

06 January 2015

Agenda Item: 5

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ACCESS AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY BUDGET UPDATE – REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To seek approval for committing £3,000 from the Community Safety Budget for 2014/2015 to support safety training for the users of mobility scooters in the County.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Community Safety Budget**

- 2 Each year, a proportion of the Community Safety Budget is allocated to initiatives across the County that are designed to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, reduce the fear of crime, and increase levels of community safety within our communities. Initiatives are targeted at vulnerable communities, and are designed to tackle the issues that are causing the most harm to communities and individuals.
- 3 Funding proposals approved to date from the “initiatives” element of the Community Safety Budget for 2014-15 are summarised in the following table:

<b>Total Community Safety “Initiatives” budget for 2014/15:</b>	<b>£262,379</b>
<b>Total committed so far:</b>	
Contribution to the work of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB)	£140,000
Victims Support’s Young Witness Service	£7,500
Vehicle Nuisance at Junction 27 – Preparing for injunctive action	£3,500
Gating Orders contingency	£2,000
“In our Hands” (Holocaust education)	£15,000
“I Pledge to Keep on Track” (Youth Crime Prevention Programme)	£25,000
Contribution to Crime-stoppers Cannabis Awareness campaign	£2,000
Rural Crime project	£3,300
Equalities Work (expansion of Show Racism the Red Card etc)	£6,000
Fly Grazing	£1,500
Domestic Homicide Reviews	£5,000
National Scams Hub List: Joint work with Nottinghamshire Police	£20,000
Promoting Community Cohesion	£7,000
Bicycle Safety Project	£3,000
<b>Remaining balance for other initiatives</b>	<b>£21,579</b>

## Mobility Scooters- Safety Training

- 4 In line with the rest of the U.K., there has been a continued increase in the number of mobility scooters used by members of the public within our communities. Whilst no accurate numbers are recorded it is acknowledged that these scooters provide many individuals with an opportunity to remain active and involved in the life of their communities and to remain independent in their day to day lives. As such they are recognised as a very beneficial mobility aid. However, they are also relatively powerful and heavy items of machinery in use in otherwise pedestrian areas. Recorded mobility scooter casualties in the County between 2011 and 2013 were:

- serious casualties: 3
- slight casualties: 6
- pedestrian casualties: 6 (in collision with a mobility scooter)

(Source: Notts Police)

- 5 As part of the promotion of safer and stronger communities in the County, the Council has always recognised the key links to road safety with an essential element of this being the education and awareness raising of vehicle users. With the increase in the numbers of mobility scooter users, it has become increasingly important that anyone purchasing a mobility scooter be offered some training to ensure that they can maintain competent control. At the moment there are only very limited statutory controls over the required training any individual should receive once they have obtained a mobility scooter. In a review of mobility scooters undertaken in 2010 by the Government it was concluded that “training on the use of mobility scooters should remain voluntary”.
- 6 In Nottinghamshire, only limited training in the use of mobility scooters is currently available. Reputable suppliers will provide some immediate training in the use of the mobility scooter at the point of purchase, and the Disabilities Living Centre, Nottingham, (DLC), currently offers “one to one” awareness training sessions, when requested by individuals. The DLC acknowledge that due to costing and resource constraints they are only able to offer a very limited service of approximately 50, “one to one” sessions per annum, the majority of which are referrals from persons living within the City.
- 7 In order to increase training and awareness in the safe use of mobility scooters in the County it is proposed that £3,000 be allocated from the initiatives element of the Community Safety Budget, 2014/2015, to enable the DLC to expand and broaden the mobility scooter training they offer. Specifically the funding would allow the DLC to offer training that is:
- well-advertised throughout the County
  - offered at accessible community hub type locations within the County
  - undertaken on a group basis (one to one sessions available when required)
  - focussed on safe usage, maintenance advice, storage, power charging, reputable dealers and repairers.
- 8 Sessions have been costed at approximately £500 each, and each session could accommodate up to 20 participants (depending on the constraints of the venue).

- 9 Future developments would include scoping the feasibility of offering incentives to undergo this type of training. This would include, work with insurance companies and shop mobility schemes to encourage them to consider preferential rates/schemes for those people who can evidence that they have received the training. Work will also be undertaken to link this work to the appropriate areas of the health agenda.

### **Other Options Considered**

- 10 This type of training could be undertaken by a private company. However, costs of this option would be prohibitive. The training proposed will be evaluated after 6 and 12 months to gauge user satisfaction, together with any issues from the provider perspective and to ascertain the feasibility of continuing this type of training within the County.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

- 11 This proposed training is a direct response to the increased numbers of mobility scooters in use in Nottinghamshire. Whilst it will focus on some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, the safer use of mobility scooters will help to promote the sense of safer communities generally within the County

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

- 12 This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Comments**

- 13 The financial implications are set out in the report and the £3,000 request can be met from the remaining budget.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) It is recommended that Members approve the proposed contribution of £3,000 from the Initiatives element of the Community Safety Budget for 2014/2015 to support the provision of increased training and awareness in the use of mobility scooters.

**PAUL MCKAY**

**Service Director Access and Public Protection**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Sarah Houlton, Team Manager Trading Standards & Community Safety x 72460 or Anthony Shardlow, Community Safety Officer x 73846

**Constitutional Comments (LM01/12/14)**

14 The Community Safety Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

**Financial Comments (KAS 04/12/14)**

16 The financial implications are contained within paragraph 13 of the report.

**Background Papers**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All.