

Funding Prospects, Partnership Investment Plan 2011/12 and Safe at Home Scheme

1. At the time of writing the effects of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) on the Partnership are not yet clear. A number of briefing notes and analyses have been produced by Government departments and other interested partners. On 20 October, the day of the CSR announcement, the Parliamentary Under Secretary for State for Crime Prevention wrote to Chairs of Community Safety Partnerships advising of a 20% real terms reductions in funding for police forces by 2014/15 (attached as Appendix A). The impact on Stockton may not be clear until January.
2. Earlier in the year, the Scanning & Challenge Group considered the current allocation of funds from the Partnership Investment Plan (i.e. BCU Fund allocation for Stockton to Cleveland Police plus Safer and Stronger Communities Fund allocation to Stockton Council). The current spend was allocated across three broad priority categories, i.e. high, medium and low, as shown in Appendix B attached. This analysis provides a provisional response to reductions in funding of about 25% or 50%.
3. The recent Policing White Paper suggested that directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners will be allocated a sum equivalent to the current BCU Fund. This may imply that the BCU Fund will be retained for 2011/12, and the alternative would appear to be to delete it for one year, and then to reinstate it in 2012/12. With this in mind, the Scanning & Challenge Group on 13 October reviewed the savings option to look at the possibility of a reduction of 61%, i.e. down to BCU Fund only. Preliminary views were that on this scenario we would recommend funding the IOM role, police overtime at 50% of the current level, and divide the remaining £48k between ASB work and domestic violence services.
4. The 'Safe at Home' scheme provides target hardening for vulnerable people, including those who are deemed to be particularly vulnerable to the risk of dwelling burglary and people who have experienced or are at risk of domestic violence – in the latter case, the scheme aims to create safe areas within the home.
Currently the only recurring funding for this scheme is a £5,000 yearly allocation from THL. Other RSLs pay for work as and when it is required on their properties but do not contribute to the scheme as a whole. Over the last three years actual spend on this scheme has overspent £25,000 per year with an average of ? homes target hardened per year. It has been predominantly funded via 'windfall' allocations from the Home Office (via GONE), topped up from any

underspends from the Council's Community Safety budget. It now seems highly likely that both these sources of funding will 'dry up', leading to the discontinuation of an 'all tenures' scheme. The scheme will still be able to operate in respect of Tristar and other RSLs if they 'self-fund', and could be offered to private landlords and owner occupiers on the same basis.

5. It is also important to note the potential impact in terms of performance over the next three years and therefore in relation to performance targets for the forthcoming Community Safety Plan 2011-2014. In 2009/10 we had just over 12,000 crimes. In 2010/11 there may be a small reduction in that total. These may prove to be the 'golden years' in terms of community safety and, faced with drastic reductions in resources available to the Partnership as a collective body and to the individual partner organisations. We will do very well if we are able to maintain performance at current levels (especially bearing in mind the continuing increase in the population of our Borough).
6. It is RECOMMENDED that
 - i) the report be noted;
 - ii) a further report be submitted to the Partnership at a future meeting as the Partnership Investment Plan 2011/12; and