

Bowhill Centre, Cardenden
Wednesday, 25th January, 2017 – 2.00 p.m.

AGENDA

Page Nos.

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1. | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. | |
| 2. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest(s) in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage. | |
| 3. | MINUTE – Minute of the meeting of Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 30th November, 2016. | 3 - 5 |
| 4. | PRESENTATION ON SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE – Presentation by Janet Henderson of SAJE Scotland. | |

ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 5. | TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – PROPOSED ONE WAY ORDER – MOSS SIDE ROAD, COWDENBEATH – Report by Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment. | 6 - 9 |
| 6. | TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – OBJECTION TO PROPOSED SPEED CUSHIONS, INVERKEITHING ROAD, CROSSGATES – Report by Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment. | 10 - 14 |
| 7. | AREA TRANSPORTATION WORKS PROGRAMME 2017/2018 – Report by Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment. | 15 - 23 |
| 8. | COMMUNITY SAFETY – | |
| | (a) <u>Safer Communities Team Update</u> – Report by the Head of Area Services. | 24 – 36 |
| | (b) <u>Outcome Performance Report – Improving Quality of Life in Local Communities</u> – Report by the Head of Community and Corporate Development (for information – previously submitted to the Safer Communities Committee on 6th October, 2016). | 37 - 49 |

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------|
| 9. | PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER AREA OF FIFE – COWDENBEATH – Report by Station Manager, Lochgelly, St. Andrews & Tayport Fire Stations, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service East Delivery Area (Fife). | 50 - 56 |
| 10. | OPERATIONAL BRIEFING ON POLICING ACTIVITIES WITHIN COWDENBEATH AREA – Report by Local Area Commander, Western Fife Division, Police Scotland. | 57 - 63 |
| 11. | LOCAL AREA COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE – PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING – COWDENBEATH AREA - Report by the Head of Community & Corporate Development. | 64 - 77 |

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------|
| 12. | PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS – Report by Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment. | 78 - 80 |
| 13. | PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - No written questions have been submitted by members of the public in terms of Standing Order No. 23 for this meeting. | |

Linda Bissett
Head of Democratic Services
Finance and Corporate Services

Fife House
North Street
Glenrothes
Fife KY7 5LT

18th January 2017

If telephoning, please ask for Susan Williams, Committee Administrator,
Fife House, Glenrothes
Telephone: 03451 555555 Ext. 442243 or E-mail: xxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx

Agendas and papers for all Committee meetings can be accessed on
www.fifedirect.org.uk/committees

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – HILL OF BEATH
COMMUNITY CENTRE, HILL OF BEATH**

30th November, 2016

2.10 p.m. – 2.50 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Mark Hood (Chair), Alistair Bain, Ann Bain, Alex Campbell, Gary Guichan and Mary Lockhart.

ATTENDING: Kevin Sayer, Area Services Manager (Cowdenbeath), Phil Clarke, Lead Officer, Traffic Management (South Fife) and Ian Jones, Lead Officer, Roads Network Manager (South Fife), Enterprise & Environment Directorate, Sandra Lawrie, Business Development Officer, Education & Children's Services Directorate, David Henderson, Team Manager/Adviser (Committee Services) and Susan Williams, Committee Administrator, Finance & Corporate Services.

ALSO

PRESENT: Kayle Turner, Community Builder Cowdenbeath and Kirsten Spence, Youth & Community Development Worker, Benarty Regeneration Action Group (BRAG).

APOLOGIES

FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Ian Chisholm, Linda Erskine and Peter Lockhart.

419. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHAIR

Decision

The Committee agreed that Councillor Alex Campbell take the Chair until the arrival of Councillor Mark Hood.

420. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee meeting of 2nd November, 2016.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:-

- (a) approve the minute;
- (b) note a verbal update by Kevin Sayer on the results of the participatory budgeting exercise referred to at para. 414, and congratulate all the community groups as well as officers who had facilitated the process to gain funding for local projects.

421./

421. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

(a) Proposed Speed Cushions - Oakfield Street, Kelty

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment advising of proposals for the introduction of speed cushions on Oakfield Street, Kelty.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed to the promotion of a Humps Notice for Oakfield Street, Kelty, with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorised officers to confirm the Humps Order within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

(Councillor Mark Hood entered the meeting during discussion of the above item and took the Chair from the next item for the remainder of the meeting).

(b) Objection to Proposed Speed Cushions in Inverkeithing Road, Crossgates

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment advising that one objection to the proposal to introduce speed cushions in Inverkeithing Road, Crossgates had been received.

Decision

The Committee approved, in the interests of road safety, that the objection be set aside to allow the construction of the speed cushions to proceed as detailed in the report and in drawing TRO/16/49.

422. **AREA TRANSPORTATION WORKS PROGRAMME 2016/2017**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment providing the latest position statement on the delivery of the Cowdenbeath Area Transportation Works Programme (ATWP) 2016/2017.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (a) noted the contents of the report;
- (b) agreed that, as the actual timings of the works were likely to be different, ward councillors would be made aware of significant alterations as they arose; and
- (c) noted the current spend against the available budgets.

423. **COWDENBEATH AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Education & Children's Services (Early Years & Early Primary) seeking approval for financial assistance to Cowdenbeath After School Club in order to meet the costs of transport and escort duties whilst transporting children from outlying local schools to the club.

Decision

The Committee approved an award of £8,000 to Cowdenbeath After School Club subject to the satisfaction of conditions detailed in the report.

424. **SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - ASSET BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community & Corporate Development detailing the outcomes of the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) learning and development programme and outlining measures to develop the work to address inequality, promote regeneration and inspire community engagement.

Decision

The Committee noted the outcomes on the review of the ABCD programme and further proposals to develop the work in and around Cowdenbeath Town Centre.

425. **UPDATES: ACTION LOG AND FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17**

The Committee considered current versions of the Action Log (from January, 2016 to date) and Forward Work Programme 2017.

Decision

The Committee noted its Action Log and Forward Work Programme (both subject to any further updating).

426. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Decision

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted by members of the public in terms of Standing Order No. 23 for this meeting.

25th January 2017

Agenda Item No. 5

Proposed One Way Order – Moss Side Road, Cowdenbeath

Report by: Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment

Wards Affected: Ward 8 – Cowdenbeath

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to allow the Area Committee to consider proposals to formalise the one way system on Moss Side Road, Cowdenbeath.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended, in the interests of road safety, that Committee:

1. Agree to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) as shown in drawing no. TRO/17/02 (Appendix 1), with all ancillary procedures; and
2. Authorise officers to confirm the TRO within a reasonable period unless there are objections.

Resource Implications

The cost to formally promote this TRO and deliver the associated traffic management works will be approximately £4,000, which covers Transportation and Legal Services staff cost, advertising and delivery of the new infrastructure. This will be met from approved Service budgets.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

The general duties section of the impact assessment and the summary form has been completed. No negative impacts have been identified.

Consultation

The local ward councillors and Police Scotland have been advised.

Formal consultation required by the Roads Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the TRO process will be carried out through the posting of legal notices in a local newspaper and on the affected length of roads. In addition, details of the proposed Order will be made available on Fife Direct.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Moss Side Road / Old Perth Road junction has an entrance road and an exit road which operates as an existing one way system which works effectively.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 It has come to our attention that the existing layout at this junction is not backed up by a TRO and the existing road signs and road markings are insufficient to ensure compliance.
- 2.2 As the existing layout works well we do not seek to amend this, however by formalising the junction with a TRO and upgrading the signs and road markings to make it enforceable we can secure compliance and avoid potential legal repercussions.
- 2.3 By improving the signs and road markings at this junction we can reduce the entrance speed of vehicles, reduce driver confusion and improve the overall safety of the junction.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 It is considered, in the interests of road safety, that a Traffic Regulation Order to introduce formalise the Moss Side Road / Old Perth Road junction be promoted.

List of Appendices

1. Drawing No. TRO/17/02

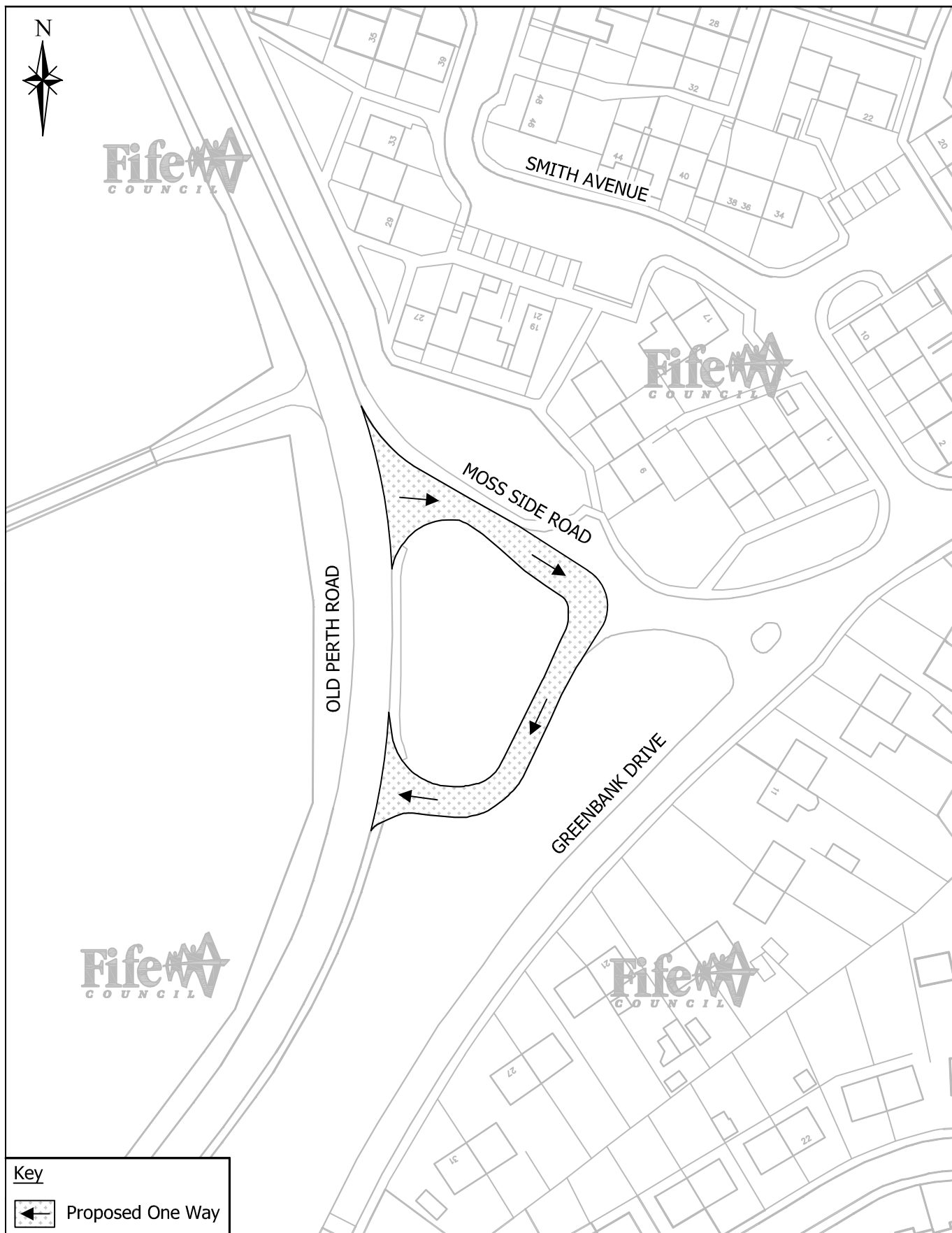
Background Papers

1. EqlA Summary Sheet

Report Contact

Phil Clarke
Lead Professional, Traffic Management (South)
Bankhead Central
03451 55 55 55 Ext No 442098
xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx

Keith Johnston
Technician
Bankhead Central
03451 55 55 55 Ext No 442935
xxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx



Key



Proposed One Way

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO © Crown copyright and database right 2016. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100023385.

All Rights Reserved - Drafting Survey License Number: 200-000000									
REV.	AMENDMENTS						BY	APPV'D	DATE
DESIGNED	KJ	DRAWN	KJ	CHECKED	PC	APPROVED	PC	DATE DECEMBER 2016	



ASSETS,
TRANSPORTATION
and ENVIRONMENT

Proposed One Way
Moss Side Road, Cowdenbeath

HEAD OF ASSETS, TRANSPORTATION and ENVIRONMENT - KEN GOURLAY

SCALE

NTS

DRAWING No. TRO/17/02

REV. _

25th January 2017

Agenda Item No. 6

Objection to Proposed Speed Cushions in Inverkeithing Road, Crossgates

Report by: Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment

Wards Affected: Ward 8 – Cowdenbeath

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to allow the Area Committee to consider one objection to the proposal to introduce speed cushions in Inverkeithing Road, Crossgates.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended, in the interests of road safety, that Committee:

1. Set aside the objection to allow the construction of the speed cushions to proceed as shown in drawing TRO/16/49 (Appendix 1); and
2. Authorise officers to confirm the Humps Order within a reasonable period.

Resource Implications

The cost to formally promote this Road Humps Order and deliver the associated traffic management works will be approximately £3,000, which covers Transportation and Legal Services staff cost, advertising and delivery of the new infrastructure. This will be met from approved Service budgets.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

The general duties section of the impact assessment and the summary form has been completed. No negative impacts have been identified.

Consultation

The local ward councillors and Police Scotland have been advised.

Formal consultation required by the Roads Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the Road Humps Order process was carried out through the posting of legal notices in the Dunfermline Press and at each of the 2 locations on sign poles on 22nd September 2016. In addition, details of the proposals were available on Fife Direct.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The notice published on 22nd September intimated the intention to construct one set of speed cushions in Inverkeithing Road, Crossgates at the gateway into the village and one single cushion at the existing give / take buildout. Committee members agreed to the promotion of these cushions at Committee on 31st August 2016 (2016.C.A.C.206 Item 391 refers).
- 1.2 During the objection period one formal objection was received which was set aside by Committee members on 30th November 2016 (2016.C.A.C.221 Item 421b refers).
- 1.3 Due to an administrative oversight outwith the direct control of Transportation another objection was received during the formal consultation period that was only discovered after the Committee on 30th November 2016.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 The objector has concerns that the speed cushion at the give / take buildout will increase ground borne vibrations and noise levels at their property.

Local Transport Note 1/07 describes extensive research carried out by the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) on vibration levels from various traffic calming features, in particular due to the passage of HGVs. TRL's findings were that for boulder clay, as is prevalent in this area, vibrations large enough to cause even superficial damage to buildings were only present less than 1 metre from a speed cushion. In the case of this proposal, no buildings are within this distance and are in fact set back considerably from the carriageway.

The Greater London Assembly inquiry into road humps included a study on a site within London. This concluded that there was no increase in noise levels as a result of the introduction of speed humps.

The speed cushions will be designed to allow larger vehicles to straddle the cushions so that there should be little discernible noise, over that of the general traffic. Reducing the speed of traffic may reduce ground borne vibrations and noise levels.

- 2.2 The objector has concerns that forces of vehicles traversing over the speed cushions will have effects on disused mine shafts in the area.

As many properties along this part of Inverkeithing Road are fairly recently built, the expectation is that any mine workings within their vicinity would have had to have been stabilised during their construction. In any event we have noted no subsidence on the carriageway at any point which could be attributable to adjacent mine workings. Given the findings of TRL regarding vibrations from HGVs we would not expect the presence of speed cushions to present any increased risk to the carriageway structure due to the presence of mine workings.

Fife Council have installed extensive traffic calming measures on a number of roads throughout Fife, often in areas with substantial mining history, and there have never been any cases of vertical features being responsible for carriageway damage due to the presence of mine workings.

- 2.3 The objector has concerns with stationary vehicles generating fumes, vehicle occupants discarding their litter and increased difficulties accessing their driveway. These concerns are related to the existing give / take buildout which has been in place for many years and there is no evidence that the proposed speed cushion will contribute to these concerns.
- 2.4 The objector suggests we relocate the give / take buildout further to the north away from his property although this would be cost prohibitive and would not be of any increased benefit as its location is appropriate.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The introduction of speed reduction measures such as humps and cushions is the widely accepted method of achieving speed reduction on an area wide basis. Unless the proposed measures are introduced it is considered that the existing very poor speed limit compliance will continue.
- 3.2 It is believed that the points raised in the objections have been given full consideration and that the installation of the speed cushions should be permitted.

List of Appendices

1. Drawing No. TRO/16/49 Proposed Speed Cushions: Inverkeithing Road, Crossgates.

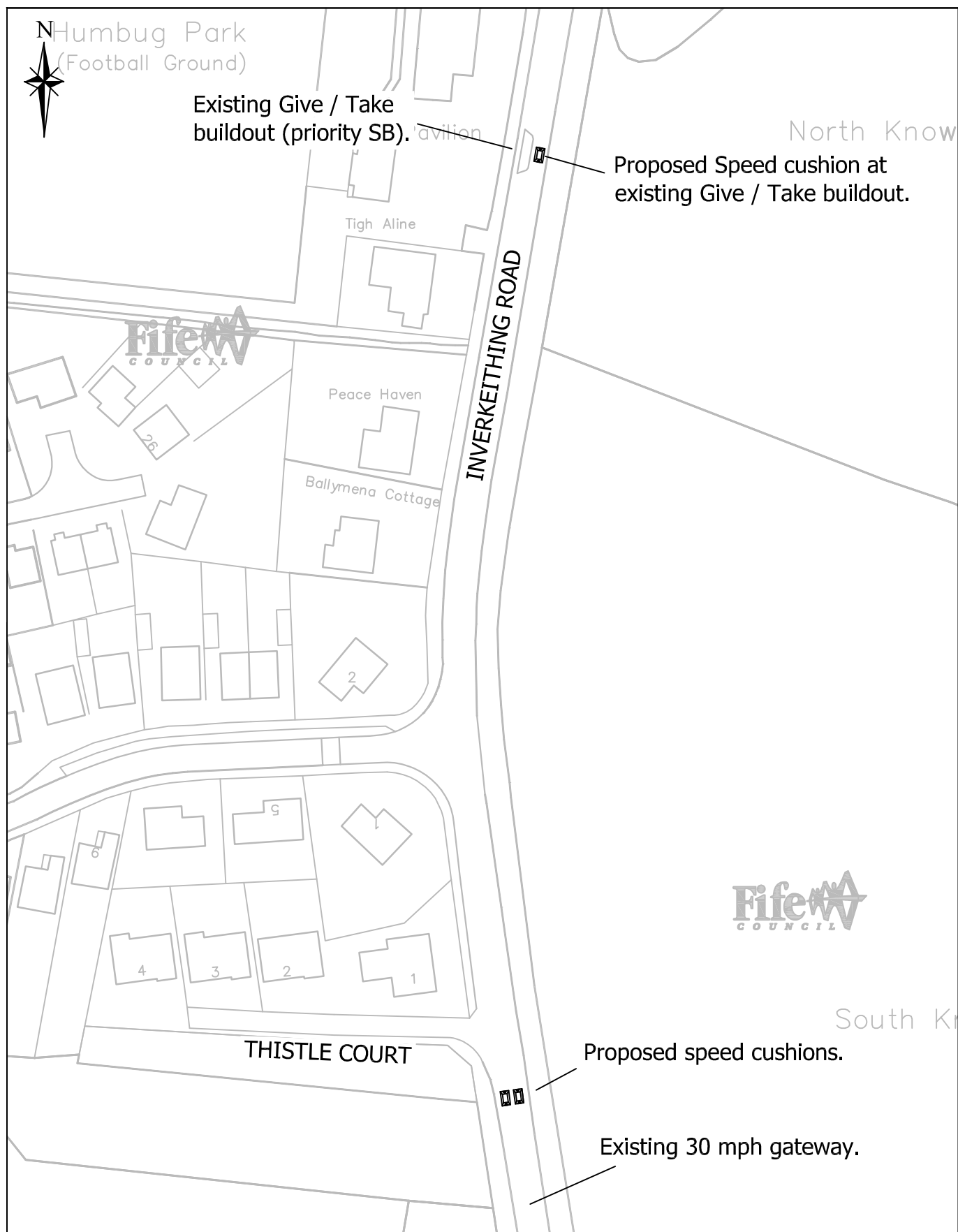
Background Papers

Redacted correspondence with one objector.

Report Contact

Phil Clarke
Lead Professional, Traffic Management (South)
Bankhead Central
03451 55 55 55 Ext No 442098
xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx

Keith Johnston
Technician, Road Safety and Traffic Management (South Fife)
Bankhead Central
Glenrothes
03451 55 55 55 Ext No 442935
xxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf
of HMSO © Crown copyright and database right 2016.
All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100023385.

Full Rights Reserved - Standard Survey License Number: 1000100001

REV.	AMENDMENTS						BY	APPV'D	DATE
DESIGNED	KJ	DRAWN	KJ	CHECKED	PC	APPROVED	PC	DATE JULY 2016	
HEAD OF ASSETS, TRANSPORTATION and ENVIRONMENT - KEN GOURLAY									



ASSETS,
TRANSPORTATION
and ENVIRONMENT

Proposed Speed Cushions
Inverkeithing Road, Crossgates

SCALE NTS

DRAWING No. TRO/16/49

REV. _

25 January 2017
Agenda Item No. 7

Area Transportation Works Programme 2017 / 2018

Report by: Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment

Wards Affected: 7,8 & 9

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to highlight the projects which are proposed for approval to form the ATWP in Cowdenbeath Area for delivery in the 2017/2018 financial year.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Committee approve the contents of the report and attached appendices.

It is also recommended that Committee delegate authority to the Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment to manage the lists of Category 1 and 2 projects in line with available resources/funding as the programme develops, in consultation with the Area Chair and Area Service Manager.

Resource Implications

The ATWP is funded from capital, revenue and some ring fenced budgets. Final budget allocations have not yet been approved. Programmes of work will be adjusted to ensure that expenditure remains within the Service budget with regular monitoring reports being provided to Committee throughout 2017 / 2018.

Legal & Risk Implications

There would not appear to be any direct legal / risk implications arising from this report.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA is not required because the report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Through ward meetings and workshops, members have been consulted and participated in the development of the lists of projects forming the proposed ATWP 2017 / 2018.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The operation, management and maintenance of a safe and efficient transportation network has a major impact on the Fife economy and the quality of life available to residents. Delivering strategic transportation projects at a local level underpins the priorities of the Fife Council Plan. In particular, Assets, Transportation & Environment (ATE) has a key supporting role in relation to promoting a sustainable society, improving the quality of life in local communities and growing a vibrant economy. ATE also provides support to activities which are part of reforming Fife's public services.

The programme has been developed through the assessment and prioritisation of schemes identified by the following:

- Feedback from consultation meetings with Elected Members.
 - Workshops with Elected Members
 - Continuous inspections, technical surveys and assessments and interrogation of maintenance management systems.
 - Local Area Transport Plans.
 - Suggestions received from Elected Members, Community Councils and the public.
- 1.2 This process follows the guidance identified in table 5 of the Scheme of Decentralisation and Area budgets approved by the Executive Committee on 17 November 2015.
- 1.3 Members are asked to note that 2017/18 will be year twelve of the street lighting Column Replacement Programme. This aims to replace some 17,500 columns at a cost of £40.25 million. Members should also note that this will be the sixth year of the Lighting Efficiency Project. This aims to replace 42,000 lanterns at a cost of £8.7 million.
- 1.4 Members should note that 2016/17 is the ninth year of the Council's ten year investment to "Safeguard our Infrastructure - Roads". The total investment over the ten year period is £45 million.
- 1.5 Members should note that for 2017/18 we will be entering into the second year of a nine year Asset Management Programme of traffic signal replacement works. This programme of work is valued at £2.0m

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 Attached Appendices 1 – 5, to this report are a detailed list of the proposed ATWP projects. Category 1 schemes are committed to the programme dependent on available funding and Category 2 schemes will be promoted into the programme should any of the Category 1's slip or additional funding become available.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The attached Appendices contain the proposed Cowdenbeath Area Transportation Works Programme for 2017/2018. The Appendices detail the type of works, work location and provisional estimate for each project. Regular progress updates will be provided during delivery of the programme and progress reports will be provided to Committee as required.
- 3.2 Committee is asked to agree the recommendation to approve the Cowdenbeath Area ATWP 2017/2018.

List of Appendices

1. Carriageway Schemes
2. Footway Schemes
3. Street Lighting Improvements
4. Traffic Management

Report Contact

Ian Jones

Lead Professional, Roads Network Management (South)

Milesmark Depot, Dunfermline

Telephone: 03451 555 555 ext 480114

Email xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx

**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
AREA TRANSPORTATION WORKS PROGRAMME 2017 / 2018 - COWDENBEATH AREA**

PROPOSED PROGRAMME

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Appendix	Budget Heading
APPENDIX 1	CARRIAGEWAY SCHEMES
APPENDIX 2	COMBINED FOOTWAY AND STREET LIGHTING SCHEMES
APPENDIX 3	STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS
APPENDIX 4	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND ROAD SAFETY

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

AREA TRANSPORTATION WORKS PROGRAMME 2017 / 2018 - COWDENBEATH AREA

CARRIAGEWAY SCHEMES

WARD	ROAD No / TOWN	STREET	LOCATION	PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE	COMMENTS
8	COWDENBEATH	HALL STREET/PIT ROAD	FULL LENGTH	£70,000	CARRYOVER FROM 16/17
7	KELTY	KELTYHILL ROAD	FULL LENGTH	£160,000	RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 1
8	COWDENBEATH	PERTH ROAD	KELTY JUNCTION TO DERESTRICTIONS	£275,000	RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 1
8	CROSSGATES	B981	SPRINGHILL BRAE TOWARD PRATHOUSE	£136,000	RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 1
8	COWDENBEATH	GEORGE STREET	FULL LENGTH	£15,000	RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 1
9	LOCHGELLY	CHISHOLM CRESCENT	FULL LENGTH	£30,000	RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 1
7	BALLINGRY B920	LOCHLEVEN ROAD	BALLINGRY CRESCENT TO BOUNDARY	£105,000	RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2
8	COWDENBEATH	GLENFIELD COURT	FULL LENGTH	£25,000	RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2
8	COWDENBEATH	GLENFIELD GARDENS	FULL LENGTH	£45,000	RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

AREA TRANSPORTATION WORKS PROGRAMME 2017 / 2018 - COWDENBEATH AREA

CARRIAGEWAY SCHEMES

8	COWDENBEATH	FOULFORD ROAD	CUL-DE-SAC 37-44	£50,000	RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2
9	LOCHGELLY	PLANTATION STREET	FULL LENGTH	£30,000	RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2
9	CARDENDEN	CARDEN AVENUE		£130,000	RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

AREA TRANSPORTATION WORKS PROGRAMME 2017 / 2018 - COWDENBEATH AREA

COMBINED FOOTWAY AND STREET LIGHTING SCHEMES

WARD	ROAD No / TOWN	STREET	LOCATION	PROVISIONAL FOOTWAY ESTIMATE	PROVISIONAL LIGHTING ESTIMATE	COMMENTS
7	BALLINGRY	MARSHALL PLACE	FULL LENGTH	£20,000		RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 1
8	COWDENBEATH	GEORGE STREET	FULL LENGTH	£40,000		RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 1
8	LUMPHINNANS	FURNACE PLACE/OCHIL VIEW	FULL LENGTH	£100,000		RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 1
7	KELTY	BLACKHALL ROAD/SQUARE	VARIOUS SECTION	£50,000		RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2
8	COWDENBEATH	HILLVIEW	FULL LENGTH	£22,000		RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2
9	CARDENDEN	JAMPHLARS ROAD		£65,000		RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2
9	LOCHGELLY	MORRIS AVENUE	FULL LENGTH	£28,000		RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2
9	LOCHGELLY	SHARP GROVE	FULL LENGTH	£5,000		RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2
9	LOCHGELLY	ADAMSON ROAD	FULL LENGTH	£15,000		RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2
9	LOCHGELLY	PLANTATION STREET	FULL LENGTH	£60,000		RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2
9	LOCHGELLY	PAXTON CRESCENT	FULL LENGTH	£90,000		RECOMMENDED AS CATEGORY 2

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

AREA TRANSPORTATION WORKS PROGRAMME 2017 / 2018 - COWDENBEATH AREA

STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS

WARD	ROAD NO / TOWN	STREET	LOCATION	PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE	COMMENTS
8	COWDENBEATH	PHASE 2 - SELKIRK AVE, PARK ST, ROSE ST, GARDINER RD, RAITH AVE, NATEL PL, PAUL PL, ARTHUR PL, MARSHALL ST, ARTHUR ST		£100,000	CONTINUATION OF 2016/17 WORKS
8	COWDENBEATH	PHASE 3 - HILLVIEW, FARM RD, BLACKBURN DR, PATH 154/914, GATESIDE IND EST, CUDDYHOUSE RD, SMITH AVE, PARK RD, MOSS-SIDE RD, ANDERSON DR, PATH 158/908		£100,000	CATEGORY 2
7	LOCHORE			£30,000	CONTINUATION OF 2016/17 WORKS

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

AREA TRANSPORTATION WORKS PROGRAMME 2017 / 2018 - COWDENBEATH AREA

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND ROAD SAFETY

WARD	TOWN	LOCATION	TYPE	PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE	COMMENTS
7-9	COWDENBEATH AREA	VARIOUS	TRAFFIC CALMING FOR ESTABLISHED 20MPH ZONES	£20,000	CAT 1 - FUNDING FOR 20 REPEATER SIGNS AND ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC CALMING IN ESTABLISHED 20MPH ZONES
9	LOCHGELLY	NORTH STREET/WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL	SRS WIDEN FOOTWAY	£6,000	CATEGORY 1
8	COWDENBEATH	PERTH ROAD	PROVISION OF ADVISORY CROSSING AT SPLITTER ISLAND	£15,000	CATEGORY 1
8	CROSSGATES	MAIN STREET	PEDESTRIAN ISLAND	£10,000	CATEGORY 1
8	COWDENBEATH	BRIDGE STREET	PROVISION OF JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT	£20,000	CATEGORY 2
8	COWDENBEATH	LEUCHATSBEATH DRIVE	PUFFIN CROSSING	£40,000	CATEGORY 2
9	DUNDONALD	MAIN ROAD	ZEBRA CROSSING	£25,000	CATEGORY 2

25th January 2017

Agenda Item No. 8(a)

Safer Communities Team Update Report

Report by: Grant Ward, Head of Area Services

Wards Affected: All Cowdenbeath wards

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an overview of the operational activity of the Safer Communities Team for the period 1st April 2016 to 30th September 2016

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to note and comment on the activity to date.

Resource Implications

None.

Legal & Risk Implications

None.

Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is not required as this report presents an update on community safety partnership activity. No policy or funding changes are being proposed that are likely to have an impact on equality groups.

Consultation

Consultation has taken place with community safety partner agencies.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Following a review of tackling antisocial behaviour undertaken by the Housing and Communities Policy Advisory Group, a report was presented to the Council Executive Committee on 19th August, 2014 outlining a number of proposals to improve the Councils responses. The key activities agreed included:
- clarifying who has lead responsibility for dealing with different kinds of antisocial behaviour;
 - ensuring that all forms of antisocial behaviour issues are dealt with as a priority;
 - ensuring that there is an effective and co-ordinated response;
 - learning from best practice in other areas;
 - clarifying the sanctions available;
 - developing preventative approaches;
 - making greater use of online reporting; and
 - promoting joint visits to perpetrators;
- 1.2 To progress these proposals, the Safer Communities Team was formed to deal with antisocial behaviour, neighbour complaints, hate incidents and environmental enforcement issues, thus integrating functions within a single staff group and providing a single point of contact at an area level. The outcomes from this integration include:
- a clear identity within local communities and a single point of contact for dealing with antisocial behaviour;
 - increased flexibility and resilience within a single team;
 - enhanced knowledge and skills for staff;
 - improved use of professional witnesses;
 - more informed reporting to Area Committees.
 - a single service response for victims;
 - improved evidence and intelligence gathering and sharing;
 - swifter and more effective action taken;
 - enhanced support for victims of antisocial behaviour;
 - improved use of legislative options; and
 - improved support for partner services.
- 1.3 The role of Safer Communities Area Co-ordinator (SCAC) is the single point of contact at an area level. They will ensure local managers and elected members are briefed on priority and emerging community safety issues and co-ordinate problem solving responses to address concerns. The SCACs also manage investigations into serious cases of antisocial behaviour. The Safer Communities Area Co-ordinator for the Cowdenbeath area is Tracy Duncan (xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx, voip, 452860).

- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to update elected members on the activity of the Safer Communities Team within the Cowdenbeath area during the period 1st April to 30th September, 2016. Alongside updates from individual organisations, including Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, this will provide a detailed overview of work underway to make communities safer.
- 1.5 Information is also provided on Fife-wide activity in order to ensure that members are aware of the range of activity within their area.
- 1.6 Where possible, updates will be provided under the following strategic priorities as identified within the revised community safety strategy - Making Fife Safer (2015-2020):
 - People are safe from fire and unintentional harm
 - Crime is reduced and victims of crime are supported
 - There is less antisocial behaviour and people feel confident about reporting incidents
 - Fewer people offend or at risk of offending
 - Fewer people are killed or seriously injured on the roads.

2.0 People are safe from fire and unintentional harm

- 2.1 The most up to date Accident and Emergency data available is for the period 1st October, 2015 to 31st March, 2016. During this time there were a total of 6124 attendances at Queen Margaret and Victoria Hospital Accident and Emergency departments due to unintentional injuries in the home, compared to 5703 for the period 1st October, 2014 to 31st March, 2015. 964 of these were residents in the Cowdenbeath area, compared to 851 for the same period of 2014/15. 140 were aged four and under (an increase from 136 during the same period in 14-15) and 261 were aged 65 and over (an increase from 233 October to March 2014/15).
- 2.2 50 visits were carried out by the Fife Cares service in the Cowdenbeath area from 1st April to 30th September, 2016. 49 families with young children and 1 vulnerable adult received tailored home safety advice from home safety advisers.
- 2.3 Anecdotal evidence suggests many older people are admitted to hospital as a result of a fall from wearing ill-fitting slippers. In an attempt to address this issue locally, Safer Communities staff in partnership with local Fire Service colleagues have piloted a '*Slipper Exchange Initiative*'. Through a series of events across Fife (with, in most cases, the sessions running in conjunction with Electric Blanket Testing), older people have been encouraged, with the incentive of a new pair of slippers, to come along and engage with staff in structured conversations to assess their risk of falling, in turn, allowing staff to offer additional support including referrals to partner agencies. Wherever possible, a NHS Fife Podiatrist attended the sessions.
- 2.4 Results of the evaluation of this pilot will be used to determine whether, slipper exchange is an effective way of addressing falls in the home and, if so, whether this method is the best way to deliver such an initiative. It is important to note that, as with all preventative work, it will be difficult to evidence the impact.

- 2.5 Following an initial pilot project, the Fife Cares Service is continuing to work with the Scottish Gas Network (SGN) to help prevent gas leaks and fires amongst vulnerable people and families.
- 2.6 Following a referral from the Fife Cares Service, engineers fit a locking valve device on the cooker pipework which locks the valve, stopping the gas supply. The simple safety device is fitted to existing gas cooker pipework, when the valve is locked, the gas supply to the cooker is stopped. This eliminates the risk of the cooker unintentionally being turned on or left on and gives peace of mind to the carer or relative that the cooker can't be used when they leave the house or the room. The carer or relative can easily turn the valve on and off when the cooker is required, enabling the vulnerable person to continue to use their gas cooker safely and remain independent.
- 2.7 The Fife Cares Service was the first local authority to partner with SGN on this pilot. During the trial, locking cooker valves were fitted in the homes of nine Fife residents. The trial demonstrated that the device could make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable people in Fife. Following the success in Fife, SGN is now extending this free service across Scotland and the south of England. The Fife Cares Service continues to raise awareness of the initiative and encourage referrals.
- 2.8 While the primary focus of the initiative is to support vulnerable people with dementia and Alzheimer's disease, Fife has, to date, been the only local authority to refer for a valve to support a family with a young child who, while currently under diagnosis for autism, was continually turning the gas cooker on. The installation of this valve has helped provide reassurance to the family that the risk of fire and/or explosion has been reduced.

3.0 Crime is reduced and victims of crime are supported

- 3.1 The Safe, Secure and Supported at Home initiative was officially launched in Fife in October 2014 with home security visits commencing at that time. There has since then been an ongoing effort to raise awareness amongst practitioners who have contact with clients who may require the service. The aim of home security visits is to enable victims of domestic abuse to feel safe in their own home as well as providing advice regarding their safety whilst they are out and about. Appropriate safety equipment is provided on a need and risk basis. Where appropriate, referrals can also be made to other appropriate agencies.
- 3.2 In the last year, this has included visits to NHS Community Visitors and other agencies, such as Penumbra, throughout Fife. Raising awareness sessions have also been carried out within Fife Council.
- 3.3 During the six month period 1st April to 30th September, 207 took place across Fife, 38 in the Cowdenbeath area.
- 3.4 During the period 1st April to 30th September, 260 home security surveys were completed across Fife by police officers within the prevention team of the Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit. Through these visits, individuals received practical support and advice to help them feel safe and secure at home. 33 of these visits were to homes within the Cowdenbeath area.

4.0 There is less antisocial behaviour and people feel confident about reporting incidents

- 4.1 From 1st August, 2016, every morning Officers from the Safer Communities Team, Police Scotland and Community Safety Support Service meet and share information and intelligence relating to new and ongoing incidents of antisocial behaviour. This allows the most effective response to incidents by the most appropriate agency and at the earliest possible opportunity. Referrals will also be made to partnership services not in attendance at the meeting, to allow the effective and timely deployment of resources, targeted towards those areas and/or individuals in most need.
- 4.2 Since April 2016, there have been 34 tasks allocated from the planning meeting relating to the Cowdenbeath area. These have resulted in Safer Communities staff undertaking
- Locus protection
 - Reassurance patrols – examples include visits to local business in Ballingry and Cardenden following hate crimes,
 - High visibility patrols - examples include patrolling around Lochgelly centre, following an increase in youth disorder, and most recently patrol and reassurance visits to Cowdenbeath Leisure Centre
- 4.3 During the period 1st April to 30th September, 941 'Antisocial behaviour – report an incident' forms were submitted from across Fife, 150 of these related to incidents within the Cowdenbeath area. These forms are completed by staff in the Council's Contact Centre following a complaint from a member of the public or are completed directly online by a member of the public via Fife Council's Fifedirect website.
- 4.4 Officers within the Safer Communities Team are responsible for administering these forms. Where appropriate, the forms are actioned by services within the Safer Communities team itself through discussion at the daily planning meetings. If the issue cannot be addressed by the Safer Communities Team, a referral will be made to relevant partners to ensure appropriate action is taken. For instance, following a report of graffiti the form will be passed to Catering and Cleaning who will arrange to have it cleaned off.
- 4.5 During the period 1st April to 30th September, Safer Communities Area Co-ordinators (SCAC) dealt with 332 antisocial behaviour cases across Fife, 54 of these cases were within the Cowdenbeath area. Of the 24 cases relating to hate incidents, seven were in the Cowdenbeath area. The Area Co-ordinator for the Cowdenbeath area had eight cases of antisocial behaviour ongoing at 30th November.
- 4.6 Cases are referred to the Co-ordinators from a wide variety of agencies, or direct from members of the public. During the course of an investigation Co-ordinators will work with partner agencies to try to resolve cases quickly. The Co-ordinators will speak to victims and perpetrators of antisocial behaviour and will arrange support if required or will make referrals on to other agencies who may be able to help. Depending on the seriousness of a case, Co-ordinators may task Safer Communities Officers, who work until 04.00 Thursday to Sunday to visit victims to offer reassurance visits, and to witness the antisocial behaviour. SCOs may also undertake neighbourhood patrols to offer reassurance to the wider community. If

necessary, Co-ordinators will carry out joint visits with the Safer Communities Officers, Police, Housing Officers, Social Workers or other agencies who may be able to help find a resolution to the problem, or they will arrange multi agency meetings where services can get together to discuss the most effective action, or needs of the individuals.

4.7 Over the six months period, sixteen written antisocial behaviour warning were issued to Cowdenbeath residents, 18% of the total issued across Fife (88). If the warnings and preventative work fails to resolve the problems, then it may be necessary to refer ongoing serious cases to the Council's solicitors to seek legal action, usually in the form of an Antisocial Behaviour Order (ASBO). An ASBO is an Order granted by the Sheriff which prevents individuals from carrying out specific behaviour, such as playing loud music, shouting and swearing in the street, etc., or can prevent an individual from entering a specified area. The Order usually lasts for a period of two years. If an ASBO is breached, this is a criminal offence and breaches of the Order are enforced by the Police.

4.8 One of the most effective interventions used for resolving neighbour disputes, and to resolve cases of antisocial behaviour, is mediation. The mediators will work with both parties involved to try to find an amicable resolution to the problem, which is acceptable to both parties. For this period, mediation was provided by the Fife Community Mediation Service (FCMS) and their statistics are as follows:

During the 6 month period up until 30th September, FCMS received 112 case referrals for mediation, which involved 225 households. Fifteen of these referrals were from the Cowdenbeath area. The highest number of complaints (61) were complaints about noise from a neighbour, followed by complaints about verbal abuse (27 complaints). Out of the 225 households referred for mediation, 144 households were Council tenants while the remaining 81 were a mix of private tenants, housing association tenants and owner occupiers. Fife Community Mediation Service contacted all parties involved in a dispute to try to bring both sides together to work out a mutually agreeable solution to the problem.

4.9 Unfortunately there are many people who do not wish to engage with the mediation process. Of the 112 cases referred, 31 cases (25%) went ahead for mediation. 26 of the cases which agreed to mediation (87%) achieved an amicable resolution.

4.10 A new combined Support to victims and Mediation Service began on 1st October, 2016. The aim of this service is to provide support to both victims and perpetrators of antisocial behaviour and hate incidents, and to provide mediation at an early stage. The new service will receive referrals at an earlier stage, and more face to face visits, and contacts will be carried out to try to increase the number of cases proceeding to mediation.

4.11 The table below shows the number of environmental complaints, from across Fife, received by the Safer Communities Team, during the six month reporting period;

Type of complaints received	Number
Abandoned vehicles	822
Dog fouling	499

Illegal dumping	1667
Dirty gardens	420

The number of complaints within the Cowdenbeath area are as follows:

Type of complaints received	Number
Abandoned vehicles	102
Dog fouling	99
Illegal dumping	184
Dirty gardens	72

From April to September Safer Communities Officers issued twenty nine Fixed Penalty Notices within the Cowdenbeath area:

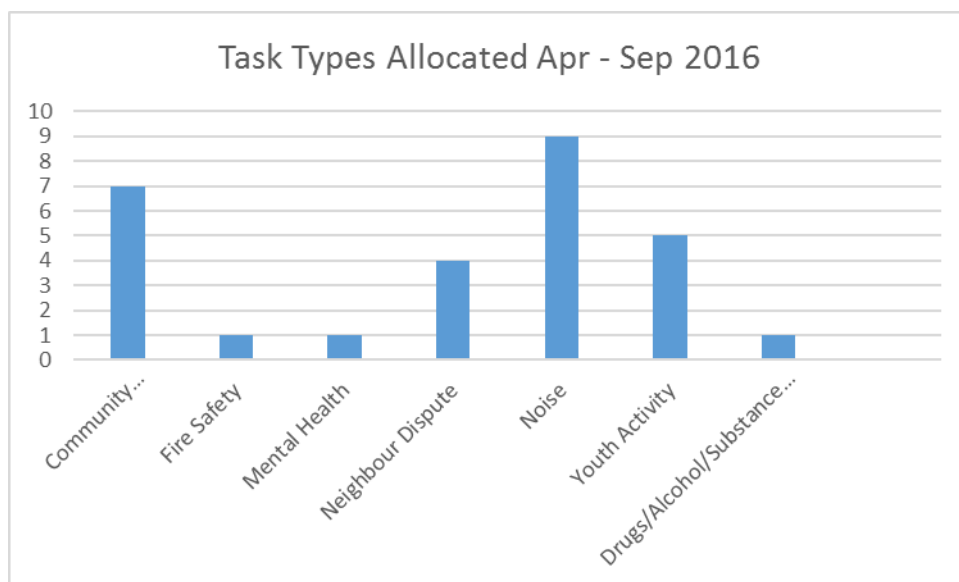
Fixed Penalty Notice	Number
Dog fouling	1
Fly tipping	14
Littering	14
Total	29

This compares to the total of 179 Fixed Penalty Notices issued across Fife.

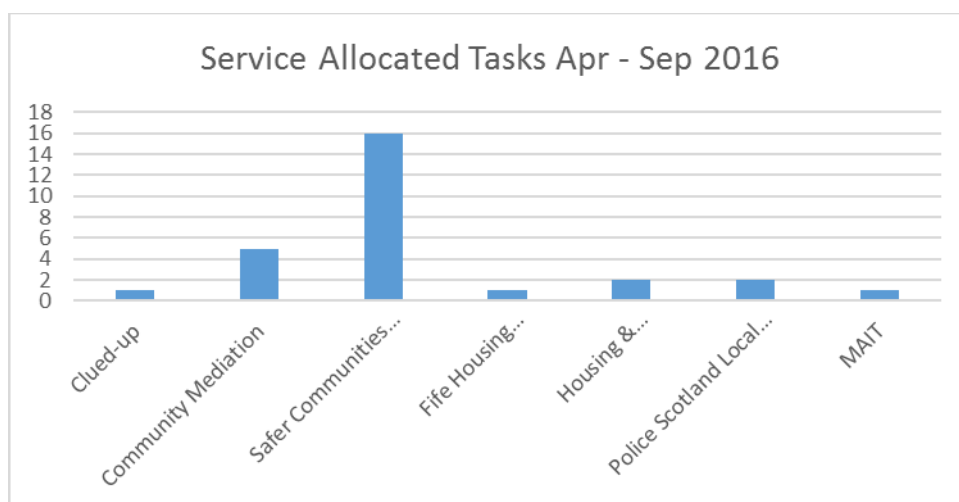
- 4.12 Safer Communities Officers (SCO) undertake all the functions previously carried out by Community Wardens, Environmental Enforcement Officers and the Night Time Noise Team. These officers have a Fife wide remit, being deployed on the basis of community intelligence.
- 4.13 SCOs patrol local areas on a daily basis to provide a reassuring presence to members of the community and help reduce the incidences of dog fouling and littering. Whilst their role includes the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices for environmental offending, this is only one course of action open to the team. Officers investigate all complaints as well participating in preventative initiatives and campaigns.
- 4.14 Officers also make use of the mobile CCTV van on a regular basis in a bid to tackle issues like littering and dog fouling.
- 4.15 In addition to the above, the Safer Communities Officers received 1248 complaints from across Fife, relating to ongoing noise, 177 of which related to the Cowdenbeath area. Safer Communities Officers respond to noise calls and have the ability to issue warnings, have noise making equipment removed with the support of Police Scotland and refer to colleagues within the Safer Communities Team to take action against the offenders tenancy or ASBO action as appropriate

4.16 Area Safer Communities Group (ASCG) meetings involve local services and agencies meeting on a monthly basis to discuss private space addresses and public space locations where there have been significant issues in relation to antisocial behaviour.

4.17 From 1st April, 2015 to 30th September, 2016 28 tasks were issued at the Cowdenbeath ASCG meetings. The main categories of tasks issued are as follows (some tasks may relate to more than one category of antisocial behaviour):



During the first six months of 2016, tasks were allocated to services/organisations as follows (some tasks may be taken on by more than one service)



4.18 An example of a case discussed at the Cowdenbeath ASCG meeting was that of increasing complaints relating to a family who had recently moved into a new Fife Council residential development. One of their children (age12) was causing great distress to others within the area. She was abusive, threatening, and assaulted other neighbours.

4.19 As a result of this behaviour the Safer Communities Area Co-ordinator (SCAC) interviewed the child in the presence of her parents. During this meeting, the SCAC

believed the parents to have a lack of control of their daughter and felt that the young girl displayed a lack of respect for authority.

- 4.20 Many of the reported incidents were taking place within the vicinity of the tenancy, therefore it was decided to issue a '*Breach of Tenancy*' warning to the parents as a result of their daughter's behaviour. As tenants, they are responsible for the behaviour of their family members and visitors.
- 4.21 In addition to the above, the following tasks were allocated at the ASCG:
- Victim Support was tasked with offering their support to those who were affected.
 - Safer Communities Officers were made aware of the situation, and were tasked with patrolling the area and responding to any calls.
 - The Police Inspector instructed her Officers to charge the young person, allowing her to be brought to the attention of the Youth Offender Management Group. A Vulnerable Person Report was also submitted to Social Work.
- 4.22 A Social Worker was allocated to the family and a referral made to the Multi-Systemic Team to work with the whole family unit.
- 4.23 This collaborative approach meant partners worked together to achieve a successful conclusion both for the family involved, and the neighbours. Since then, there has been no further complaints. As a result the neighbours were delighted with the improvement in the area, and were happy for the case to be closed.

5.0 Fewer people offend or at risk of offending

- 5.1 Between 1st April and 30th September the Safer Communities Youth Issues Officers received 73 referrals from the Youth Offender Management Group. Twelve of these referrals related to young people from the Cowdenbeath area.
- 5.2 In June 2016, the Safer Communities Team gave 37 young people aged between 14 and 17 years old from across Fife the opportunity to take part in Youth Advantage Outreach (YAO), four of these young people came from the Cowdenbeath area.
- 5.3 The diversionary programme, funded by Scottish Government Youth Justice, is run by the British Army and, as well as the Safer Communities Team, is fully supported by Clued Up, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Police Scotland. Through this five-day residential course, young people take part in activities such as drill practice, assault courses, orienteering and adventure training. In addition to the physical activities, restorative sessions were delivered during the evenings with key moral messages including drugs and alcohol abuse, anti-social behaviour and internet safety and security.
- 5.4 The aim of the programme is to inspire, motivate, achieve and change young people whilst giving them a sense of achievement, enjoyment and worth.
- 5.5 All participants are taught military skills designed around building self-esteem, team working and leadership, which fully embrace the Army Core Values of Courage, Loyalty, Integrity, Discipline, Respect for Others and Selfless Commitment.
- 5.6 Some of those attending the programme had previously been involved in offending and anti-social behaviour. Therefore the course provided them with a good opportunity to mix with peers not previously involved in such behaviour giving them time to reflect on issues that may affect them.

- 5.7 The referral and selection process was co-ordinated by the Safer Communities Youth Issues Officer where in the region of 80 referrals coming from a variety of sources, including Education, Social Services, third sector agencies as well as self-referrals.
- 5.8 At the end of the week each participant had completed a personal journey, supported by the reward and recognition the programme had to offer. This was enhanced by the clear boundaries, structure, routine, discipline and support provided by all the staff.
- 5.9 In April and July this year, sixteen young people from across Fife took part in a week long intensive Diversifire course aimed to highlight the dangers of secondary fire setting and promote good work ethic by giving the young people a taster of what life is like being a Fire Fighter. The course is also aimed to build self-confidence and improve self-esteem through the young people working as part of a close knit team for the week. Two of these young people were from the Cowdenbeath area.
- 5.10 Diversifire is very much a multi-agency programme. Safer Communities staff co-ordinate the event, working closely with local Fire and Police colleagues. Staff from all three organisations attend each course, supporting the young people over the five days.

6.0 Fewer people killed or seriously injured on the roads

- 6.1 Across Fife, 73 individuals attended Pass Plus evenings from April to September 2016, with 33 so far completing the full course, including the driving modules. Two of the 73 attending the evening session were from the Cowdenbeath area with one, to date, completing the full course.
- 6.2 Every month Fife Council Taxi Licencing Team deliver a course for all new taxi drivers and existing taxi drivers who have been brought in front of the licencing committee for an offence. This course includes a road safety presentation delivered by a Safer Communities Project Officer. From April to September 2016, 204 taxi drivers attended this course, 178 were new drivers and 26 were referred from the committee.
- 6.3 Although outwith the reporting period of April to September, it is useful for members to be aware of the 'Road Traffic Offenders' course. Run by Fife Council Criminal Justice Services, this course is attended as part of a Community Payback Order by adults who have been charged with a road traffic offence. The course runs over five weeks with at the end participants attending either the main 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' event (after October course) or a mini Safe Drive Stay Alive event, developed especially for this course by Project Officers within the Safer Communities Team.
- 6.4 During May to September 2016, the Safer Communities Team organised a programme of 'In Car Safety Clinics'. Through these clinics, individuals and families were given the opportunity to get their car seats checked for fitment to the car and child. The clinics consisted of a variety of formats including approach clinics at health centres, drop in clinics at fire stations and enforced pull over clinics at supermarkets.
- 6.5 Staff are RoSPA trained and can check seats, make adjustments and offer advice, free of charge.

In total, fifteen clinics were held across Fife:

Number of car seats checked Fife wide	Number of seats correctly fitted Fife wide	Number of seats requiring adjustment Fife wide
225	119	106

There was one clinic held at Lochgelly Fire Station;

Number of car seats checked	Number of seats correctly fitted	Number of seats requiring adjustment
3	0	3

Road Safety Education

- 6.6 Working with a theatre company and Road Safety Scotland, Safer Communities staff co-ordinate the offer to Fife, of the opportunity to bring a road safety production to local primary and secondary schools.
- 6.7 Unfortunately not all local schools are able to host the play every year, this May Fife was allocated sixteen slots, for local Primary Schools (the play is targeted to P7's). The decision was made to offer the slots to schools who recently established 'Junior Road Safety Officers' or had particular issues/concerns around road safety. This May saw the play delivered to primary seven pupils in Lumphinnans and Crossgates Primary Schools.
- 6.8 In September, sixteen slots were offered to local secondary schools (targeting S1 and S6), with both Lochgelly and Beath High schools receiving a performance.
- 6.9 Project Officers keep a record of all schools who have received the play to ensure all schools are offered the opportunity to host the play.
- 6.10 2625 S5 pupils from secondary schools across Fife attended this year's Safe Drive Stay Alive, including 224 pupils from Beath and Lochgelly High School. Safe Drive Stay Alive aims to increase young driver's awareness of safe driving practice and potential consequences of dangerous behaviour on the road through a multi-agency stage production. The pupils hear first-hand accounts from emergency service workers as well as from an accident survivor or someone who has lost of loved in a road traffic accident.
- 6.11 This year there was also an evening show, where approximately 200 members of the public had the opportunity to not only see the show but also learn more about key road issues through interactive stalls and workshops.

7.0 Campaigns and events

7.1 Fife Diversity Gala

This event took place in Adam Smith Centre, Kirkcaldy and was organised by Fife Equalities Centre as part of 'Diversity Week'. Safer Communities staff attended with

Police Scotland colleagues and Police Scotland Youth volunteers, with the aim of raising awareness across all Fife's communities of key community safety issues and services available.

Alzheimer Centre

Safer Communities staff attended this event with Police Scotland prevention officers to raise awareness among vulnerable adults and their families of the home safety and security services available through the Fife Cares service, highlighting in particular the lockable valve initiative.

Dog Microchipping

Safer Communities Project staff worked with staff within Fife Council Dog and Pest Control to promote and coordinate eight free microchipping sessions across Fife, allowing dog owners the opportunity to comply with legislation which came into force in April 2016. In total 1,750 dog owners attended these sessions. There are over 500 stray dogs each year in Fife therefore Fife Council were keen to work in partnership with the Dogs Trust to assist with microchipping and hopefully allow Dog Control Officers to reunite dogs with their owners faster.

Drowning Prevention Week

Drowning Prevention Week is a national campaign from the Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) and ran this year from 18-26 June. The campaign aims to reduce the number of drowning and near-drowning incidents that occur in the UK every year, by showing people how to be safe near water. Safer Communities Project Officers promoted and supported this campaign via social media posts on the Community Safety Facebook page.

Clean for the Queen

Clean for The Queen was a national campaign to clean up Britain in time for her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday. Fife Council signed up to this campaign and a Safer Communities Project Officer was tasked with promoting and co-ordinating the campaign. Research was done to highlight those areas most in need of clean up and local community groups, schools, nurseries and partner agencies were encouraged to participate and provided with litter pickers, bags and tabards to protect clothing. Over 300 bags of litter, a shopping trolley and a £10 note were collected. The feedback received from those involved was positive with people noting they enjoyed the team work, community spirit and the satisfaction of cleaning up their community.

Safer Communities staff have also attended the following meetings/events:

- Fife Federation of Tenants and Residents Association (FFOTRA)– Annual Community Safety Seminar

Safer Communities staff delivered a presentation to FFOTRA, which included an outline of the work of the team and a question and answer session on antisocial behaviour.

Inputs to local banks

Staff from Police, Scotland, Safer Communities Fife Cares service and Fife Council Trading Standards delivered an awareness raising session to employees and staff within local banks. The theme of the session was bogus callers and doorstep crime.

Staff were given advice on how to identify potential victims (vulnerable people withdrawing large sums of money, for example), and provided with an aide memoir outlining the advice. Following this session there was an incident at a bank in Glenrothes where bank staff appropriately intervened preventing an older female being 'scammed' of £8000.

8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 This report provides members with information on the wide range of safer communities' activity being undertaken in the Cowdenbeath area in line with local priorities and emerging issues.

Report contact:

Tricia Spacey
Team Manager
Brunton House
Cowdenbeath

Telephone: 03451 555555 ext 446139
Email: patricia.spacey@fife.gov.uk

6th October 2016
Agenda Item No. 4

Outcome Performance Report – Improving Quality of Life In Local Communities

Report by: Michael Enston, Executive Director, Communities

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

To provide a summary of progress against the Council Plan outcomes relating to safer communities.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) consider the information contained in the Appendix One to this report;
- (2) determine if any further review work or scrutiny is required and the scope of any reviews; and
- (3) consider whether the report, or any part of the report, should be referred to one or more area committees for scrutiny from an area perspective.

Resource Implications

None.

Legal & Risk Implications

None.

Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed and is not required because this report does not propose any change or revision to existing policy and practice.

Consultation

Community safety outcome leads were consulted in the preparation of this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Environment, Finance & Communities Scrutiny Committee of 22 September 2015 agreed to changes to the reporting of performance to Scrutiny Committees. Previous practice had been to report on performance from the perspective of service plans, but the Council is moving increasingly away from an annual service orientated, forward-planning environment to one based on managing toward outcomes over a longer time frame.
- 1.2 Outcome boards formally manage the outcomes to be achieved over the period to 2017 as set out in the Council plan. Progress against these outcomes is reported once a year via a report to Fife Council which, in turn, will become the statutory Public Performance Report.
- 1.3 The intent behind the introduction of outcome reporting, instead of service, planning reporting, is to simplify and create greater transparency around the delivery arrangements for the Council Plan. It also provides a stronger basis for coordinating resources and thinking across service boundaries, and ensures a longer term planning horizon, with progress being assessed against the overall 2017 Council Plan outcomes and targets.
- 1.4 This report is the first of a series of reports that will be presented to the Council's Scrutiny Committees; one report per high level Council Plan outcome. These reports will effectively form chapters of the overall public performance report.
- 1.5 Public Performance Reporting (PPR) is an essential component of Best Value, underpinning the development of a culture of customer focus, continuous improvement and accountability. It is designed to provide stakeholders with the information they need to allow them to assess performance and progress in relation to service delivery.

2.0 Improving Quality of Life in Local Communities – Council Plan Outcome.

- 2.1 The contributory outcome relating to safer communities within the Quality of Life portfolio is:
 - Making Communities Safer & Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- 2.2 Progress towards this outcome is set out in the tables at Appendix 1 of this report. Additional information on community safety activity during 2015/16 is provided at Appendix 2.

List of appendices

Appendix 1. Council Outcome - Making Fife's Communities Safer and Reducing Anti-social Behaviour

Appendix 2. Outcome Performance Report: Activity Summary

Report Contact:

Tim Kendrick

Community Planning Manager

Community & Corporate Development

Communities Directorate

Telephone: 03451 55 55 55 ext. 446108 Email – xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx

Council Outcome - Making Fife's Communities Safer and Reducing Anti-social Behaviour	
What do we want to achieve?	Council Plan Target
<p>Outcome 1. We want people to be safe from unintentional harm;</p> <p>Outcome 2. We want crime to be reduced and victims of crime supported;</p> <p>Outcome 3. We want less anti-social behaviour & people to be confident reporting incidents;</p> <p>Outcome 4. We want fewer people offending or at risk of offending;</p> <p>Outcome 5. We want fewer people killed or injured on Fife's roads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce number of ASB disorder incidents recorded by police below 23,351 • Reduce recorded group 1-4 crimes below 11,306
Progress	Next Steps
<p>Outcome 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home accidents requiring a hospital admission continued to increase among people aged 65 years and over. A partnership including Fife Council's Safer Communities Team, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and Health & Social Care undertook 7,015 home safety visits in Fife, targeted at those groups considered to be at the highest risk. The Safer Communities team carried out 2,497 visits and provided information stalls and advice on home safety to staff and members of the public at 68 events and awareness raising sessions. <p>Outcome 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As recorded crime in Fife continued to fall, particularly crimes of dishonesty, the Fife Community Safety Partnership focused its efforts on reducing hate crime and violent crime, and on internet safety. • The Partnership addressed increases in the number of reported hate incidents by increasing levels of awareness among target groups and the wider population, and by working with the Fife Centre for Equalities to monitor and further improve reporting, and to improve support for victims. • Working closely with Fife Council's Safer Communities Team, Police Scotland's Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit supported a range of partnership prevention interventions, targeting the main violent offenders in Fife to support their engagement is a range of intervention opportunities to reduce their offending. 	<p>Outcome 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to higher home accident rates among young children and older people, an action plan is being prepared based on priorities identified in the unintentional harm strategic assessment. <p>Outcome 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to recent increases in these crime types, there will be a continued focus on violent crime and group 4 offences (vandalism, malicious mischief). • Community safety prevention messages will be promoted via social media, targeted campaigns, and work in schools on priority issues, including hate incidents, internet safety and road safety. • Work will be undertaken to encourage both staff within partner organisations and members of the public to report any concerns and intelligence regarding serious and organised crime.

- The Partnership worked with the Digital Participation Strategy Group, Fife Council Housing Service, the Child Sexual Exploitation working group and Police Scotland's e-crime units in Newbridge and Livingston to encourage safe behaviours among people who need help with accessing the internet, developing skills to use it effectively, and to ensure that the online world is fully covered as part of staff training and awareness involving children and adults at risk.
- In October 2015 Fife hosted a UK Safer Internet Centre, providing practitioners with information on emerging concerns and ways to address issues of online safety. The event attracted over 50 practitioners from education and community settings.

Outcome 3.

- Complaints regarding disorder are wide ranging in nature, but include noise, neighbour disputes, disturbances and street disorder. Fife's community safety partners addressed such complaints through the analysis and identification of problematic residential addresses, public space areas and licensed premises. Interventions and preventative activity are coordinated through multi-agency Area Safer Communities Coordinating Groups in each of the seven areas in Fife. This approach has contributed to considerable reductions in such complaints in recent years, which continued during 2015/16.
- The co-location of Fife Council Safer Communities staff with police and fire staff at Brunton House, Cowdenbeath led to improved tasking and a more effective response to crime and antisocial behaviour across Fife. Twice weekly assessments now identify emerging antisocial behaviour issues, and joint patrols are undertaken to prevent escalation.
- The Council developed a new way of reporting antisocial behaviour, available at www.fifedirect.org.uk/reportASB. This will enable the public to report non-urgent antisocial behaviour issues in a quick and easy way, outwith office hours.

Outcome 3.

- In response to continued public concerns about personal safety in public spaces, Fife Council will commission a new service to improve support arrangements for victims of antisocial behaviour and hate incidents.
- The Partnership will deliver campaigns to encourage the reporting of anti-social behaviour, increase incident reporting opportunities and improve response times to complaints.
- The Partnership will continue to coordinate community safety work at an area level and review current tasking arrangements in order to improve its response to antisocial behaviour and other community safety issues.

Outcome 4.

- Partnership working between Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, drug & alcohol projects, Police Scotland, Army and the Safer Communities Team helped 62 young people complete youth diversion programmes, and progress to positive destinations with no further involvement in antisocial behaviour and criminality.
- The Reducing Offending and Reoffending Group (ROAR) was established to bring community justice partners together to oversee the transition of community justice planning and delivery to the Fife Partnership. Fife's Community Justice Transition Plan 2015 – 17 underlined Fife's commitment to taking a preventative approach to tackling offending and reoffending.

Outcome 5.









- The number of people killed and injured on the roads has continued to fall over the long term, with Scottish Government targets being met. The Road Safety Casualty Reduction Group (RCRG) met bi-monthly to address current objectives, identify priorities and monitor performance. Work continues towards further crash and road casualty reductions in line with Scotland's National Road Safety Plan and Vision Zero for 2020.

Outcome 4.

- Fife's Reducing Offending and Re-offending Group will publish a Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan designed to address the needs of people with convictions, families and victims. In April 2017, the Fife Partnership will assume lead responsibility for planning and delivering community justice work in Fife.

Outcome 5.

- Local analysis highlighting current and emerging trends will complement work being carried out on a national basis and by partner agencies, such as BEAR and Transport Scotland. All this work is being carried out in conjunction with a number of national working groups monitoring crashes and road casualties across Scotland
- In response to continued concerns about drivers who exhibit high-risk behaviours and the needs of vulnerable road users, a number of partnership initiatives and campaigns are scheduled throughout in line with Transport Scotland's Road Safety Framework Mid Term Review.

PI Code & Title	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2015/16	Notes & History Note	RAG Status
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Target		
CDCC SOA 16 Recorded group 1-4 crimes (CSPC CS SOA 16 has been archived and replaced by CDCC SOA 16)	12,207	12,763	11,148	10,810	11,036	At year end 2015/16 provisional figures show a -2.7% year on year reduction in crime. The most significant successes in crime reduction during 2015/16 have been in relation to crimes of dishonesty with an 11% reduction achieved. This has resulted from the cumulative impact of preventative work amongst community ward officers, swift and robust CID investigations and preventative education and visits from trained crime prevention officers.	
CSPC CS 1 % of people who feel very or fairly safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night (Fife)		83.00%	87.00%	83.00%	89%	2015/16 data relates to 2014 survey	
CSPC CS 2 % of people who feel very or fairly safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night (SIMD 20%)	74.00%		71.00%	60.00%	77%	2015/16 data relates to 2014 figures	
CSPC CS 4 % of people who feel very or fairly safe when in their home alone at night (Fife)		97.00%	97.00%	98.00%	98%	2015/16 data relates to 2014 survey	
CSPC CS 5 % of people who feel very or fairly safe when in their home alone at night (SIMD 20%)		93.00%		95.00%	94%	2015/16 data relates to 2014 survey	
CDCC FCSP 311 Number of complaints regarding disorder recorded by Police	31,340	26,081	23,828	20,696	23,351		
EEAT RF 83a People killed as a result of road accidents	7	11	12	12	13		
EEAT RF 83b People seriously injured as a result of road accidents	100	85	80	72	91	A record low figure surpassed the Scottish Government target for 2015. Local analysis highlighting current and emerging trends complements work being carried out on a national basis and by partner agencies, such as BEAR and Transport Scotland. All this work is carried out in conjunction with a number of national working groups monitoring crashes and road casualties across Scotland.	

Risks	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a risk that the rise in the elderly population will lead to an increase in the number of unintentional injuries across Fife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Safer Communities Team and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service continue to provide home safety visits, targeting those groups at the greatest risk of unintentional injury in the home.

Appendix 2.

OUTCOME PERFORMANCE REPORT: ACTIVITY SUMMARY

DATE: FEBRUARY 2016

LONG TERM OUTCOME: MAKING FIFE'S COMMUNITIES SAFER

OUTCOME LEAD: SUPT DOUGIE MILTON

<p>Activity update: actions taken to achieve outcomes (including any specific actions to reduce inequalities)</p> <p>(Max 500 words)</p>	<p>The strategy sets out how public and voluntary organisations will work together with Fife's communities to make Fife an even safer place to live, work and visit. Perceptions and experiences of crime, antisocial behaviour and injury vary across Fife's diverse communities, so inequalities will be addressed by targeting services to individuals and places of need, whether within neighbourhoods, homes, community facilities or online.</p> <p>The strategy follows the approach of the Fife Prevention Plan, which categorises work in terms of its preventative focus – from universal prevention which is geared towards all, through to targeted prevention, earliest intervention and recovery-based prevention approaches. Fife's aim is to reach people and places 'one step sooner' by encouraging services to work together in ways which prevent, pre-empt and mitigate the effects of crime, antisocial behaviour or unintentional harm.</p> <p>Outcome 2</p> <p>Rural Watch Fife was established in 2015 to address a surge in rural crime across Fife. This is a network for farmers and rural communities, advising of thefts and suspicious activity as and when it happens, via social media and through a circulation list. Sharing and seeking information in this way has helped detect crime and provide strong leads and intelligence on crime trends facing rural communities. Tailored safety advice is also circulated on a regular basis, and free security visits are available to farms and rural properties.</p> <p>Outcome 3</p> <p>Area Safer Communities Group (ASCG) meetings involve local services and agencies meeting on a monthly basis to discuss private space addresses and public space locations where there have been significant issues in relation to antisocial behaviour. All attendees receive a tasking document in advance of the meeting so that it can be populated with partner data. The meeting allows all services to advise on current, recent or planned involvement, and tasks are allocated to the appropriate service so that they can make contact, carry out work required, and report back the following month. 673 tasks were generated during the first 9 months of 2015/16 across all areas (with 867 in total for 2014/15 financial year). Noise, neighbour disputes, community concerns and youth activity remain the main categories of task generated, with the four main services/organisations allocated tasks being Police Scotland, Housing, Investigations Team and Community Wardens.</p>
--	--

	<p>A new public-facing form to report antisocial behaviour has been developed and is available at www.fifedirect.org.uk/reportASB to encourage members of the public to report non-urgent antisocial behaviour in a quick and easy way, outwith office hours. The form allows people to report incidents as they happen, so staff can receive information at an early stage and tackle problems quickly before they escalate. A version of this form has been used for the past few years by council staff, mostly to record calls received through the council's contact centre, and will continue to be used by staff working across community safety.</p> <p>Outcome 5</p> <p>A project on in-car child safety was piloted in Methil fire station over a three month period in summer 2015. Fire officers received RoSPA certified training, free of charge, to check child car seats, providing members of the public with a drop-in clinic. While there were a low number of cars checked per clinic, a few seats checked did need substantial adjustments or changes to ensure their safety within a road traffic collision. Since the pilot, it has not been possible to commit local officers to the project on an ongoing basis, but fire stations across Fife have been made available to base any future clinics hosted by trained staff within the Partnership team.</p>
<p>Any factors that have affected progress towards the outcomes. Current and future challenges.</p> <p>(Max 300 words)</p>	<p>Operational community safety services are now being delivered within a single integrated team, the Safer Communities team, within the Communities Directorate. This approach should strengthen existing links across partner services and organisations through improved evidence based tasking, increased joint patrols and officers being located locally to ensure services are taken closer to communities. Further work will be undertaken throughout the year to increase reporting opportunities for members of the public, improve response times to complaints and to work collaboratively to ensure that joint resources are targeted to the areas of greatest need. This work will be supported by a campaign to tackle antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>Certain funding streams or arrangements are coming to an end. Funding stopped for Fife Cares last year. While funding was allocated to the project from the community safety budget this year to allow time to explore alternative funding, so far this has not been possible. . As the number of unintentional injuries can be predicted to rise proportionately to the rise in the elderly population, this is an area of high risk to the partnership and work is required to identify future resourcing</p> <p>Specific projects have also been subject to the same changes. For example, avenues for funding and equipment for Fife's free electric blanket testing events (noted in the next section) are no longer available, so alternatives will need to be found to continue to provide the service to a consistent standard.</p>

<p>Examples of collaborative working across outcomes</p> <p>(Max 300 words)</p>	<p>Outcome 1</p> <p>Fife is one of three areas in Scotland working in partnership with the Scottish Gas Network (SGN) to pilot a project to help prevent gas leaks and fires amongst vulnerable people with dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. Following a Fife Cares referrals, engineers fit a locking valve device free of charge to ensure vulnerable customers cannot turn the cooker on unsupervised or allow gas to escape. This small switch has the potential to save the most vulnerable lives, and Fife Cares is working closely with colleagues in Social Work, NHS Fife as well as Third Sector Support Services to raise awareness of the initiative and encourage referrals.</p> <p>Outcome 2</p> <p>Fife has made close links with the Digital Participation Strategy Group, Fife Council Housing Service, Child Sexual Exploitation working group and Police Scotland’s e-crime units in Newbridge and Livingston to encourage safe behaviours amongst people who require help with accessing the internet, developing skills to use it effectively, and to ensure that the online world is fully covered as part of staff training and awareness involving children and adults at risk. A UK Safer Internet Centre event was hosted by Fife in October, providing practitioners with trend information, current concerns and ways to address issues around online safety. This attracted around 50 attendees from education and community settings.</p> <p>A major development is a free online learning module, created with Digital Fife to give an introduction to internet safety for anyone working with children, young people or adults at risk. This also gives a baseline level of training on which further intensive training for relevant staff can be conducted, which uses accredited ThinkUKnow materials and is geared towards increasing the skills of professionals to deliver messages to teams on a day to day basis. Nine accredited ThinkUKnow training sessions were held during 2014/15, and 63 briefing sessions were held at schools and facilities across Fife. Sessions outwith schools also include briefings with foster carers and with social work staff to cascade through carers. This is partly to meet the recommendations from the inquiry into the death of Daniel Perry.</p> <p>Outcome 6</p> <p>Safe, Secure and Supported at Home, is a Big Lottery Funded Project that was officially launched in Fife in October 2014. The project offers women who have experienced domestic abuse more support and options in relation to their housing, including additional security measures, a befriending project to reduce isolation and links to housing support.</p> <p>From its introduction in 30th September 2014 to December 2015, Fife Cares has visited 508 women providing personal safety advice and a security reviews. All women are issued with a personal attack alarm and a copy of the PLAN guide on personal safety. Where appropriate, following the individual assessment, a wide range of security equipment can be fitted, including police alarms for very high risk situations. Fife Women’s Aid has trained volunteer befrienders with 8 matched to women in the community. Housing providers are committed to the project with the aim to help more women experiencing domestic abuse to remain safely in their own home.</p>
---	--

	<p>WHIR (Womens Health Improvement Research) is a community lead research project funded by the Health and Wellbeing Alliance involving women with experience of domestic or sexual abuse and homelessness. The researchers have completed their research and report. Their findings and recommendations will be considered by the Fife Housing Partnership and Fife Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnerships in February 2016.</p>
<p>Examples of prevention and/or early intervention initiatives delivered during reporting period</p> <p>(Max 300 words)</p>	<p>Outcome 1</p> <p>5462 home fire safety visits were conducted across Fife from 1st April 2015 to 31st Dec 2015. This is an all-time high and is already above the whole year target of 5000 for the period April to March.</p> <p>In addition to the visits the Fife Cares team have provided information stalls and advice on home safety to both staff and members of the public at 97 events and awareness raising sessions during 64 2014/15. The have also attend xx in the first three quarters of 2015/16.</p> <p>Fife's free electric blanket testing events, led by Trading Standards, Fife Cares and the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, took place across Fife in 2015. 47% of the blankets tested failed safety checks. The most common reason blankets fail is that due to their age, a fault has developed in the wiring or they don't have an overheat protection system found in newer blankets. Electric blankets should be tested every year, particularly if in constant use and at least every 3 years. Electric blankets cannot be tested outwith the project. 121 new blankets were issued in replace of failed blankets throughout the project. The failed blankets are handed over to a textile recycling company. A total of 49 mulit-adapters were issued at testing events as part of an amnesty to return unsafe 'block' adapters. Those collected are disposed of in accordance with the Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment directive.</p> <p>Outcome 2,3 & 6</p> <p>The Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit continue to support a range of partnership prevention interventions. The Interventions Team are continuing to target the top violent offenders in Fife. Contact has been made with several to scope their willingness to engage, consideration is also being given to a range of intervention opportunities to reduce their offending.</p> <p>In December 2015 a Safe Zone operated in Dunfermline on 5 occasions over the festive period along side Ambulance, Street Pastors and Red Cross staff. 32 people were treated with only two requiring transportation to A&E. In addition over 112 pieces of glassware were removed from the street.</p> <p>Work has been undertaken with the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYVs) based in Dunfermline High School who have been undergoing training to support peer education on internet safety and have arranged a performance of the Road Safety Play Better Late Than Dead On Time.</p>

	<p>Outcome 4</p> <p>The Youth Issues Officer received 177 referrals in 2014 and 169 in 2015 from the Youth Offender Management Group.</p> <p>Thirty six young people completed the Youth Advantage Outreach programme, between 1st April 2014 and the most recent session in June 2015. The programme has been adapted and 5 young people returned as peer mentors. They are encouraged to help develop the programme by designing and delivering team building activities throughout the residential week. Since the programme has finished there have been a number of successes where young people have successfully gained employment or training opportunities.</p> <p>Outcome 6</p> <p>Fife Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership continues to work with White Ribbon Scotland to raise awareness of violence against women both in the community and with a particular focus on young people. Fife Partnership was awarded White Ribbon Fife status in December 2014. Since then there have been a range prevention of lessons throughout Fife schools youth groups and colleges. Gender stereotypes and violence against women continue to be an integral part of the Curriculum for Excellence with a range of ongoing initiatives. All third year pupils have received white ribbon lessons at 5 of Fife's High Schools. The campaign had a visible presence at Fife College Fresher's Week and other audiences including Fife Council, Diversity Week, Rotary Club and Churches. As of 1st December 2015, Fife now has a total of 2369 pledges, a third of the Scottish total.</p> <p>CEDAR (children experiencing domestic abuse recovery) is a unique psycho-educational, multi-agency initiative for children and young people who have behavioural, emotional and social difficulties as a consequence of their experience of domestic abuse. In 2015/16 the programme has been extended to younger children 0-4 years, piloted in the Dunfermline area. The programme has been successful in a Big Lottery Fun application, awarding £667,000 over 5 years to develop CEDAR+.</p>
<p>Next steps: Key planned actions over next 12 months</p> <p>(Max 300 words)</p>	<p>Outcome 1</p> <p>Fife is involved in phase 2 of the Scottish Government's Building Safer Communities programme which seeks to significantly reduce the harm caused by unintentional injury in Scotland. This is reflected locally in Outcome 1 of the Fife Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2015-2020. Discussions held to date have focused on prevention, addressing highest risk, creating an evidence base, and building community resilience and responsibility.</p> <p>As reported last year Fife Cares and local Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff have developed a refined and unified home safety risk assessment. This has now been rolled out across fife and the enhanced assessment ensures that fire officers are also providing home safety advice and equipment in addition to the fire safety check. Included is the additional welfare advice in visits whereby the individual might require services to support specific needs and requirements. It is envisaged that this enhanced assessment will be augmented for the future to include a "falls assessment" for example. To date this enhanced visit is unique to Fife.</p>

Outcome 2

Hate incidents will be a continued focus by the partnership, both by increasing awareness of incidents amongst target groups and the general population, working with the Fife Centre for Equalities to monitor and improve reporting, and reviewing existing Third Party Reporting Centres along with the establishment of new centres. Work will also be done to encourage communities to report information and intelligence regarding serious and organised crime.

Outcome 3

The Safer Communities Team will continue to establish greater links with Area Leadership Teams via the Safer Communities Officers to support the co-ordination of community safety work at an area level. As part of this a review of tasking arrangements will be undertaken with a view to improving responses to antisocial behaviour. This will also include work to streamline work groups to avoid any unnecessary duplication.

Outcome 4

The Junior Road Safety Officer programme is part of a national scheme by Road Safety Scotland, designed to support pupils' knowledge of road safety education, and operates in conjunction with Community Speedwatch, aimed at encouraging drivers to slow down and drive responsibly, particularly in areas where children walk and play. The JRSOs help raise road safety awareness and promote issues throughout the school and wider community, to help make roads safer for drivers and pedestrians. Officers are already in place at Sinclairtown Primary School with discussions being held towards their introduction in other areas of Fife.

Outcome 5

Fife's newly established Reducing Offending and Reoffending Partnership Group (RORPG) has been set up to bring community justice and community planning partners together in achieving the shared community safety outcome: *fewer people offend or are at risk of reoffending*. A Policy Co-ordinator was appointed in 2015, and has delivered a Fife Community Justice Transition Plan 2015 – 17, to be made available to the Scottish Government in January 2015. The plan includes Fife's commitment to taking a preventative approach to tackling offending and reoffending through tackling inequalities, youth diversion and community engagement.

In addition to the transition plan, early activity includes the development of a dataset to inform a strategic assessment on reoffending in Fife. This can be used to inform a Reducing Offending and Reoffending Action Plan required in December 2016. Work with Scottish Prison Service has also begun to consider how best to meet the needs of people reintegrating back into Fife's communities.

In line with the requirements of the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 for the Named Person service to receive information about well-being concerns and to ensure that appropriate supports and interventions are in place for children & young (e.g. working closely with the family and other agencies to ensure an effective support plan is in place), the Youth Offender Management Group has planned to develop the information exchange process to enhance informed decision making. It has been agreed that a pilot project will run until

	<p>Easter in a small number of schools, whereby the Named Person service will become more directly located in information sharing and decision-making regarding children and young people who offend in Fife. This will help the YOMG to develop a robust and efficient system to continue positive trends of youth offending and ensure processes are compliant with the Act.</p> <p>Outcome 6</p> <p>Fife is piloting a new project EYDAR – early years domestic abuse recovery - to extend the reach of CEDAR to babies and toddlers supported by the Family Nurture Approach. This programme follows a similar model to CEDAR with a local multi-agency advisory group and is being developed in consultation with the national CEDAR team and early years professionals.</p> <p>The Fairer Fife Commission was established by Fife Council in September last year to examine the root causes of poverty in local communities and make recommendations on how best to tackle the issue. Membership was made up of senior figures, who gave up their time freely, from across public, private and voluntary sectors. ‘Fairness Matters’ the report of the commission was presented to Fife Council at the end of November and highlights that a ‘A Fair Fife is where all residents have the capability to live good lives, make choices and reach their full potential and where all children are safe, happy and healthy’. All Partnerships have been asked to consider the report and feedback a response on how they can contribute to the recommendations.</p>
--	---

25th January 2017

Agenda Item No 9

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Performance Report for the SFRS Local Senior Officer Area of Fife – Cowdenbeath

Report by: Tom Fox, Station Manager, Lochgelly, St Andrews and Tayport Fire Stations,
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service East Delivery Area (Fife)

Wards Affected: All within Cowdenbeath Area

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with the performance report of the SFRS for the Cowdenbeath committee area for the period April – September 2016. This will provide the committee an opportunity to gain an overview of SFRS response and prevention activities within Cowdenbeath and in turn evidence our performance against our key areas within the SFRS Cowdenbeath Operating plan 2014-17.

Recommendation(s)

The committee is asked to:

1. Consider our performance and associated incidents across the range of performance indicators within this covering report and the attached area report.
2. Acknowledge the continued performance specifically relating to accidental dwelling fires and fire casualty reduction in conjunction with increased Home fire Safety visits which remains at the heart of SFRS prevention activities.

Resource Implications

Not applicable

Legal & Risk Implications

The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 provides the statutory basis for fire reform, including the responsibility to:

- put in place statutory planning and reporting requirements including providing facilities for consultation;
- make new arrangements for strengthening local engagement and partnership working, including a new statutory role in the Local Senior Officer and development of local fire and rescue plans linked to community planning, along with clear powers for local authorities in relation to the provision of fire and rescue services in their area.

All significant risks associated with priorities described within the Local Plan are addressed within our Service Risk Registers. Failure to evidence progress in relation to our priorities carries a significant risk to the reputation of the Service in relation to our statutory duty of Best Value.

Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) checklist is not required as this report does not have any immediate implications for service delivery and policy.

The information presented within the attached Fife Ward Analysis report provides an opportunity for members to review and gain an insight into SFRS local performance in relation to the SFRS Cowdenbeath Operating plan priorities.

Consultation

The Ward Analysis report has been distributed to the Fife Community Safety Partnership, all local SFRS staff and managers to ensure all partners are aware of the key performance indicators and their status.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This is the SFRS performance report for the period April – September 2016 and provides comparative data across previous years for the same period.
 - 1.2 Key performance areas for scrutiny within the attached report which are the key priority areas of the Local Fire Plan for Fife and the Cowdenbeath Operating Plan are as below.
 - Reduction in accidental dwelling fires
 - Reduction in fire casualties and fatalities
 - Reduction of deliberate fire setting
 - Reduction of fires in non-domestic property
 - Reduction in Casualties from non-fire emergencies
 - Reduction in unwanted fire alarm signals
-

2.0 Key performance results summary

2.1 Reduction in accidental dwelling fires

The total amount of accidental dwelling fires in the area for the period April 2016 - September 2016 is 7. This is a reduction of 8 compared with the previous year, and is substantially below the five year average of 13.

The Fife wide total of accidental dwelling fires for the same period is 112

Room Location of Accidental Dwelling Fires Apr-Sept

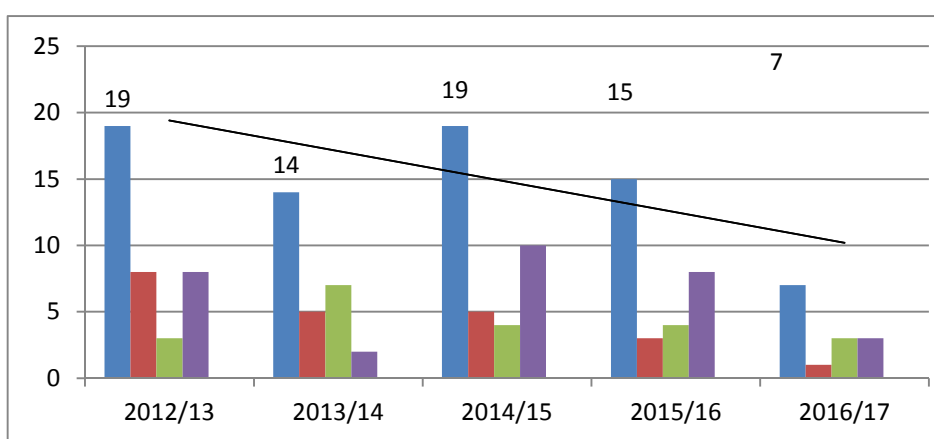
Kitchen 4

Living Room 1

Bedroom 2

5 of these fires were restricted to negligible damage or to the item first ignited.

Home Fire Safety Visits continue to be the main focus of our reduction strategy, along with Post Domestic Incident Response visits. Home safety messages are also delivered during school visits and during thematic Community Safety Campaigns.



	Area Total
	Cowdenbeath
	Lochgelly Ward
	The Lochs Ward

Figure 1 – Showing number of Accidental Dwelling Fires within Cowdenbeath.

2.2 Reduction in fire fatalities and casualties (including precautionary check-ups)

The total amount of fire fatalities and casualties (including precautionary checks) in the area for the period April 2016 - Sept 2016 in the area is 2. This is a reduction of 1 compared with the previous year.

One casualty was transported to hospital and one given first aid at the scene for a minor injury.

There were no fire fatalities in the Cowdenbeath Area during this period.

The Fife wide total for fire fatalities and casualties for the period is 22.

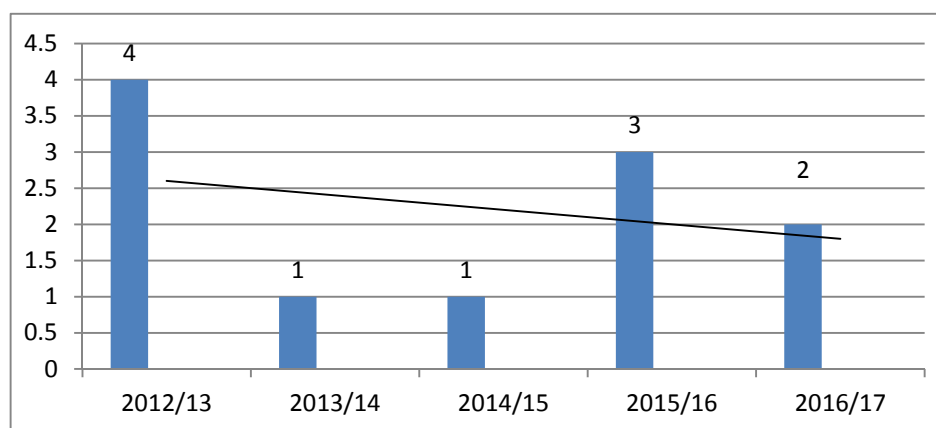


Figure 2 showing number of fatal and non-fatal fire casualties including precautionary check-ups.

2.3 Reduction in deliberate fire setting

The total numbers of deliberate fires for the period April-Sept rose by 18 to 103 from the previous year. It is above the five year average of 77 for the same period.

The Fife wide total for deliberately set fires for the period is 440.

The deliberate fire setting totals for each Ward are as follows;

Cowdenbeath 60 – Highest ward total in Fife.

Lochgelly and Cardenden 15

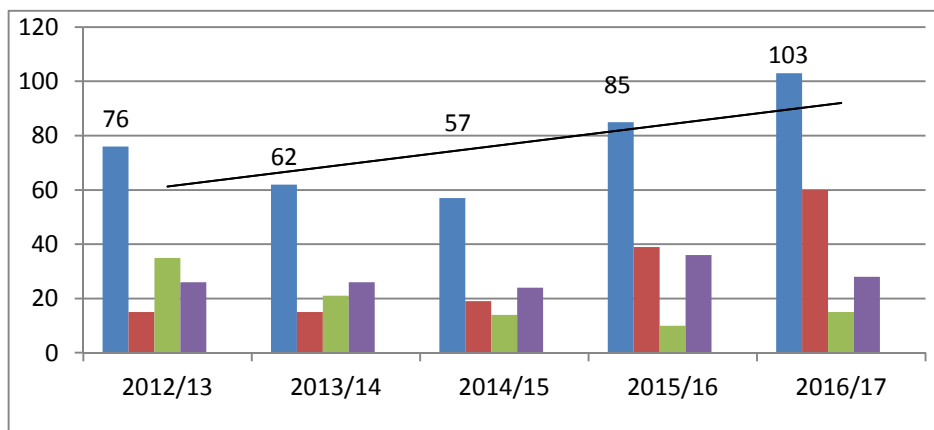
The Lochs 28 – 4th Highest ward total in Fife.

There were 90 deliberate fires that occurred in refuse, scrubland, grass and trees. These were mainly attributed to youths.

There were 4 deliberate vehicle fires during the period.

Reduction of deliberate fire setting is a prime objective of personnel at Lochgelly. Crews visit primary and secondary schools in the area on a regular basis delivering the key safety messages asking young people to refrain from this activity. We also deliver this message during station visitations and youth diversion activities.

When hot spot areas are identified we will work with partners to reduce the instances of deliberate fire setting. This was done in May 2016 when there were 32 deliberate fires in the Cowdenbeath Committee area. A partnership with Police, Fire Service and Safer Community Officers reduced these figures in the following months.



	Area Total
	Cowdenbeath
	Lochgelly Ward
	The Lochs Ward

Figure 3 showing deliberate fires within area.

2.4 Reduction in fires in non-domestic properties

The total number of non-domestic fires in the area for the period April-Sept 2016 is 8. This is an increase of 1 compared with the previous year.

It is above the five year average of 12 for the same period.

The Fife wide total for non-domestic fires for the period is 69.

6 of the 8 non domestic fires were limited to negligible damage or damage to the item first ignited only.

The most significant non domestic fires occurred at;

Flower Place Smithy Ltd, Oakfield St, Kelty

Comscope, The Avenue, Lochgelly.

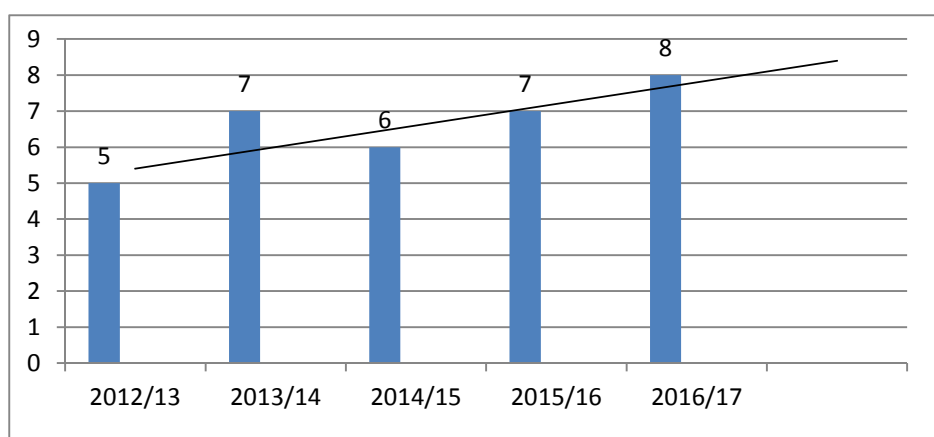


Figure 4 showing fires in non-domestic properties in the area.

2.5 Reduction in casualties from non-fire emergencies – RTC Only

The total casualties and fatalities from RTC's in the area for the period April-Sept 2016 is 4.

This is a reduction of 2 compared with the previous year. The five year average is 7 for the same period.

The non-fatal casualties for the period totalled 4. There were 0 fatal casualties for the period.

The Fife wide total of non-fatal casualties from RTCs for the period is 40.

The Fife wide total of fatal casualties from RTCs for the period is 5.

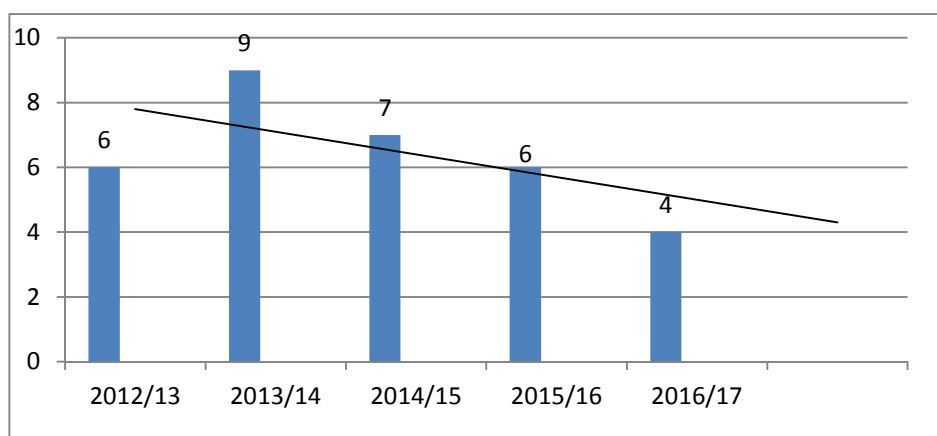


Figure 5 showing casualties and fatalities attended to by SFRS in the area.

2.6 Reduction in unwanted fire alarm signals

The total unwanted fire alarm signals attended by SFRS in the area for the period April-Sept 2016 is 73. This is a rise of 6 compared with the previous year. The five year average is 48 for the same period.

The Fife wide total for Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals for the period is 898.

Operational Crews are recording all unwanted fire alarm signals within a SFRS national database. Repeat offending premises are highlighted, and visited by SFRS Prevention and Protection personnel who will give advice and support in order to reduce these unwanted fire signals.

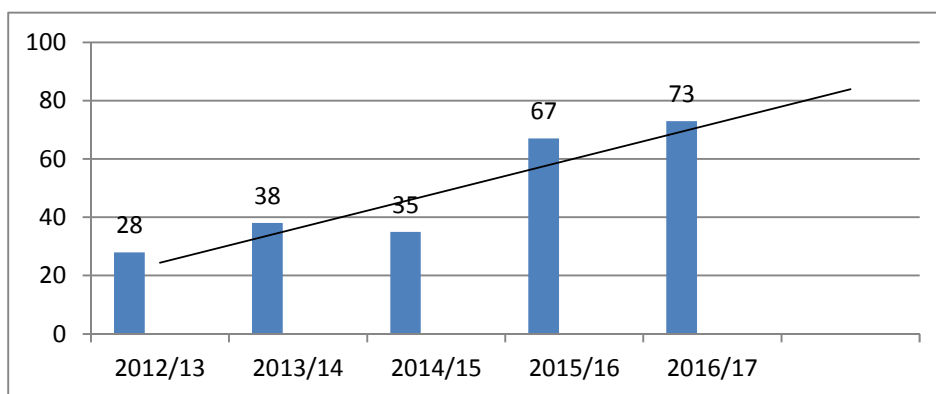


Figure 1 =Unwanted fire alarm signal attendances for period.

3.0 Home Fire Safety Visits Undertaken

- 3.1 SFRS staff completed a total of 459 home fire safety visits in the Cowdenbeath Committee area in the period 1st April – 30th September 2016.

4.0 Conclusions

The ward analysis report evidences positive results for key performance indicators for the reduction of accidental dwelling fires, reduction of fire fatalities and casualties, and reduction of casualties from Road Traffic Collisions.

Scottish Fire and Rescue personnel will continue to work with all partners to reduce deliberate fire setting. This will involve liaison and partnership working with Police Scotland and Community Safety Officers within the Cowdenbeath Area. Crews will continue to engage with schools and participate in youth diversion activities to help reduce the upward trend of deliberately set fires.

SFRS has created a post within its Prevention and Protection Directorate to identify and engage with premises which have frequent false alarm signal attendances from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The objective is to give advice and support to ensure that appropriate siting, type of detectors fitted and premises management assists in keeping these incidents to a minimum.

Reducing risk to our communities continues to be our number one priority and the Service will continue to work in partnership with all our partners in an effort to ensure positive trends.

Background Papers

SFRS Operating Plan for Cowdenbeath Area 2014-17

Report Contact

Tom Fox

Station Manager Lochgelly, St Andrews and Tayport Fire Stations

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service East Delivery Area(Fife)

Email – tom.fox@firescotland.gov.uk

Cowdenbeath Area Committee



25th January 2017

Agenda Item 10

Supporting the Local Community Plan – Operational Briefing on Policing Activities within West Fife.

Report by: Chief Inspector Ralston

Wards Affected: Cowdenbeath Wards 7, 8 and 9

Purpose - This report updates Elected Members on Policing activity in the above areas.

Recommendation(s) - Members are asked to endorse action taken to date and support Police Scotland moving forward in addressing priorities.

Resource Implications - There are no additional resource implications arising from the activity outlined in this report.

Legal & Risk Implications - There are no legal or current risk implications.

Impact Assessment - No impact assessment has been undertaken specifically for this report – This report is for information only.

Consultation - No consultation has taken place regarding this report. Members will appreciate that the key to success in work of this nature is partnership – not only between the services and agencies involved but also with elected members and local communities.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This report provides to members a comparison between the April 2015 – October 2015 and April 2016 - October 2016 performance figures of Police Scotland in the Cowdenbeath area.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 This report gives an overview of the main crime groups as detailed. It provides comparison for the same period against the year previous.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 Members are invited to endorse action taken to date and support Police Scotland moving forward in addressing priorities.

List of Appendices

1. **Comparison Performance Figures for Cowdenbeath Fife Area between April 2015-October, 2015 and April, 2016-October, 2016**

Report Contact

Irene Ralston
Chief Inspector
Local Area Commander
Western, Fife Division
Police Scotland

Telephone: 01383 318710

Email – irene.ralston@scotland.pnn.police.uk

LOCAL AUTHORITY SCRUTINY BOARD

Cowdenbeath Area Committee

Violence, Disorder and Antisocial behaviour				
	Cowdenbeath Area Committee			
	Apr 2016 - Oct 2016	Apr 2015 - Oct 2015	Victims	% Change
Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	21	26	5 fewer	-19.2%
Murder	0	0	None	-
Attempted Murder	3	0	3 more	-
Culpable Homicide (common law)	0	0	None	-
Culpable Homicide (other)	0	0	None	-
Serious Assault detection rate	107.7%	85.7%		22.0%
Serious Assault	13	21	8 fewer	-38.1%
Robbery detection rate	50.0%	100.0%		-50.0%
Robbery	2	2	same number	0.0%
Petty (Common) assault detection rate	87.8%	87.6%		0.2%
Petty (common) assault	254	315	61 fewer	-19.4%
Context				
Additional Information				
	Cowdenbeath Area Committee			
	Apr 2016 - Oct 2016	Apr 2015 - Oct 2015	Victims	% Change
Number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions, drugs cultivation	22	17	5 more	29.4%
Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate	40.9%	18.8%		22.2%
Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	44	64	20 fewer	-31.3%
Theft by shoplifting detection rate	86.9%	69.0%		17.9%
Theft by shoplifting	61	100	39 fewer	-39.0%
Vandalism & Malicious Mischief detection rate	36.4%	35.8%		0.6%
Vandalism & Malicious Mischief	22	17	5 more	29.4%

Motor Vehicle Crime detection rate	42.9%	43.5%		-0.6%
Motor Vehicle Crime	42	46	4 fewer	-8.7%
Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	3	5	2 fewer	-40.0%
Fire-raising offences	9	11	2 fewer	-18.2%
Breach of the peace (excluding s.38)	31	28	3 more	10.7%
Context				
Public Protection				
	Cowdenbeath Area Committee			
	Apr 2016 - Oct 2016	Apr 2015 - Oct 2015	Victims	% Change
Number of Group 2 - Crimes of Indecency	53	74	21 fewer	-28.4%
Group 2 crimes detection rate	94.3%	86.5%		7.9%
Rape crimes detection rate	69.2%	61.5%		7.7%
Context				
Road Safety / Road Crime				
	Cowdenbeath Area Committee			
	Apr 2016 - Oct 2016	Apr 2015 - Oct 2015	Victims	% Change
Dangerous driving	13	20		-35.0%
Speeding	135	165		-18.2%
Disqualified driving	7	3		133.3%
Driving Licence	40	22		81.8%
Insurance	72	35		105.7%
Seat Belts	22	53		-58.5%
Mobile Phone	20	25		-20.0%
Context				

Community Officer Activity May 2016-October 2016

The Cowdenbeath Community Police Team have been involved in high profile intervention and preventative policing initiatives across all wards throughout the reporting period.

The visibility and accessibility of police officers has been highlighted in the recent quarterly "Your View Counts" survey and the team have been working with partners to ensure that engagement is enhanced across all wards.

Involvement in projects such as F24, a Boxing Initiative and Employability along with a regular presence in the two secondary schools has increased policing engagement with our young people whilst our 'Feel Good Fridays' project at Lochgelly High School has enhanced our connection with the over 50's.

Through that visibility and from an ongoing consultative process throughout this reporting period it was noted that the issues that mattered most to the community were:

- Violence and Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Road Safety and Road Crime
- Drug and alcohol Misuse

This report has been produce to link in with these priorities and the Area Plan for Cowdenbeath.

Violence and Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour

This report shows slight increases in breach of the peace and vandalism offences for the area and analytical work has been tasked to identify repeat areas, victims or modus operandi. The requested analytical data is expected to be produced prior to the end of January and this will be used to inform and assist in the policing response to help prevent and detect this type of offending.

Several diversionary projects are either underway or complete in the area and these include the F24 race car project run with BRAG Enterprises in Crosshill, the Boxing Initiative and Employability Projects run in conjunction with Lochgelly High School, the Shutter Art Project on Cowdenbeath High Street and the re-painting of Stenhouse Street underpass in Cowdenbeath run in conjunction with Beath High School.

These are collaborative diversionary projects intended to steer our young people away from offending which have significantly enhanced relationships between the community police team, our young people, our schools and our partner agencies.

The Shutter Art project has been particularly well received with almost the entire High Street signing up to participate and this work will complement the plans for the regeneration of the town square and the overall look and feel of the town centre whilst giving local people a sense of pride and ownership from participation in the project.

Police Officers are regularly supported by the work of the Safer Communities Team in dealing with ASB and vandalism.

Community Officers also regularly visit pubs and licensed premises to ensure that licensees and staff are adhering to the conditions of their license. Each visit is recorded by the Divisional Licensing Unit to ensure robust management and monitoring of all licensed premises.

Violent crime and violent offenders are managed robustly with local investigative work being supported by the Divisional Violence Reduction Forum which has developed to tackle all violent offending within Fife. Monthly management meetings are held where local repeat offenders, behaviour trends and hotspot areas are analysed to develop early intervention tactics to engage with offenders and minimise repeat offending.

This approach has seen a decrease in violent crime across the Cowdenbeath area and high detection rates where those crimes are committed.

Road Safety and Road Crime

Road crime and casualty reduction remain a Local, Divisional and Force priority and as such we remain focused on keeping our roads safe. On a local level this is reflected in the 'Your View Counts' survey results.

Community Officers continue to promote road safety in and around our schools. The officers work alongside school teachers and pupils to promote a road safety message for pupils and parents and this work is currently being enhanced with an ongoing competition to design road safety banners for display at our local primary schools.

Police Officers also work with partners to address parking issues and will seek to educate drivers about inconsiderate or inappropriate driving or parking.

On a regular basis local officers carry out speeding deployments in hotspot areas identified by our own intelligence or complaints from the public. We deploy 'Pop Up Jim' signs which take the form of a cardboard cut-out image of a police officer holding a speed gun. The signs are deployed on a regular basis in and around local schools and have received favourable comment from members of the public.

Seasonal initiatives such as 'Brake' Road Safety Week and the Festive Drink/Drive Campaign are also supported by Cowdenbeath Community Officers, both of which are progressed as educational and enforcement initiatives.

Community Speedwatch is to be re-introduced in early 2017. Volunteers are still being sought for vetting whilst others have already been trained to deploy on the go live date.

Evidence in the statistical table above highlights the success we are having in the Cowdenbeath Area with recorded reductions in speeding and dangerous driving along with seat belt and mobile phone offending

Drug and Alcohol Misuse.

Alcohol and drug misuse is well known to be a contributory factor in the commission of crime. A high percentage of the perpetrators of crimes of dishonesty commit crime to fund some form of addiction, be that controlled drugs or alcohol. Whilst robustly dealing with these perpetrators for their criminal activity, we also look at preventative measures and have referred individuals to partner agencies for support or to provide counselling in relation to their addictions.

Education is also key in preventing young people from becoming involved in drug misuse. Community Officers along with our colleagues from the Fife Community Safety Partnership give regular inputs and offer guidance and advice.

Our involvement with the Mobile Alcohol Intervention Team (MAIT) continues and focuses on a multi- agency approach to actively engage with youths on the street. This service offers support and guidance to local youths focusing on health, wellbeing and safety. It also provides education on the negative impact of alcohol and /or drugs and provides awareness on how their behaviour can affect the wider community.

We understand that drug abuse can devastate families and communities and we proactively target individuals who are actively involved or concerned in the supply or production of controlled drugs within the community.

We have increased our proactivity in drug enforcement in this area and have executed more search warrants in this reporting period. Further warrants have either been obtained or are being sought and we will continue our work in this area into the new year and beyond.

25th January 2017

Agenda Item No. 11

Supporting the Local Community Plan - Participatory Budgeting - Cowdenbeath Area

Report by: Paul Vaughan, Head of Community and Corporate Development Services

Wards Affected: Wards 7, 8 and 9

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the Area-wide Participatory Budgeting (PB) exercise – 'Oor Bit Places and Spaces'

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Area Committee:

- Comments on the outcomes of the Oor Bit exercise;
- Endorses a second round to take place in 2017-18; and
- Notes the links with the development and delivery of Community Action Plans and the Local Community plan.

Resource Implications

As the initiative moves into the delivery phase, the exercise continues to require input from officers, partners and the wider community.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal and risk implications as a direct consequence of this paper.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA is not required because the report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

Consultation has taken place with Area Community Council and Community Group representatives.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 There is currently a debate in Scotland about the future of public services, the development of sustainable funding arrangements for those public services and, more generally, how we ‘do’ democracy and engage with, and empower, communities. The policy context for this debate has been shaped by reducing public sector budgets, increasing demand for services and recognition that new ideas for relationships between the public sector and communities are required.

- 1.2 In August 2014 the Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy published its report on the future of democracy in Scotland and amongst its recommendations stated that;

“Democratic power should be delivered from communities up, not drip down from above. Democratic innovations such as...participatory budgeting...should...become the standards by which participation in decision-making is delivered in Scotland.” (Commission Report, August 2014)

- 1.3 In addition, one of the central objectives of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 is to strengthen the voices of communities in the decisions that matter to them. The Act makes provisions on participation in public decision making;

“...including participation by members of the public in the authority’s decisions and activities including the allocation of its resources / budgets – i.e. what is known as participatory budgeting.” (SPiCE briefing, April 15)

- 1.4 Participatory budgeting (PB) can be defined, in simple terms, as local people having direct decision-making powers over part of a public budget. It is therefore beyond consultation. The Cowdenbeath Area delivered Fife’s biggest PB exercise to date when it undertook the £250,000 Oor Bit – Places and Spaces initiative.

- 1.5 At the 4th May meeting of this Committee members approved a proposal to deliver an Area-wide PB exercise around a theme to be decided by local community representatives. Thereafter a steering group was formed comprising community representatives with support from CLD workers, Area staff and Democratic Scotland. The group quickly agreed that the environment would be the focus of the exercise and came up with the title ‘Oor Bit – Places and Spaces’ as a way to publicise it and promote public engagement.

- 1.6 The following report examines the experience of the Oor Bit initiative and breaks that down into three phases – ideas generation; the engagement and voting process; and the aftermath.

2.0 Ideas Generation

- 2.1 With support from Democratic Scotland and art work by a local designer, the campaign to generate ideas to improve the local environment was launched on 18th June 2016 with a closing date of 31st August (later extended to 4th September). A web site was created where local people could upload their ideas and where others could see and comment on them. As back-up freepost postcards were produced to allow people with no internet access or skills to submit their ideas. The postcards, together with posters and flyers were distributed during the summer's community events including galas and civic week parades. Steering group members were given the option to undertake training both as facilitators – to help people to put their ideas on-line and as administrators – moderating comments on the site and carrying out editorial functions. A number took that opportunity up.
- 2.2 A total of 166 ideas were generated during the period and, excluding the duplicate suggestions, 138 ideas were put forward for short-listing. It was notable that no ideas were put forward for Kingseat with the exception of a proposal, put forward by two individuals, to install a cycle path/walkway from Kingseat to Cowdenbeath along the Cuddyhouse Road. There has been no engagement with the proposal from the Kingseat Community to date although work to support projects in the village is continuing.
- 2.3 The idea generation aspect of Oor Bit differed significantly from previous PB initiative in the Cowdenbeath Area and across Fife. The usual method is to go out to communities and ask what is important to them about their community – what is good; what needs improved; and where the priorities lie. After that, the settlement's priorities are set within a five year plan and ideas are sought to begin to deliver on that plan.
- 2.4 The Oor Bit exercise took a different approach – basically giving residents the opportunity to identify any and all projects that would help improve the places they live, work and play in. Some settlements embraced that opportunity more than others – a lot were generated from Hill of Beath. This was probably linked to Oor Bit running in parallel to a Coalfields Regeneration Trust futures PB exercise at the same time but also to the sterling work undertaken by a few Community Council representatives to get postcards out to the whole village. Likewise it seemed that some places were more disposed to put their ideas on-line than others. The use of an online platform was a condition of the support we received from Democratic Scotland (funded by the Scottish Government) and was a good way to see how new technology could engage people in the democratic process.
- 2.5 The lessons learned from the ideas generation phase were both good and bad, encompassing:-
- More ideas generated than we would expect from a traditional PB exercise.
 - A wide range of ideas was put forward.

- Ideas which reflected support for and endorsed projects which were already underway.
- An on-line platform which was attractive to look at and (relatively) user-friendly.
- The inability to identify individual idea-generators because ideas could be posted anonymously.
- Quite a bit of duplication.
- The difficulty of asking busy people to add another item to their workload. Expecting people who are running Galas and Civic Weeks to hand out flyers and postcards and to explain the concept is probably an ask too far.
- A relatively small volume of visitors to the website.
- There was central support to publicise this phase of the activity but a clearer remit should have been provided to the Communications team in terms of targeting and reach. .

3.0 Engagement and Voting

- 3.1 Prior to the voting phase, a sub-group of the steering group met to undertake the short-listing and came up with a list of 32 projects to be put to the public vote. These ideas were subject to approval by the steering group as a whole and were given an indicative costing. The total cost of all the bid projects was £448,500.
- 3.2 The short-listing process highlighted three themes which generated a number of ideas and which are the subject of other local initiatives. The first was Play Parks (24 ideas) – the group felt that these ideas should be tied into the Area Play Park Strategy proposed and agreed at the October meeting of Cowdenbeath Area Committee. The group wanted to use the public events to capture community perceptions of local Play Park provision and to identify priorities and timescales for new and refurbished play areas. The second theme was issues which Transportation Services are responsible for. These numbered 21 and the group felt that these should also be subject to discussion at the voting events. The outcomes from that should be used to influence priorities in the Area Transportation Work Programme (ATWP). Finally, sixteen ideas to improve Cowdenbeath Town Centre were put forward. Given the ongoing work in and around the High Street it was agreed to feed the ideas generated into that process.
- 3.3 The next issues to be decided by the steering group were dates, times and venues for the voting events and the voting methodology. It was broadly agreed that voting would take place over the timeframe Monday 31st October to Monday 21st November but that flexibility was required to allow for local circumstances. Dates agreed were:-
- Lumphinnans (door to door) – starting Saturday 29th October
 - Hill of Beath = Tuesday 1st November

- Crossgates – Sunday 6th November
- Lochgelly (Cycle Night Event) = Tuesday 15th November
- Cardenden (Family Fun day) – Saturday 19th November
- Benarty – Monday 21st November
- Kelty – Saturday 26th November
- Cowdenbeath – Sunday 27th November

3.4 The voting methodology generated a lot of discussion at the steering group with the outcome that the principles agreed were:-

- To have an online process that is simple as possible and based on trust. They felt that verification processes such as SMS, and asking for any details other than a postcode, would make it more onerous for voters.
- To have no SMS or verification process. People should be able to click the link, enter a postcode on the landing page and be taken straight to a single ballot for the corresponding area only.
- To have no on-line voting at off-line events as it would change the nature of the event and negatively impact on face-to-face interactions. Poor Wi-Fi/hotspot access at event venues was also a concern.
- To keep the voting process simple and 'traditional'.
- To only use paper ballots for off-line events.
- To use an equally weighted multiple vote system.
- To allow votes from all Cowdenbeath Area residents aged 8 years old and over.

3.5 A different on-line voting platform from that used in the ideas generation phase was utilised for the vote. During the voting window a total of 1406 votes were cast, of these 568 (40%) were online and 838 (60%) were cast in ballot boxes. There were clear differences between the Wards in terms of turn-out – Ward 7 had 353 votes (25% of the total) with 55% of their votes coming on-line. Ward 8 had 753 votes (54% of the total) with 31% of those on-line. Ward 9 had 300 votes (21% of the overall) with 47% on-line.

3.6 Some of the differences can be explained by the methodology – the higher level of on-line voting in Ward 7 was likely due to their use of laptops and mobiles at public engagement sessions. The high turnout in Ward 8 is almost certainly down to the fact that their community representatives went door-to-door in Lumphinnans and from group-to-group in Cowdenbeath. There was an important late boost to online voting when Ali and Kelly from Democratic Scotland, supported by a few locals, toured the local High Schools and other meeting places on the last Friday to encourage people to vote. There was also help from both Beath and Lochgelly High Schools where the Head Teachers allowed and encouraged pupils to vote in their registration classes.

3.7 The lessons learned from these phases were:-

- There was limited ownership of some of the ideas – one of the key components of traditional PB exercises is that people believe in their ideas and encourage family members to attend PB voting events.
- The lack of a verification process made it difficult to get feedback from voters and also to keep idea-generators and voters up to date with progress and outcomes.
- Turn-out varied widely across the Area – it was best where community representatives went to where people were (whether at home or in a group meeting) rather than expecting people to turn out to an event.
- On-line voting was patchy. It needs regular and targeted marketing and more support than we were able to muster.
- Drop-in events generated more feedback on the other Area issues (Play Parks and Transportation) than the door-to-door exercises.
- The timing of this phase needs to be considered – avoid school holidays and times when community groups are under pressure.
- Nonetheless, 1406 is thought to be a record for engagement of this type in Fife. As a comparator, the 2015 budget consultation exercise gained a total of 867 individual responses.

4.0 The Aftermath

- 4.1 Any initiative is only as good as its delivery. Work has begun to plan the commissioning, timing and execution of the successful projects. Many of these are relatively straightforward and will fit into existing work programmes. Some will require fund-raising efforts to raise the necessary match-funding to finance the work while others will require the engagement of colleagues in Property Services to meet the necessary planning and tendering requirements.
- 4.2 Equally, any initiative is only as good as its publicity. Only two or three of the local Facebook pages have reported the outcomes of the vote with one of them, deliberately or otherwise, publishing the wrong figures for their Ward results. There remains the perennial problem of reaching people who do not read the local press and who do not follow local social media pages.
- 4.3 On the positive side, it is important to point out that local media were involved in promoting the Oor Bit consultation and reporting on the results. The council's Facebook page also posted information leading up to the vote and the results afterwards. This info was also shared on the local page and Twitter. In addition Oor Bit was featured on the Let's Talk pages on fifiedirect for the duration of the project.
- 4.4 More can also be done to reach young people. In Durham, for example, PB has become part of the curriculum in some schools allowing pupils to learn about democracy (and participate in it) at an early age.

4.5 There are some other passing thoughts.

- As implied above there needs to be co-ordinated support from the centre of the organisation if on-line activity around PB is to reach a wider audience. That support needs to come from a senior officer level and across a range of Services, especially Communications and Finance.
- The issue of 'presentism' needs to be resolved. People going to PB events can see the ideas and talk to the people who are behind those ideas before casting their vote. They also have the opportunity to share experiences and to learn about what is going on locally.
- The engagement of a group of 21 local activists with this process was heartening, but it places additional burdens on already busy people. No praise is high enough for their contribution.
- The group were able to share experience and to learn from each other helping to build a sense of solidarity across the Area.
- The decision not to ask for verification nor to register people attending events means that we lost the opportunity to have a contact list of people who we could seek to engage in future events.
- The support from Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Democratic Scotland and the two on-line providers was exemplary and they will be a useful source to draw on for any future Area or Fife-wide exercises.
- Fife Council technology is not able to handle this kind of activity – the report writer had to return home to Skype on a number of occasions.
- Undertaking a PB exercise is an 'Opportunity Cost' – if community development and area staff are doing this then they are not doing something else.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The Oor Bit PB exercise was very worthwhile. It proved that we can scale up initiatives of this nature and engage with more and different people than would normally get involved. It also proved that the model could be used Fife-wide and in different types of community. If it is to be scaled up in this way then it will need a policy under-pinning it and the allocation of dedicated resources – budget and staff time in the main.

Report Contact

Kevin Sayer

Area Manager

Brunton House

Cowdenbeath

KY4 9QU

08451 55 55 55 x471741

xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx

Appendix – Successful Oor Bit Projects

OUR BIT COWDENBEATH AREA PROJECT WINNERS

Settlement Selection

Ward 7 - KELTY

Outdoor multi-gym equipment - We would like to have a Multi-Gym in Kelty – probably in the park at Bath Street. The installation of suitable equipment would help the whole population to stay fit and healthy. **132 Votes** **£30,000**



BENARTY

Light up War Memorial, install seat and flower vase -It would look nice to see the war memorial have solar lighting perhaps red poppies that light up to further enhance the site! Perhaps some flower urns around there for fresh flowers and perhaps a memorial bench for the elderly to sit and rest and reflect to await the village bus! **84 Votes** **£5,000**



Ward 8 - CROSSGATES

Cycle route to Fordell Firs - Cycle Path running from Crossgates to Inverkeithing which would link up in passing with the cycle path to Duloch to Dunfermline 177 Votes £30,000 (10%)



HILL OF BEATH

Skate Park (Part funded) - There are two areas of green, one at the existing playpark and another at the community centre. Between them, the installation of a skate park is more than feasible which would give the kids somewhere decent to go. 212 Votes £25,000 (25%)



COWDENBEATH

Improve area at Train Station - The railway platforms in the train station are well maintained and tidy but the access routes are overgrown and unsightly. They give a poor impression of the town. Let's get them improved for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. **256 Votes** **£10,000**



LUMPHINNANS

Pond upgrading - The area around Lumphinnans pond used to be an attractive walkway for families but it has now fallen into disrepair as has the jetty. If it was restored local nursery and primary school children could use it for nature walks and activities rather than having to be bussed to Lochore Meadows. **290 Votes** **£15,000**



Ward 9 – LOCHGELLY

Youth Club – Lochgelly needs a place for young people - We would like a youth club in a safe centre where we could meet friends and youth workers. There would be Wi-Fi and access to IT, music, cooking, toilets, parties, trips and to learn stuff. It would be good if it was on two nights a week please.

114 Votes

£10,000



CARDENDEN

Improvement to Wallsgreen Park entrance and lights in park - Improvements are being made to Wallsgreen Park but the entrance into the Park is uninspiring and presents difficulties with access. It is hoped to create a new entrance, which will enhance this amenity and to improve the lighting in the park.

131 Votes

£25,000



Total allocated - £150,000

The Other Winners

COWDENBEATH

Improvements to Public Park –signage and heritage displays - Where the old bandstand was we could create something which reflects the history of Cowdenbeath. For example, we could we put a replica of the old Fountain in and some notice boards reflecting stories of Cowdenbeath. **247 Votes**
£10,000



HILL OF BEATH

Part fund MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) - We would like to have a Multi-Use Games Area in Hill of Beath. Many of the villages in Fife now have this facility and we feel that the young people in Hill of Beath deserve somewhere that they can play outdoors and which will encourage them to have a healthy lifestyle. **197 Votes** **£25,000 (25%)**



COWDENBEATH

The Line – clear up and displays - The line was where the pugs ran to take coal from the mines. It would be good if the area was tidied up along its length and if displays and notice boards were installed to tell stories of and celebrate the rich history of Cowdenbeath. **168 Votes** **£15,000**



Gateways – install things to remind people of mining heritage - Why not install some kind of mining artefacts at the gateways to Cowdenbeath? This would help to remind folks of our heritage.

144 Votes **£5,000**



CROSSGATES

Part fund MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) - We would like to have a Multi-Use Games Area in Crossgates – perhaps the area by the bowling green. Many of the villages in Fife now have this facility and we feel that the young people deserve somewhere that they can play outdoors and which will encourage them to have healthy lifestyles. 141 Votes £25,000 (25%)



LUMPHINNANS

Trim Trail - The trim trail at the new astro pitches was never finished and no exercise machines were installed. The installation of suitable equipment would help the whole population to stay fit and healthy. 139 Votes £20,000



25 January 2017

Agenda Item No. 12

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Report by: Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment

Wards Affected: Ward 7, 8 and 9

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of action taken under delegated powers in relation to property transactions.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising from these transactions, as any expenditure is contained within the appropriate Service budget.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications arising from these transactions.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA is not required and is not necessary for the following reasons: the items in this report do not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

All consultations have been carried out in relation to this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In dealing with the day to day business of the Council there are a number of matters relating to the purchase, disposal and leasing of property and of property rights. This report advises of those transactions dealt with under powers delegated to officials.

2.0 Transactions

2.1 Disposals

2.1.1 Servitude – underground cable routes at various locations in Cowdenbeth to serve a new wind farm development at Goathill Quarry, Cowdenbeath

Disposal Date: 24 June 2015
Disposal Price: £1,750
Purchaser: Scottish Power Energy Networks

2.1.2 59 sqm, 26a Station Road, Cowdenbeath

Disposal Date: 13 December 2016
Disposal Price: £2,400
Purchaser: Mr Samuel Johnston

2.1.3 120 sqm, 28 Blackburn Drive, Cowdenbeath

Disposal Date: 6 December 2016
Disposal Price: £6,000
Purchaser: Mrs Hazel Smith

2.2 Leases by the Council – New Leases

2.2.1 Units 3 & 5, Cardenden Business Court, Gammie Place, Cardenden

Term: 5 years from 29 November 2016
Rent: £7,600 per annum
Tenant: Floor Safe Solutions Ltd

2.2.2 0.8ha, Briggills Farm, Cardenden

Term: 238 days from 5 August 2016
Rent: £174 per term
Tenant: Mrs Diane Hill

2.4.3 Parking Site, Crossgates Road, Halbeath, Dunfermline

Term: 3 months from 1 October 2016
Rent: £66,000
Tenant: Amazon Services UK Ltd

2.2.4 5.98 ha Bowling Bing, Jamphlars Road, Cardenden

Term: 364 days from 1 October 2016
Rent: £800 per term
Tenant: Ms Shannon Smith

2.2.5 0.68ha Brigghills Farm, Cardenden

Term:	232 from 11 August
Rent:	£136 per term
Tenant:	Mrs Diane Hill

2.3 Leases by the Council – Rent Reviews

2.3.1 Communications site to south of South Street, Westerton Farm, Lochgelly

Date of Review	24 April 2016
Rent:	£6,073
Date of Review:	24 April 2015

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 These transactions are reported back in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.

List of Appendices

1. N/A

Background Papers

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:

N/A

Report Contact

Author Name	Michael I McArdle
Author's Job Title	Lead Professional
Workplace	Property Services – Estates Bankhead Central Bankhead Park Glenrothes KY7 6GH
Telephone:	03451 555555 Ext No 440268
Email –	xxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx