

BRECKLAND LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

LSP BOARD MEETING 12 APRIL 2007

Report of Temp. Chief Inspector Carl Edwards – Norfolk Constabulary

FUNDING BID FOR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS VEHICLES

Summary

This bid concerns an application for LSP funding for five vehicles to be provided on a three year full maintenance lease contract to enable the provision of partnership resources through the Home Office Safer Neighbourhoods initiative at a cost of £22,618.75.

Background

'Safer Neighbourhoods' is a Home Office initiative to deliver dedicated, visible, accessible and responsive neighbourhood policing through police and partnership agency teams. Whilst having a strong police input, the cornerstone of the approach is to involve all relevant partners in addressing issues of local concern identified by local communities.

Within Breckland there will be five Safer Neighbourhood Teams in operation from March 2007, covering the whole of the Breckland District Council Area of 130,500 hectares, 113 parishes and an estimated population of 124,400.

To deliver 'Safer Neighbourhoods' within Breckland the police are committing two Inspectors, four sergeants, thirteen constables and 30 PCSO's.

The predominantly rural nature of the District creates particular logistical problems in providing this service to all communities.

Safer Neighbourhoods in Breckland

National best practice recognises that priorities must be set by the community through accessible forums. In Breckland these are known as CAG's (Community Action Groups).

The priorities identified through CAG's are taken on by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT's) with the adoption of a problem solving approach involving partner agencies. Many of the issues raised are related to anti-social behaviour, housing and environmental factors, with links to health and education and probation. There is much scope for involving Area Partnerships as the full potential of joint working becomes apparent.

The need to access the communities by all the involved agencies is crucial to success. The limited availability of public transport does not make this a viable option and whilst visibility of the SNT's is a priority, there is a need to get the resources to the communities.

My bid is to provide one vehicle in each of the five Neighbourhoods for use by any of the agencies or officers within that SNT. Typically I envisage police and partner resources using the vehicles to access the priority areas identified through CAG meetings in order to deliver necessary interventions.

The vehicles would not be fully liveried as there is a need to distinguish between these and police vehicles, but there is the option to use partnership logos on the glass to identify them as being LSP funded.

Working within the SNT has the added benefit of providing individuals from partner agencies with added security and reassurance when dealing with potentially problematic situations,

without the need for them to take their private vehicle to an area where it may subsequently be recognised or identified.

The preferred option is for the vehicles to be leased on a three year full maintenance contract. Insurance and petrol would be paid for by Norfolk Constabulary, there being no other associated running costs. This option provides the best value in terms of pricing and strictly controls the costs over a fixed term.

Financial implications

Best quote obtained from Aitchson Bros. (Freethorpe) Ltd. The quote covers a 36 month period.

Cost per vehicle £4,150.00 plus VAT

For more than one vehicle the price is £3,850.00 plus VAT

Five vehicles for 36 months equates to a total cost of **£22,618.75**

Options available

This request for funding was originally made as part of the LSP project funding round last autumn. The bid did not meet the criteria (amount requested) and it was recommended that a stand alone bid be put forward for consideration.

There are a number of options available: -

1. For the LSP to agree and fund the bid – 5 vehicles at £22,618.75
2. For the bid to be part funded – 1 or more vehicles to be funded
3. For the bid to be declined