

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA PARTNERSHIP

SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND

16th March 2005

This paper:

updates colleagues on the Agreement that needs to be signed with the Government on the use of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) in 2005/06.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Background

- 1.1 This new Fund brings together various different Government spending streams into a single pot to be used to help meet the following national outcomes:
 - To reduce crime, to reassure the public by reducing the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour and to reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs
 - To increase the capacity of local communities so that people are empowered to participate in local decision-making and are able to influence service delivery
 - To have cleaner, safer and greener public spaces
 - To improve the quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and ensure service providers are more responsive to neighbourhood needs and improve their delivery
- 1.2 The Government has said that 2005/06 is a transitional year for bringing together the various funding streams. An Agreement needs to be signed between the Government and Local Strategic Partnerships/Community Safety Partnerships, to cover the use of the funding it is making available through the SSCF - £662k in 2005/6. This is made up by bringing 3 current funding streams together:
 - Building Safer Communities Fund & Anti Social Behaviour Grant - £337k
 - Drug Action Team (Partnership Support Grant) – £67k
 - Single Communities Programme - £258k
- 1.3 The Government has confirmed that, as these current funding streams only relate to the first 2 national outcomes referred to above, the Agreement for next year will not have to include targets for the second 2 outcomes.

Officers have been discussing the preparation of the Agreement with civil servants and it would be reasonable to say that the exercise has been less than straightforward and

further guidance is still awaited on targets in relation to drugs and antisocial behaviour. Nevertheless progress is being made and it is expected that the Agreement will be signed at the end of this month at a meeting between civil servants, Council and Police Officers and the Kensington and Chelsea Social Council (KCSC).

2. Other Resources

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) is not included in the SSCF in 2005/06 but will be in later years. As has previously been reported, it is not expected that the Royal Borough will continue to receive an allocation beyond the end of 2005/06.
- 2.2 The Government is also making resources available direct to the Police through Borough Command Unit (BCU) funding. The guidance on the SSCF encourages local Police Commanders to add this to the single pot. This is the approach being taken in the Royal Borough. The allocation in 2005/06 is £232k.
- 2.3 In line with the Government's advice that 2005/06 should be considered a transitional year, the SSCF/BCU funding is being split as follows:
 - Crime, antisocial behaviour and drugs - £636k
 - increasing the capacity of local communities - £258k

Further discussions will be taking place next year to consider the use of funding in 2006/07 when future SSCF allocations are known.

3. The Agreement

- 3.1 The Government has provided a template that has been used to prepare a first draft of the Agreement. The key elements of the document are the targets to be used to assess whether the 2 national outcomes are being achieved and the funding being devoted to them.
- 3.2 Officers have drawn from the emerging Community Safety Strategy and the delivery plan produced by the KCSC for using the Single Community Programme Funding, in drafting the Agreement. Copies of the latest draft version can be made available on request.

FOR INFORMATION

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