

For publication

Safer streets initiative - benefits and efficiencies

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	13 December 2022
Cabinet portfolio:	Health and Wellbeing Town Centres and Visitor Economy
Directorate:	Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing
For publication	

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an overview of the Safer Streets initiative, including the range of initiatives and investment improvements that have been delivered as part of the grant allocation. This covers a range of initiatives within the community safety partnership strategy.
- 1.2 The report also seeks to give authorisation to the service director, in consultation with relevant cabinet members, to make changes in operational arrangements, to maximise the benefits and service efficiency opportunities, that can be made as a result of the investment from the safer streets initiative, including the ability to react swiftly to changing operational demands.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the successful implementation of the Safer Streets project across the borough and the benefits realisation of that investment for the community.
- 2.2 To authorise the Service Director - Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Health and Wellbeing and Town Centres and Visitor Economy, to make changes in operational arrangements, to maximise the benefits and service efficiency opportunities, that can be made as a result of the initiatives and investment delivered through the safer streets initiative.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

- 3.1 To recognise the benefits of the investment associated with the safer streets grant funded project.

3.2 By authorising changes to operational arrangements that can be made as a result of the investment from the safer streets initiatives, this will enable the service director to maximise the benefits and efficiencies of the safer streets investment, including having the ability to react swiftly to changing operational demands.

4.0 Report details

Background

4.1 The Council was successful in its bid for funding from the Safer Streets – Round 2 initiative. The purpose of the initiative is:

- to reduce acquisitive crime in the Recipient's area – making residents safer and removing demand from the system to enable police to focus on more complex crimes;
- to build evidence about the impact of targeted investment in situational prevention in high crime areas to strengthen the case for future investment, both at a local and national level; and
- to grow local capability to undertake data driven problem solving and capture evidence and practical learning about how best to implement situational interventions to prevent crime.

4.2 The grant enabled in excess of £350,000 worth of investment into Chesterfield across a range of community safety initiatives including capital investment in closed circuit television improvements and a range of safety equipment in the financial year 2021/22.

4.3 The grant was awarded based on the development of a local crime prevention plan developed collaboratively with the Police, with the outcome of reducing acquisitive crimes through situational prevention.

4.4 Key initiatives resulting from this investment included:

- CCTV – system upgrade and coverage extension through a major programme of camera installations totalling an additional 80 CCTV cameras
- ANPR Cameras - Horns Bridge Round about and West Bars Round about to support vehicle tracking
- Target Hardening - to residential properties in the identified LSOA to help in the prevention of crime. This area being LSOA E01033388 Queens Park and Baden Powel Road.
- Alleygating - hotspot locations to prevent unauthorised access
- Personal safety engagement events and promotion with partners
- Work to prevent shoplifting through partnership work with the Business Crime Reduction partnership including enhanced airwave radios.

Progress against the delivery plan and service improvements

- 4.5 Grant funding of £355,556 has been spent with a significant proportion of this on the upgrade and extension of the network of CCTV cameras across Chesterfield town centre.
- 4.6 Many of the engagement-based initiatives, referenced above as part of this programme, helped to provide primary insight to inform the recent Cabinet approved Anti-social behaviour strategy, that is being presented for approval to Full Council on 14 December 2022.
- 4.7 A requirement of the investment received from the Home Office for the interventions outlined above, was that it needed to be spent and accounted for within the financial year of the award. This presented a real operational challenge to the services involved as the final approved grant award was not received until late July 2021.
- 4.8 Through effective partnership working and a collaborative approach across the community safety partnership it is pleasing to note that all the initiatives outlined above have been delivered in full and as a result have and will continue to positively impact on community safety within the areas of Queens Park and Chesterfield Town Centre.
- 4.9 Table 1 below outlines the key areas of ASB recorded in Chesterfield Town Centre for the last twelve months compared to 2019/20. A reduction of 15.2% across all incidents is a noticeable improvement for which the CCTV network plays a key role in informing interventions as it does in the support of tackling shoplifting which during the last 12 months has been an 18.5% reduction.

Table 1 Key areas of ASB recorded crimes

ASB (excl Covid reports)	2019-2020	Latest 12 months	Volume Change	% Change
Environmental Incidents	3	2	-1	-33.3%
Nuisance Incidents	386	356	-30	-7.8%
Personal Incidents	92	50	-42	-45.7%
All Incidents	481	408	-73	-15.2%
Environmental ROCs	3	1	-2	-66.7%
Nuisance ROCs	45	35	-10	-22.2%
Personal ROCs	9	4	-5	-55.6%
All ROCs	57	40	-17	-29.8%

ASB Incident – These are calls for service where the call centre operator has risk assessed the call and made the decision to deploy an officer. Despatchers then assign an officer to make further enquiries.

ASB Record of Contact (ROC) – These are calls for service that do not need a Police resource allocating and are instead dealt with entirely by the call handler and graded as a 'managed contact'. For example, they may include ASB incidents such as noise complaints, abandoned vehicles and some vehicle parking issues where the caller is advised to contact their local Council. Other calls may include incidents which do not need an immediate response as they may have occurred earlier and they can be logged and dealt with by a telephone resolution.

Areas for operational efficiency

- 4.10 The investment provided a catalyst for enhanced collaborative working across a range of partners through the Community Safety Partnership. This approach has continued and the strength of support for the recent cabinet approved anti-social behaviour strategy reinforces the strength of the partnership and the commitment to enhance and improve wellbeing for our communities.
- 4.11 Areas of operational efficiency have been identified and developed which will be captured and realised through partnership working across multiple agencies.
- 4.12 Partnership working has seen significant enhancements which are reflected in the development of a weekly tasking meeting that is a multi-agency forum

that brings together a full range of regulatory and statutory partners together to review emerging issues and discuss live / active case investigations.

- 4.13 This multi-agency forum, has enabled intervention as part of the safer street's initiative around `target hardening` to be undertaken.
- 4.14 The replacement and expansion of the CCTV camera coverage across Chesterfield town centre has significantly increase the potential to improve safety and security of our community. The significant uplift in the number and quality of the cameras and their positioning provides a level of coverage never seen before in the Town Centre.
- 4.15 The other key improvement with the CCTV system is the improved technology, both the cameras themselves and the digital methods that the data is stored and ultimately accessed, whilst maintaining the highest levels of security controls. This major development of the technological infrastructure that we are now using will enable the service the opportunity to review operational arrangements regarding monitoring and management of the data, and the ability to more readily share required footage with the Police. The improved data capture and management arrangements mean that there will be more opportunity to deploy staff resources and equipment at priority activities in a flexible manner, than is currently the case.
- 4.16 Over recent years the live monitoring of CCTV cameras has provided between 16 and 24 hours per day coverage across the week, equating to 136 hours per week. As the investment of the additional cameras was being delivered during 2021/ 2022, a number of staffing changes and vacancies arose within the service. This provided the opportunity to carry out trials to consider whether the live monitoring of the camera network could be effectively carried out with less live hours of CCTV monitoring.
- 4.17 The trial focussed on delivering 116 hours of live monitoring per week. As the crime statistics show for the last 12 months, ASB incidents have reduced, and this has given confidence to appropriateness of the reductions in the hours of live monitoring. Without reducing our ability to tackle crime and ASB, an equivalent annual saving of £55,000 has been identified, largely through taking advantage of natural staff reductions and not filling vacancies.
- 4.18 Cabinet will be aware that this was a project that was identified as part of the Organisational Development programme, approved in April 2022. At that time indicative savings were identified, estimated at £71,000 in 2022/23 and £85,000 from 2023/24 onwards. To date, a saving of £41,000 is forecast for 2022/23 with a full year saving of £55,000 from 2023/24. As changes in operational arrangements are identified and implemented across the borough, there is an ambition to continue to drive out further savings, aimed at reaching the target set out in the OD programme.

4.19 In order to implement any changes and efficiencies swiftly and in response to emerging situations, it is recommended to Cabinet that authorisation is given to the Service Director - Leisure, culture and community wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Health and Wellbeing and Town Centres and Visitor Economy, to make changes in operational arrangements, to maximise the benefits and service efficiency opportunities, that can be made as a result of the initiatives and investment delivered through the safer streets initiative.

5.0 Alternative options

5.1 The service could continue with historical and outdated systems and processes, but this would not take advantage of the digital improvements of the CCTV cameras achieved through the Safer streets funding and the multi-agency tasking approach that is now a weekly feature of the Community Safety Partnerships preferred way of working, which together help to realise enhanced approaches to the prevention and detection of crime.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

6.1 The Organisational Development programme identified potential savings as a result of efficiencies from the implementation of the safer streets initiative. The indicative savings identified were £71,000 in 2022/23 and £85,000 from 2023/24 onwards. To date in-year savings of £41,000 have been identified, which will lead to ongoing annual savings of £55,000.

6.2 It is recognised that the service will continue to strive to identify further efficiencies as a result of the safer streets initiative. As the changes in operational arrangements are identified and implemented, they will be incorporated into the medium-term financial plan.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

7.1 The enhanced approaches that the Safer Streets funding has enabled embraces and incorporates current national legislation relating to anti-social behaviour crime and disorder including the overarching principles of being victim focused, prevention, early intervention, and proportional enforcement.

7.2 Specifically in relation to the enhanced CCTV provision this further ensures compliance in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR), Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), Human Rights Act (1998) and the Councils own CCTV Code of Practice.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

8.1 If there are implications for staff arising from new ways of working as a result of the collaborative and technological improvements that the Safer Streets

fund has enabled, then these will be managed appropriately using the councils existing HR policies.

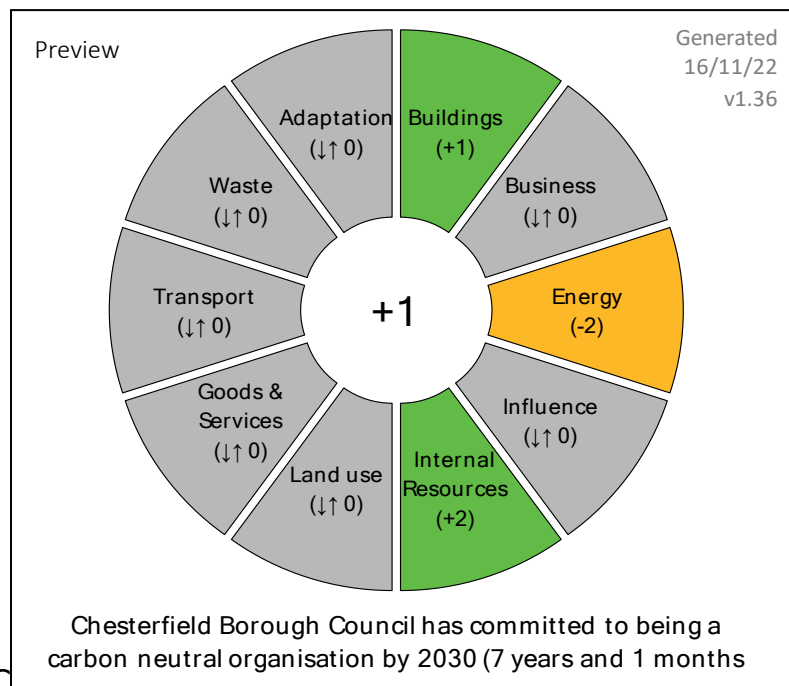
9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan

9.1 The Safer Streets funding will positively contribute to the council plan, particularly in regard to ensuring Chesterfield is a great place to live, work and visit. The funding and the changes that this has enabled will support all stakeholders, both internal and external partners, to share information, identify emerging issues, and work together to prevent issues escalating but also intervene early and positively.

9.2 Reducing crime and the fear of crime is a key priority for the Council and supports the main priorities to have a thriving borough and improving the quality of life for communities. It is believed that the new way of working that will be achieved as a result of the Safer Streets funding will actively contribute to reducing levels of crime and criminality and positively contribute to the environment and wellbeing of our communities across Chesterfield. In addition, the ways of working referenced within this report will support enhancing community safety as an integrated, coordinated, multi-agency approach to further develop trust and confidence within our communities.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

10.1



10.2 A copy of the impact assessment is in consultation with the Chesterfield Borough Council Climate Change officer and a copy of the impact assessment can be viewed at Appendix 1.

11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

11.1 A preliminary equality impact assessment has been undertaken and as a result of this it has been identified that there is no disproportionate impact for protected groups. The nature of the interventions that have been captured as a result of this funding affords support and help for all sectors of our community.

12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

12.1 The main risks associated with the benefits realisation programme resulting from the Safer Streets funding award are shown below:

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Collaborative working ceases across the community safety partnership	High	Med	There is an effective and strong working relationship across all partners that is reflected in the commitment to new ways of working including weekly operational tasking meetings. This approach is managed collaboratively by The Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services and the Head of Housing Management & Careline In addition partners have agreed to a set of common principles that ensures their work is aligned to that of other key strategic partnerships in Chesterfield.	High	Low
Insufficient resources available to continue to deliver the benefits realisation from the Safer Streets grant funding.	High	Med	The Council will continue to maximise its use of internal resource and will compliment this by continuing	High	Low

			<p>its successful approach of attracting external funding, in parallel with council funding sources.</p> <p>Additionally, the Council will work with partners to coordinate and target resources to address emerging issues therefore enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of resource deployment.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--	--

Decision information

Key decision number	1107
Wards affected	All wards

Document information

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