

AGENDA ITEM 10.



Committee:	Strategic Growth Partnership
Date:	24 May 2018
Agenda Item:	Building Confidence in the Rule of Law & Embedding a Culture of Lawfulness
Officer presenting:	Strategic Business Manager

1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on funding received from the Department for Communities to facilitate the identification of actions/activity within Community Plans that will contribute towards building community confidence in the rule of law and help embed a culture of lawfulness.

2 Background

- 2.1 The NI Executive under the Programme for Tackling Paramilitary Activity Criminality and Organised Crime established an independent Panel to make recommendations towards the disbandment of paramilitary groups. The Panel identified that 'lack of confidence in the rule of law' was identified during consultations as a key barrier towards progressing the disbandment of these groups, and that cultural issues towards reporting to the police make delivery of successful criminal justice outcomes more difficult.
- 2.2 They note that respect for the rule of law implies an individual responsibility to report criminality and to support the justice system to tackle it – and that it will take time to change a prevailing culture, but that strong political and community leadership will be needed to promoting a "culture of lawfulness". They also noted that promoting lawfulness has the most change of success when it is something that takes place across all sectors of society, and is led by figures across all sectors.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Department for Communities (DfC) have been assigned the role, as part of the Fresh Start Agreement, to ensure that Community Plans include a focus on building community confidence in the rule of law and embedding a culture of lawfulness. In January '18 DfC provided Council Chief Executives with a proposal on how to address this commitment.
- 3.2 The proposal is that each Community Planning Partnership (CPP) will decide the most appropriate method to incorporate the concept of embedding lawfulness within their community plan. It has been agreed that Partnerships will utilise the attached Framework for Promoting a Culture of Lawfulness document (Appendix I) in any proposals.
- 3.3 The Department has secured £10k funding to help facilitate these discussions. This funding has been divided between the 11 Council Areas/Community Planning Partnerships with each receiving £907. The purpose of funding is to facilitate local engagement aimed at building community confidence in the rule of law and further embedding a culture of lawfulness.
- 3.4 The Partnership are advised that in order to progress this, officers have been engaging with the district Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Manager to consider how best to develop this engagement. Another option under consideration is a collaborative approach with other neighbouring CPPs and PCSPs.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Partnership note the content of this report and the approach being undertaken with our PCSP in the identification of actions/activity within Community Plans that will contribute towards building community confidence in the rule of law and help embed a culture of lawfulness.

Background Papers

Appendix I - Framework for Promoting a Culture of Lawfulness