



**AGENDA ITEM NO.**

## Report Cover Sheet

<b>Name of Meeting:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	11 February 2008
<b>Report Title:</b>	Funding for Safer Neighbourhoods Areas
<b>Summary of report:</b>	Recommends changing the designation of funding from capital to revenue in order to facilitate local solutions to locally identified problems
<b>For Further Information Please Contact (report author):</b>	Pete Cutts, Community Safety Manager. Tel 456021
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Policy Framework:</b>	No
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Wards of the District directly affected by this decision:</b>	All
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan?</b>	No
<b>Is the report Private &amp; Confidential</b>	No
<b>Background Papers:</b>	Safer Neighbourhoods – Executive 13 <sup>th</sup> February

## Consultation Undertaken

Below is a table of the Council's regular consultees. However not all have to be consulted on every matter and if there was no obligation to consult with a specific consultee they will be marked as n/a.

Consultees	Yes/ No	Who
Other Committees	No	
Ward Councillors	No	
Portfolio Holders	Yes	
Other Councillors	No	
Warwick District Council recognised Trades Unions	No	
Other Warwick District Council Service Areas	Yes	Finance
Project partners	Yes	Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire County Council, Town Councils
Parish/Town Council	No	
Highways Authority	No	
Residents	No	
Citizens Panel	No	

Other consultees		Whilst there has been little formal consultation the community safety manager has received numerous queries from councillors and partners about the designation and whether there is any flexibility.
<b>Officer Approval</b>		
With regard to officer approval all reports must be approved by the report author's relevant director, Finance Services and Legal Services.		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Relevant Director(s)	15/01/08	Chief Executive
Chief Executive	same	same
CMT	17/01/08	
Section 151 Officer	14/01/08	Mary Hawkins
Legal	14/01/08	Simon Best
Finance	14/01/08	Mike Snow
<b>Final Decision?</b>		Yes
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		
Review future funding designations to Safer Neighbourhoods Areas.		

## **1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 1.1 To reduce the 2007/08 and 2008/09 Warwick District Council Capital Funding Safer Neighbourhoods Areas by £60,000 in each year and designation to Revenue Funding for one-off projects with accompanying changes to the financing from the Capital Investment Programme.
- 1.2 To allow a carryover into 2008/09 with the exact amount to be agreed, subject to review when details of the Final Accounts are presented in June.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 The capital funding designation has severely restricted the ability of the Safer Neighbourhoods Areas to identify projects that meet the criteria. To date none of the Warwick District Council allocation has been spent and only £7000 of the £20,000 made available from Safer & Stronger Communities Funding is spent or committed.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 The capital funding designation could remain but this doesn't easily facilitate spending on the emerging priorities of anti-social behaviour, speeding and criminal damage.
  - 3.1.2 A percentage revenue/capital split would unnecessarily complicate the funding rather than facilitating deliverable and visible outcomes.
- 3.2 Any money not spent or committed in 2007/08 could be re-allocated or the amount awarded in 2008/09 reduced. The Safer Neighbourhood Areas have been informed that this is the award and that it is to be used to deliver local solutions to locally identified problems. To withdraw or reduce this money will undermine the process.

## **4. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 To promote *safe, vibrant & sustainable local communities* is a Key priority theme in the developing: corporate strategy (2007-11). The proposed corporate objective is to *make neighbourhoods safer* and the proposed priority indicator is: *percentage increase in success of first intervention in reducing anti-social behaviour*.
- 4.2 The current C029 budget is £80,000 and is made up of £60,000 from this authority and £20,000 from Safer & Stronger Communities Funding (SSCF). There is no flexibility in the designation of SSCF capital with a minimum percentage split 27% capital and 73% revenue.
- 4.3 An amount of £60,000 is allocated to Safer Neighbourhoods in 2008/09. There is little likelihood of Local Area Agreement funding to replace the £20,000 from SSCF.
- 4.4 A reduction in the capital budget with an accompanying increase in the revenue budget will require an adjustment to the funding of the capital programme. This can be achieved by utilising the Capital Investment Reserve to finance the revenue

expenditure. Normally it is not possible to use capital funding to finance revenue. However, as the adjustment here is below the level of the Council's annual contribution to the Capital Investment Reserve (£165,000), it will be possible to make the adjustment on this occasion.

## 5 BACKGROUND

5.1 Community Safety is a generic term for the statutory responsibilities placed on this authority within the Crime and Disorder Act (1998). The duty is to work in partnership with the Police, County Council, Police Authority, Fire & Rescue Service and Primary Care Trust. The duty is joint and equal.

5.2 Safer Neighbourhoods is intended to address the broader aims of citizen focus. *The right people, at the right places at the right time in order to create neighbourhoods that are safe and feel safe.*

It is intended to encourage public choice of policing priorities, participation and ownership of solutions. The main features are:

- Dedicated and accountable resources with geographic ownership based on district council wards
- Intelligence led targeting of issues that matter most to the public
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5.3 Safer Neighbourhoods was introduced in Warwick District in November 2006. There are eight Safer Neighbourhood Areas each with its own Police Team working under six Sergeants.

5.4 The Warwick District Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership has new mandatory performance indicators re the involvement of local residents and their involvement in local decision making.

Pete Cutts  
Community Safety Manager