

## For publication

### Safer Streets Fund application

<b>Meeting:</b>	CCO Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Health and Wellbeing
<b>Directorate:</b>	Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing

**1.0 Reason for inclusion on the work programme – *to provide an update of the Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership Safer Streets Grant Fund application and outcome, the approach used to access funding and expected impact.***

- 1.1 Chesterfield Borough Council has developed an effective Community Safety Partnership (which includes for example, Chesterfield Borough Council representatives, Derbyshire County Council, Police, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue, Health, Probation Service etc.)
- 1.2 The role of the partnership is to coordinate delivery of appropriate actions that will support the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour in Chesterfield and contribute to the overall safety of Chesterfield residents, visitors and businesses.
- 1.3 Given this core function and the strong role that community safety plays across the council plan in terms of a great place to live, work and visit; improving the quality of life for local people and providing value for money services the opportunity to bid for Safer Streets funding was an important part of seeking to further improve our approach to community safety.
- 1.4 The Safer Streets Fund is a Home Office Fund worth £20m in 2021/22. The Safer Streets Fund will provide funding to hotspot areas within England and Wales that are disproportionately affected by neighbourhood and acquisitive crime and will as a result invest in evidence-based situational interventions.

- 1.5 The aims of the fund are to reduce neighbourhood crime (burglary, vehicle-related theft, theft from the person, robbery) and wider acquisitive crimes in areas that receive funding, therefore making local areas safer and reducing demand on the police, enabling them to focus on higher-harm crimes.
- 1.6 The fund aims to continue to build evidence about the impact of targeted investment in situational prevention in higher-crime areas to strengthen the case for future investment, both at a local and national level.
- 1.7 Through targeted investment the fund is seeking to enable to grow local capability to undertake data-driven problem solving and to capture evidence and practical learning about how best to implement situational interventions to prevent crime.
- 1.8 The fund specifically required the Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership through the design of the bid to take a problem-solving approach, identifying interventions that fit the specific issues of the local area and those with a strong (quantitative) evidence base.
- 1.9 The Chesterfield Safer Streets grant fund application was informed by the toolkit of interventions as outlined by the Policing College and local input through the Community Safety Partnership.

## **2.0 Summary**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership Safer Streets Fund round 2 application process and the subsequent outcome of the application.

## **3.0 Report details**

- 3.1 A review was undertaken regarding the criteria for an application to the Safer Streets Fund 2021/22 round 2 for the Chesterfield Community Safety partnership.
- 3.2 The review was data driven and informed by Derbyshire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner's office.
- 3.3 The outcome of this review identified that an application would be appropriate to this fund targeting acquisitive and neighbourhood crime

within Chesterfield Town Centre and specific residential locations in the Boythorpe area.

- 3.4 A requirement of the application to the Safer Streets Fund was that it was through the relevant Police and Crime Commissioners Office (PCC) rather than a direct application from Chesterfield Borough Council. In light of this the application was a two-stage process through the Derbyshire PCC`s office.
- 3.5 Stage one was an expression of interest application outlining the core principles / concepts for the project. Only applications that were approved at stage one were able to be developed through to stage two.
- 3.6 Stage two required the development of a full application for review by the PCC due to the fact that only three applications from each PCC to this fund were permitted by the Home Office; they were to be identified as, primary application, secondary application and tertiary application.
- 3.7 Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership was successful in progressing through both stages and was allocated primary application status.
- 3.8 Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership received confirmation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 that the application had been successful.
- 3.9 The funding confirmation letter noted

“We were impressed this bid effectively demonstrated the analysis and drivers of the problem/s in your chosen area and identified a suitable response to tackling the issues, deliverable within the 2021/22 financial year.

Due to the quality and volume of bids we received...all grant funding was exhausted following assessment of primary and secondary bids. All funds have therefore been awarded to successful primary bids and only the highest scoring secondary bids, meaning no tertiary bids were eligible for assessment or funding.”

- 3.10 This is positive for the partnership as the application received the full request of £432,000 which will be used as outlined below
  - **CCTV** to include both an upgrade to existing CCTV sites within the area defined by the funding application, which form the core of the

network and provide coverage of the main streets frequented by offenders throughout the bid area and a series of additional new cameras which will have 360 degree movement capability and much better night vision capability which will increase the coverage substantially on these key movement routes within the bid area. The new CCTV camera sites are located following insight from the Police in terms of key locations to support the prevention and detection of crime which are not currently covered by the existing CCTV network. These new cameras will act as a deterrent to offenders and will provide evidence and intelligence to the police which will positively impact on the Neighbourhood crime rates within the bid area.

- Two additional **Automatic Number Plate Recognition Cameras** Which will be strategically located based on insight from the police regarding locations that are used by acquisitive crime offenders and County Lines suspects. The installation of these will also help to detect Illegal traffic/drivers.
- **Target hardening** to residential properties in the LSOA (specific residential locations within the Boythorpe area.) This element of the project will be delivered through our Housing Service to improve / upgrade security to vulnerable residents in this location.
- **Alleygating** – the installation of measures to limit access to certain hotspot areas where no CCTV is available or no natural surveillance. The outcome from this work will be to prevent retail / residential burglary, littering or fly tipping, drug dealing and rough sleeping.
- **Bike parking security** – installation of two new additional secure bike parking facilities in two town centre car park locations. This project seeks to prevent the theft of bikes for people visiting or working in Chesterfield. It will enable visitors to the area who chose to travel by bicycle the ability to secure their bike in an area covered by CCTV. This is important given the sustainable transport agenda for the Borough as we progress actions relating to reducing carbon emissions.
- **Enhanced street lighting**, extra street lighting in key locations within the area defined by the funding application to help reduce the fear of crime in addition to minimising the risk of crime.

- **Business Crime reduction Partnership** – digital radios, the funding allocated to this will help support this scheme which aims to tackle issues such as shoplifting within the town centre. This programme is managed by the Chamber of Commerce and will see the current analogue radios replaced by digital ones.
- Linked to this will be enhanced work related to preventing Shoplifting from the offender's perspective. This will include, identifying perpetrators by working better with **Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme**. To include working with Buddy scheme to prevent shoplifting re-offending managed by IOM team.
- Finally, underpinning all the above will be a programme of **engagement activity** to provide the public with personal safety awareness and equipment to address robbery and theft from person offences which are present within the area defined by the funding application. These engagement events are vital to promote safety advice to the public.

3.11 Following confirmation of the funding, members of the delivery team for this project are currently working with colleagues and partners to progress the formal acceptance and terms and conditions associated with the funding, in addition to the areas outlined above.

#### **4.0 Potential barriers**

- 4.1 The application was submitted with input, insight and support from partners so the barriers for successful delivery relate primarily around the timescale.
- 4.2 The funding conditions require that the grant needs to be allocated and spent by 31/03/2022. Whilst at present this is considered to be fully achievable for all the areas outlined above, this deadline may be challenging if the partnership identifies specific procurement risks or delivery challenges which are reliant on third parties.
- 4.3 Initial scoping and risk management work has not identified any significant risks to project deliverability at this stage, however the project team will continually monitor the risks and take suitable and proportionate action as required.

## **5.0 Future plans and areas for further scrutiny involvement**

- 5.1 The Community Safety Partnership is confident that this is a deliverable scheme but also one that will have a real and lasting impact on the prevention and detection of crime across Chesterfield Town Centre.
- 5.2 Whilst it is not felt that further scrutiny involvement is required at this time in relation to the deliverability of this project, a future report to scrutiny that confirms the completion of the project would be appropriate.
- 5.3 The impact from this work will be captured through the regular reporting framework for scrutiny on the Community Safety Partnership Plan.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration**

- 6.1 Council Plan - The Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership Safer Streets application actively supports thriving borough and improving the quality of life by helping to tackle crime and the fear of crime particularly for those who are most vulnerable.
- 6.2 Community Wellbeing - having in place interventions such as those outlined above provides the Police and Council enforcement teams with the necessary insight and intelligence to positively tackle issues and positively impact on the experience of residents and visitors to the town centre and as a result will help in reducing the fear of crime.
- 6.3 Through collaboration with partners the funding will further support positive engagement with those most vulnerable and for example at risk of homelessness and drug abuse and as a result, can where the individual is willing to engage, help improve their wellbeing.
- 6.4 Equality and Diversity – the Community Safety Partnership operates in such a way to avoid targeting any specific group or type of individuals and only targets the behaviours that cause nuisance, alarm, harassment, or distress to others. However, it is inevitable that some groups may be more impacted by the controls that the partnership undertake through this grant funding due to their behaviours, but this will always be proportionate to the issue.

## Document information

<b>Report author</b>	
Ian Waller – Service Director, Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing	
<b>Background documents</b>	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
N/A	
<i>This must be made available to the public for up to 4 years.</i>	
<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix 1	N/A
Appendix 2	N/A