



To: HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY POLICY BOARD

On: 10th MARCH 2015

Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Heading: BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Director of the Safer Communities Directorate at the Scottish Government has written to the Chief Executive 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 undertaken by the Council and the Community Planning Partnership on Community Safety & Public Protection issues which is evidently emerging as a “best practice” exemplar.
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2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Housing & Community Safety Policy Board:

- 2.1 Agrees that the Council participate in the Building Safer Communities National Programme;
- 2.2 Delegate to the Director of Community Resources to work with relevant community planning partners to develop suitable projects in Ferguslie Park/Phoenix and Johnstone Town Centre as part of the programme;
- 2.3 Request that the Director of Community Resources bring back reports on progress to future meetings of the Board.
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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 development of the integrated Johnstone Civic Centre. Part of the work for the National Programme will be to help the Council 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. At the last round of Community Planning Thematic Board meetings both the Safer & Stronger and the Greener Thematic Boards agreed to jointly work up projects in Ferguslie and Johnstone, under the banner of “Building Safer and Greener Communities” that would feed into the Building Safer Communities National Programme.
- 3.4 The primary advantage for the Council in participating in the National Programme 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, necessarily, 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, following the agreement of the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board, 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.
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4. BACKGROUND TO THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The Scottish Government - Building Safer Communities National 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 a number of ways. These include:
- reducing the number of victims of crime by 2017-18; and
 - reducing the number of victims of unintentional harm over the same period.

- 4.2 The approach being set out nationally is to generate community-led approaches where the potential for transformational change is greatest. A National Programme Board made up of some of the key partner organisations would like to support activity in 7 locations – including Aberdeenshire, Renfrewshire and Edinburgh Community Planning Partnerships and South East Alloa, Gorbals and Possilpark community led Link Up areas.
- 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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Implications of this Report

1. **Financial** – No direct financial implications for the Council
2. **HR and Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning**

Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire – The National programme will shine a spotlight on the work ongoing in Renfrewshire, which should support the Council's and Partnerships efforts to deliver safer, stronger communities

A Greener Renfrewshire – The focus on communities and engagement will support the work being undertaken to deliver capacity, engage communities and make sustainable environmental improvements
4. **Legal** – None
5. **Property/Assets** – None
6. **Information Technology** – None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** – The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health and Safety** – None

- 9. **Procurement** – None
- 10. **Risk** –.None
- 11. **Privacy Impact** – None

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