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To: Safer and Stronger Communities Group – 4th March 2010

Subject: Home Office Anti Social Behaviour Grant Allocation

Summary: This report outlines proposals for the delivery of a number of county wide projects utilising the £64,000 Anti Social Behaviour Grant that has been allocated to Kent by the Home Office.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Safer and Stronger Communities Group has received reports previously highlighting the joint letter (19th November 2009) received from John Denham (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government), John Healy (Minister for Housing) & Alan Johnson (Home Secretary) that highlighted that Kent would receive a grant to assist with the delivery of anti social behaviour (ASB) solutions.
- 1.2 The grant funding was provided in recognition of the local authorities responsibilities for tackling ASB and was paid under s31 of the Local Government Act 2003, without grant conditions. However, progress on tackling ASB in Kent will continue to be monitored through the relevant LAA indicators and using the Kent Police confidence survey.
- 1.3 Ministers made it clear in the original letter, that it was up to partnerships to decide how best to spend the grant. However, all CDRP's have been challenged to set and publicise minimum standards of service in terms of ASB, by March 2010. It is further suggested by Ministers that funding should be targeted towards improving public confidence and in providing better communications.
- 1.4 Since the receipt of the grant in late December 2009, discussions have taken place with a range of partners and with the Government Office, regarding the development of suitable projects.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Discussions with the Government Office have identified that the Home Office is eager to see the grant funding directed towards tackling ASB and the perceptions of ASB. Suggested themes include:
 - Support to victims and witnesses
 - Minimum standards
 - Communication of minimum standards and work on perceptions
 - Use of tools and powers
 - Training for staff and residents
 - Visible criminal justice payback.
- 2.2 The allocation of the grant in late December 2009 has prompted discussions with Government Office regarding the ability to carry over the funding into the next financial year. GOSE have supported the view that given the limited time left in the current financial year, it would be prudent to develop spending plans that enable spending during 2010/11. However, it should be noted that minimum standards **must** be in place across CDRP's by March 2010.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Discussions have taken place with key partners regarding the potential projects that could benefit from this grant funding and the requirement to deliver work plans focussed on the key themes outlined by the Home Office.
- 3.2 There is already considerable work being completed relating to communications with ward based news-letters, linked to a communications partnership working group, that is effectively measuring public confidence improvement through mechanisms such as the Kent Crime and Victimisation Survey (KCVS). Kent Police already have ASB as a key priority area and "Operation Restore" is being developed and rolled out across all Districts, as a partnership approach to delivering local ASB solutions. Considerable work has already been completed by Community Safety Managers in relation to adopting a government supported best practice minimum ASB standard across the county. It is hoped that all CDRP's will adopt the minimum standard that will enable the same coordinated standard service to be delivered to all residents of the county.
- 3.3 In addition a training project has already been commenced that involves the KCC/Kent Police Training Unit and CDRP based ASB Officers in developing a standard training product that can support the delivery of minimum standards across the County. The initial funding to develop this pilot training product has already been sourced, but further funding will be required to roll out the product across the county.

4. PROPOSALS FOR GRANT EXPENDITURE

- 4.1 A large number of projects have been considered including:
- Support for the roll out of minimum standards
 - Support for solutions to noise complaints linked to ASB
 - Public Confidence projects
 - Community Payback
 - Repeat Victim support
- 4.2 However, given the planned work already taking place and the recent strategic assessment process that is likely to result in all CDRP's having some form of ASB Action Plan, it was felt that the funding should be allocated towards front line service delivery, where the grant could contribute directly towards delivering solutions to identified problems. This approach will also contribute towards improving public confidence by linking to the various public reporting processes that are already in place such as ward newsletters and "Blackberry" engagement. The allocation of the funding in this way would also assist the delivery of Operation Restore where small amounts of funding could deliver a better partnership response during the targeted weeks.
- 4.3 The discussion did also identify that in terms of Public Confidence both Swale and Thanet had particular priorities that should be addressed to significantly impact the overall confidence levels across the county and it was felt that they should receive a higher allocation. This view was supported during discussions with the Government Office.
- 4.4 It is therefore proposed that the funding should be allocated as follows:
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| • Support for the introduction of county wide minimum standards | £2,000 |
| • Support for Training | £2,000 |
| • Public Confidence work in Thanet | £10,000 |
| • Public Confidence work in Swale | £10,000 |
| • Allocation to remaining CDRP's (£4,000 per CDRP) | £40,000 |

TOTAL £64,000

4.5 In terms of identifying suitable projects at a local level it was felt that the funding should support at least one or more of the following initiatives:

- Link to Op Restore delivery
- Raising of delivery standards
- Engage community payback
- Safe House initiative
- Public Confidence
- Assist the delivery of solutions to noise complaints
- Assist repeat victims
- Link to the CDRP ASB action plan

4.6 The Community Safety Managers Group have an established Anti Social Behaviour Sub-Group, that is progressing the delivery of minimum standards and it is proposed that this group that already includes representatives from statutory partners, should monitor the spending of the grant funding and report back to the Safer & Stronger Communities Group on progress and outcomes during late 2010.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the Safer and Stronger Communities Group supports the proposed allocation of grant funding as detailed in paragraph 4.
- (ii) That the grant funding wherever possible should be directed towards delivering solutions to issues identified within CDRP ASB Action Plans and key county wide initiatives outlined in paragraph 4.
- (iii) That the Community Safety Managers statutory partner ASB Sub-Group should monitor delivery and report back to the Safer and Stronger Communities Group on outcomes delivered during late 2010.

For further information:

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