

**SAFER STREETS INITIATIVE**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** This report sets out information in regard to the Safer Streets Initiative Bid 2009/10.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** To endorse the approach that the money be utilised to provide support for additional high visibility policy during December 2009.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1** Members have become aware that Scottish Ministers have agreed to provide funding for a fourth year for the Safer Streets Initiative. This Initiative seeks to achieve the following objectives

- Reduce crime and in particular violent crime.
- Tackle alcohol related disorder.
- Divert young people from crime and anti social behaviour.
- Reduce the fear of crime – increasing community re-assurance.
- Improve road, fire and home safety.
- Strengthen partnership working

- 3.2** The Council has received guidance for the bidding process for this year which requires the bid to be submitted by the end of October 2009 with a decision being made on 20 November 2009. The funding can be applied for the period November to March 2010.

- 3.3** The practice has been and it is required by Government that the Community Safety Partnership agree the final funding bid.

- 3.4** In previous years the funding has been set at a higher level of than that proposed this time. Argyll and Bute Council's allocation amounts to £12,121 which is just over half that previously given in the previous year and just over a third of what was given the year before.

- 3.5** In the past the Council sought to provide a holistic bid which included other items of activity however given the funding available it would appear that to gain the maximum benefit from the additional funding and to target the busy December period it is suggested that the Community Safety Partnership be invited to focus the spend on the month of December.
- 3.6** The additional funding has in the past been utilised to support additional police overtime and my view on this is that this should be the proposal to be put to the Community Safety Forum. However it has been suggested to me that some of the funding should be provided to the Oban Hogmanay Group to help support the policing costs for this event. It is my view that to focus the resources on one evening only would not be the best use of the available funding nor do I believe that the fund was designed to support the costs of policing such events.
- 3.7** It has also been suggested that the provision of taxi marshals for the Oban Hogmanay event would also be good use of the funding and whilst there is greater strength in that argument the reality is that the Council does not have taxi wardens and would not be in a position to recruit, train and deploy them within the timescale.
- 3.8** In previous years the police have allocated the money to each of the principal towns and on this basis there would be just over £2,000 per town to support additional overtime which would provide a fairly limited increase of activity but nevertheless will provide welcome additional reasons to the benefit to public safety by high visibility policing.
- 3.9** Given the comments from Councillors, Members instructions are requested as to whether they would wish an element of the bid to include support for the policing costs of Oban Hogmanay Group or whether the previous policy of supporting additional uniformed police patrols during the month of December should be the basis on which they bid goes forward.

#### **4. IMPLICATIONS**

Policy	In line with the Council's policy of keeping our streets and communities safe.
Financial	Additional one-off funding of £12,121 approximately to be re-allocated to activities.
Legal	None.
Personnel	None.

For further information contact Charles Reppke on extn. 4192.

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