

## **HOME OFFICE PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This late item of business has been admitted by the Chairman in order to ensure immediate progress in respect of submitting a grant to the Home Office by the deadline of 13 July 2001.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Rochford Community Safety Partnership has recently been allocated £19,617 from the Home Office's Partnership Development Fund to be used to further improve and consolidate Partnership working.
- 2.2 The Home Office have advised that this is a one-off allocation, and no assumption should be made about further funding support in future years.
- 2.3 The Home Office has set out criteria for the grant and although improvements do not have to be confined to the following categories, it is important that they are addressed:
- ◆ Information systems – for the development of computer technology and information systems to aid partnership working.
  - ◆ Data analysis support – for the development of data analysis support to underpin partnership working.
  - ◆ Capacity building – To support partnership administration or project management.
  - ◆ Training or consultancy – training or consultancy support to strengthen partnerships.
  - ◆ Promoting best practice – by way of information, publicity, exhibitions, workshops etc.

**3 PROPOSALS FOR A BID FOR FUNDS**

- 3.1 At the Partnership Conference earlier this year, again funded through Home Office support, a key issue to emerge was around administration / information support across the Partnership. More recent meetings of the Partnership have continued to demonstrate that this remains an issue, with the District Council resourcing as a matter of last resort.
- 3.2 Following discussions with the other key Partner Agencies, it is therefore considered that a bid should be made to fund a one-year time limited post to support this. The employing authority would be the District Council. The gross costs associated with this temporary post would be approximately £14,826 (including 17.5% on cost) for the year.
- 3.3 This post would help address issues around capacity building, information sharing and management and would support the District-wide Partnership group which has now been established, and which the Chairman of the Council's Community Safety Sub Committee is the District Council's Nominee.
- 3.4 The other main bidding item to arise from discussions with the main Partner Agencies relates to securing funding towards carrying out an audit of the Council's existing Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. This needs to be done as part of the work on developing a new strategy by April 2002.
- 3.5 As part of the audit it will be necessary to undertake a range of consultation exercises with a variety of groups. It is felt that the bid to the Home Office should seek to secure funding to help support the costs of the consultation required. A bid for £5000 is suggested in relation to this.

**4 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 That the two proposals as set out, form the basis of the bid to the Home Office for Partnership grant funding. (CEX)

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Chief Executive

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