



**To: Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

**On: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Report by:**

Lead Officer, Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board

**BUILDING SAFER GREENER COMMUNITIES**

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Director of the Safer Communities Directorate at the Scottish Government has written to the Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council looking for formal agreement for the Council to participate in the Building Safer Communities National Programme, as one of 7 initial locations across Scotland.
- 1.2 This builds on previous work as undertaken by the Community Planning Partnership in Community Safety & Public Protection issues which is evidently emerging as a “best practice” exemplar.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board note the progress made so far in Building Safer, Greener Communities.

**3. BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES**

- 3.1 The formal request to take part in the Building Safer Communities National Programme follows a number of meetings that have taken place between representatives from the Council and representatives from the National Programme.
- 3.2 The choice of locations in Renfrewshire is based on the fact that additional, related work is already ongoing in these areas – particularly the Families First agenda in Ferguslie and the shared Town Hall in Johnstone. Part of the work for the National Programme will be to help the Council and the Community Planning Partnership to understand the impact that these initiatives are having on building safer communities.

- 3.3 Since a large element of the work is to develop community engagement, part of the approach in Renfrewshire has been to make links to both the Safer & Stronger agenda and the Greener agenda, which has a focus on community participation and engagement. As members of the board will recall, at the last round of meetings the Safer & Stronger and Greener Thematic Boards agreed to jointly work up projects under the banner of Building Safer, Greener Communities, that would feed into the Building Safer Communities National Programme.
- 3.4 The primary advantage for the Community Planning Partnership in participating in the short to medium term is a greater profile for the area nationally that reflects positively on the work being done to build capacity and strengthen communities in Renfrewshire. Longer term this focus will shine a spotlight on the issues of poverty and deprivation that are being tackled by the Council and the Safer Renfrewshire Partnership, and should serve to strengthen the case being made for a fairer deal for Renfrewshire nationally.
- 3.5 To take this forward, a meeting will be arranged between relevant officers and members of the Building Safer Communities National Programme Board to discuss the local projects further, and the nature of the assistance that the National Programme could offer Renfrewshire.

#### **4. BACKGROUND TO THE NATONAL PROGRAMME**

- 4.1 The Scottish Government - Building Safer Communities Programme seeks a flourishing, optimistic Scotland in which resilient communities, families and individuals live their lives safe from crime, disorder and harm. The National Programme being developed will focus on doing this in two ways. Firstly, by reducing the number of victims of crime by 250,000 by 2017-18 and secondly, by reducing the number of victims of unintentional harm by a significant amount over the same period. (figures tbc).
- 4.2 The approach being set out nationally is to generate community-led approaches where the potential for transformational change is greatest. Evidence will be used to ensure interventions are based on evidence of what works to reduce crime, victimisation and unintentional harm. A performance framework will be based on continuous improvement that defines success and supports delivery of the programme aims and national outcomes.
- 4.3 The National Programme will work to address the underlying causes of crime, deter offending, and reduce the opportunities for offending and re-offending and is keen to work with Renfrewshire due to the strength of the Community Planning Partnership here and the commitment of local partners, including the third sector to delivering effective and proven early intervention and prevention initiatives such as Street Stuff and Families First. A key strength is the involvement of Renfrewshire communities in developing community programmes and projects related to the Public Protection agenda and very clear links that can be drawn across the Safer & Stronger and Greener themes of the Community Planning Partnership.

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