local Justice Partnerships. Decisions will be made in local areas with statutory partners. By the end of January 2016 there will be

a plan on how the process will be managed, which will be shared with the partners in the Group. A national organisation, Community Justice Scotland will also come into being in 2016, charged with the development of a national strategy and performance framework.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an overview of the activity within the Community Safety and Environment Group to give them reassurance that this activity is delivering positive outcomes for communities.

It is recommended that members note the content of the report.

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