

## **BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

### **Policy Development Review Panel 2 – 25/07/2007**

#### **Report of Rob Walker, Local Strategic Partnership Officer**

#### **LSP FUNDING – SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS VEHICLES**

**Summary:** At a Board meeting on 12 April, the Breckland Local Strategic Partnership agreed to fund five Safer Neighbourhoods Vehicles on a three year lease. The funding totalled £22,325.75.

#### **1. LSP FUNDING**

The income from Second Homes Council Tax is transferred by the 7 Norfolk Districts to Norfolk County Council each year. 50% of this income is set aside for use by the relevant District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). A further 25% is set aside for affordable housing projects and 25% is retained by the Norfolk County Strategic Partnership. This arrangement started in 2004/5 and has continued to the present date.

The Breckland Local Strategic Partnership receives circa. £70,000 per annum income from Second Homes Council Tax funding. This money must be spent on the delivery of the Community Plan for Breckland. In comparison, the LSPs for Kings Lynn & West Norfolk and North Norfolk receive over £500,000 per annum.

In Breckland, the Second Homes Council Tax funding has been used to fund the LSP Development Officer post on a two fixed-term contract. Over the last 12 months - £91,145.75 has also been committed in project funding. This includes £22,325.75 funding for the five Safer Neighbourhoods vehicles. The LSP currently has £108,434 that is uncommitted.

All decisions on LSP funding are made by the LSP Board, which counts Breckland Council's Leader and Chief Executive amongst its membership.

#### **2. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS VEHICLES**

'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 have been five Safer Neighbourhood Teams in operation from March 2007, covering the whole of the Breckland District Council Area. The predominantly rural nature of the District creates particular logistical problems in providing this service to all communities. To deliver 'Safer Neighbourhoods' within Breckland the police are committing two Inspectors, four sergeants, thirteen constables and 30 PCSO's.

The need to access the communities by all the involved agencies is crucial to the success of Safer Neighbourhoods. 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.

The LSP agreed to fund one vehicle in each of the five Neighbourhoods for use by any of the agencies or officers within that SNT. At this stage, it is envisaged that police and partners will use the vehicles to access the priority areas identified through Community Action Group meetings in order to deliver necessary interventions.

The vehicles are not fully liveried as there is a need to distinguish between these and police vehicles, but partnership logos are clearly displayed.

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 vehicles have been leased on a three year full maintenance contract. Insurance and petrol is paid for by Norfolk Constabulary, there being no other associated running costs.