



**GRAMPIAN**  
**P·O·L·I·C·E**

*Keeping our communities safe*

**COMMITTEE:** **GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**DATE:** **7 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**TITLE OF REPORT:** **COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND**

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## **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Grampian Joint Police Board of details of the local projects that benefited from the Community Initiative fund in 2011-12 and to make proposals for 2012-13.
- 1.2 To seek the approval of Members of the Grampian Joint Police Board for the recommendations set out in Section 6 of the Report.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Since its inception, Grampian Police has embraced the concept of partnership working. For a number of years, the Force was rarely in a position to be able to help fund small scale community projects and had to look elsewhere for funding.
- 2.2 In June 2005, Grampian Joint Police Board approved a Report that set up the Community Partnership Fund, which was the forerunner to the Community Initiative Fund. Monies received from Lost Property Sales and unclaimed Productions are used to fund local community based projects, within certain approved parameters and guidelines.
- 2.3 The Force Executive Board considered this report at its meeting on 15 August 2012 and supports the recommendations.

## **3. SERVICE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- 3.1 The aim of the Fund is to allow the Force, through mainly Local Policing Teams, to fund small projects for the benefit of the local community. Since 2005, the Force has distributed around £250,000 towards such projects, the majority of which involve an element of match funding and/or other partners.

#### **4. REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND IN 2011-12**

- 4.1 The balance on the Community Initiative Fund at 31 March 2012 was £202,335.
- 4.2 Details of the amounts allocated, within each Division, to the various projects that the Fund helped in 2011-12 are shown at Appendix A.

#### **5. PROPOSALS FOR THE FUND IN 2012-13**

- 5.1 Over the years since the Fund was established there has been a steady build up of funds, with a balance of £202,335 at the beginning of the current financial year. It is suggested that a balance of this order would allow the Force to make more meaningful contributions to worthy local initiatives during the remainder of 2012-13.
- 5.2 There is a requirement to keep back an allocation in reserve, as on occasions, there are cases where money has to be returned. A sum of £50,000 is proposed.
- 5.3 In 2011-12, the Fund received around £30,000 from Lost Property Sales and Productions. If a similar sum was received in the current financial year then, after allowing for the £50,000 reserve, around £182,000 could be made available. It is not suggested that all of this be allocated in case income is lower than expected or there are other contingencies. The recommendation is to allocate a total of £125,000. On that basis the following allocations are recommended;
- Aberdeen £47,000
  - Aberdeenshire £45,000
  - Moray £23,000
  - HQ £10,000
- 5.4 To date, there have been limits set on the sums that can be awarded to local projects. Normally applications have been limited to £500, but with some higher awards where it was felt the case merited it. It is recommended that no limits are used in 2012-13 and awards are made on the strength of the application on a case by case basis.
- 5.5 In terms of scrutiny and governance, it is important that a balance is struck between the desire to minimise bureaucracy in administering the Fund, so as to minimise any delays and the need to provide an adequate audit trail. It is proposed that bids continue to be scrutinised and judged by the relevant Divisional Commander (or Deputy) and a nominated Member of the Joint Police Board, whose ward is located in the relevant Division.

- 5.6 All awards will be on the basis of a written application made to the appropriate Division. A condition of the award will be the submission of a follow up report to the Force to ensure that the funds were used effectively.
- 5.7 Appendix B lists the themes, which correspond with Force priorities, the applicants and the criteria by which it is suggested all applications be judged.
- 5.8 Income, grant applications and awards will be monitored closely, in case further allocations can be made in order to maximise the use of the Fund in the current financial year.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 A sum of £50,000 be retained in reserve in order to be able to make any required repayments. Details of how this balance is carried forward into the new Police Service will be researched (via FMBA) to ensure any legal commitment is accounted for in our reserves.
- 6.2 There be no maximum limit to awards made in 2012-13.
- 6.3 The following allocations be made to each Division,
- Aberdeen £47,000
  - Aberdeenshire £45,000
  - Moray £23,000
  - HQ £10,000
- 6.4 Applications be scrutinised and judged by the relevant Divisional Commander (or Deputy) and the appropriate Member of the Joint Police Board.