

## CABINET

<b>DATE</b>	07/04/2021
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Councillor Shepherd, Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Lisa Arthey, Director of Children's Services
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Home Office Safer Streets Fund Application
<b>STATUS</b>	Open
<b>FORWARD PLAN REF NO.</b>	SPECIAL URGENCY - Not included on the Forward Plan and to be considered under Special Urgency provisions of the Constitution with the permission of the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Communities Scrutiny Panel

### CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The recommendations within this report contribute to the strategic priorities of the Council to promote a Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities and is directly linked to the Outcomes Framework namely that people in North East Lincolnshire:

- **Feel Safe and are Safe** – Assisting in the prevention, detection and prosecution of crime, environmental crime, and anti-social behaviour. Improving the public's perception that public spaces and residential areas are a safe place to visit by reducing the fear of crime and improving environmental aesthetics.
- **Enjoy good health & well-being** – Community Safety programmes, led by *Design Out of Crime* assessments has a proven track record to actively tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, strengthening communities and their quality of life thereby improving and promoting a sense of positive health & well-being.
- **Benefit from Sustainable Communities** – Ensuring we maximise opportunities to have safe and sustainable communities which local people can be proud of.
- **Enjoy and benefit from a strong economy** – Improved confidence generates improvements to an area, safe environments and quality of place encouraging investment, bringing prosperity and job

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2021, the Home Office released the Safer Streets 2 fund. This is a £20 million national initiative to improve community safety through the reduction of neighbourhood crime. The bids were broken down into Police Force areas and developed through the regional Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). The crime classifications were identified as Robbery, Burglary, Theft and Motor Vehicle crime.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. approves the submission of the North East Lincolnshire Safer Streets 2 funding application and (if awarded) the receipt of £431,000 funding.
2. Delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities to implement such funding

in compliance with the terms of the grant, directed to the West Marsh ward of the borough, accepting that such investment may have a wider impact.

3. Authorises the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities to deal with any ancillary matter arising.
4. Authorises the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets to execute documentation arising.

## **REASONS FOR DECISION**

The funding available of £431,000 requires a key decision from Cabinet as it is over the threshold of £350,000.

### **1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES**

- 1.1 In February 2021, the OPCC wrote to all Chief Executive Officers in the Humber region informing them of the Home Office Safer Streets fund round 2 requesting appetite to work together on a local proposal.
- 1.2 Following a meeting hosted by the OPCC in late February 2021 involving all local authority nominated leads, following application of the criteria it was identified that an area within the West Marsh ward was the best fit to this criteria and therefore be developed as a funding application. This area was chosen in order to be compliant with Home Office eligibility criteria in relation to specific levels of crime data within a small geographical area.
- 1.3 It is important to point out that this application process had a very short 3-week timeline from initial discussion to submission of application on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- 1.4 Following Home Office eligibility guidance, an Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) was completed which identified the focus area to be a block of housing within the boundaries of Earl Street, Cromwell Road, Lord Street and Boulevard. This a single Lower Super Output Area of approximately 1500 houses of which 350 properties will be targeted.
- 1.5 The Audit report identified a high number of repeat victims within the area and fears and concerns relating to acquisitive crime and associated misuse of drugs. The report also highlighted that the area had relatively poor housing quality, a lack of preventative security measures, such as CCTV and residential target hardening. It also identified that alleyways were not secure, leaving houses vulnerable to fly tipping and acquisitive crime.
- 1.6 A local Task and Finish group was established involving senior managers who then developed a suitable approach. This approach forms the basis of the programme delivery model attached to the budget toolkit, detailing programme delivery.
- 1.7 The Council proposal is split in 3 separate sections.
  - **Community involvement** - through the development of local community champions, under the umbrella of Neighbourhood Networking and the development of a community chest for both crime prevention and environmental aesthetics. This process will offer the project long term

sustainability, as the funding will offer set up costs and training. The community process will make environmental improvements to increase community pride in the area.

- **Target Hardening** - for all houses within the geographical area and the attached alleyways. This will include a full assessment of the homes and alleyways and improvements made through Secure by Design (SBD), a Home Office approved process of community safety. This will include DNA smart water kits to mark property and valuables for all homes. Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras being installed on the outskirts of the ward to deter organised crime. Rapid Deployment Cameras (RDCs) and Dome Hawk CCTV to be installed in the wider area including parks and open spaces. Improved Street lighting in targeted areas.
- **Focused Operations by Humberside Police** on wanted offenders in the area with additional warrants issued to reduce issues of drug offending, such as possession and supply.

1.8 The North East Lincolnshire bid is the primary and only bid of the OPCC for Humberside.

1.9 The programme will be led by a Task and Finish group containing senior managers from all organisations and internal departments with a vested interest in this programme and independently chaired by the OPCC.

1.10 The £431,000 funding is broken down into 93% capital expenditure with supporting revenue costs being capped at 7%.

1.11 North East Lincolnshire will be responsible for the budget monitoring of the fund and will develop all aspects through support from finance, procurement, People & Culture and the Councils Strategic Support resource.

## **2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

2.1 There are minimal risks attached to the development of this programme which will be mitigated by the programme being overseen by a strategic manager within Community Safety, a project coordinator and a senior manager task and finish group containing all relevant key stakeholders.

2.2 The opportunities are clear, in respect to making the area safer and the residents less likely to be a victim of crime, with the major performance measures being reductions in crime and an increase in the % of people feeling safe within their own communities.

2.3 There will be lessons learnt from this crime prevention pilot that can be cascaded across all wards of North East Lincolnshire post programme.

2.4 Due to the focus on creating safer communities through crime prevention and targeting known offenders there will be less opportunity for organised crime groups to operate within the area, this also enhanced using the ANPR and RDC cameras. This will in turn reduce the risk of drug offending making it a safer environment for our children to grow and flourish and be less at risk of

being entrenched in county lines.

### **3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 The option for the Council programme delivery, described above, was directed by the Humberside Police Environmental Visual Audit. The area of focus was determined by the crime data and the classifications of crime were a requisite of the funding application from the Home Office.

### **4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 There are potential positive reputational implications for the Council resulting from the decision, this due to amount of funding being directed into the borough focusing on neighbourhood crime and community safety, ultimately with the intention of ensuring people feel and are safe within their own communities.
- 4.2 A programme action plan will be developed to ensure outcomes are achieved within provided timescales. This will include a joint communications plan ensuring that messages around the development and delivery of the programme are disseminated especially to the community directly involved. There are no known statutory communication requirements involved in the delivery of this programme.
- 4.3 Consultation will be developed with the community involved, this where the encouragement of community networks will be formed and driven to ensure long term sustainability.

### **5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 The programme of crime prevention will be funded through the Safer Streets fund to the value of £431,000.00. This as previously stated is 93% capital investment, with only 7% being allowed for revenue / support costs. The funding will be provided to NELC via a grant agreement with the OPCC for Humberside and will be provided quarterly in arrears. This will sit in a stand-alone budget within Safer & Partnerships and managed through normal budget monitoring processes.
- 5.2 There is an expectation of 20% match funding, this has been shown within the budget toolkit for the Home Office as revenue contribution across the partners in strategically managing and driving the programme.
- 5.3 There is no further proposed income generation from this programme, it is stand alone, supported 100% in relation to cash by the Home Office. The programme offers value for money in the reduced costs of crime apportioned to reduced victimisation of serious acquisitive crime and improved quality of life for the residents and the community by improvements in such as aspects to street lighting, street cleaning and preventative measures such as CCTV.

### **6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The recommended option has implications for waste management by the expected reduction in fly tipping and supports the Councils Green Space

Strategy by ensuring our parks and public spaces are monitored and well cared for.

## **7. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY**

- 7.1 Due to the quick turnaround from notification to submission of the application, it has not been possible to formally consult with the Communities Scrutiny Panel, however a briefing note will be prepared that will be circulated to members.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no additional budget requirements arising from the application and, if successful, the programme of crime prevention will be funded through the Home Office's Safer Streets fund. Whilst there is an expectation of 20% match funding, this revenue contribution will be provided by the partner organisations through the strategically management and delivery of the programme. It is anticipated that the Council will be the accountable body.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Legal Service colleagues are available to advise on and support the completion and signature of the funding contract and ensure that risk to the Council is fully understood and mitigated through appropriate governance.
- 9.2 The delegations sought are consistent with an exercise of this nature.

## **10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no direct HR implications

## **11. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Due to the strict eligibility criteria set out by the Home Office, this programme will focus on a specific area of the West Marsh ward as detailed in the report.

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1 Home Office Safer Streets Prospectus [safer streets prospectus \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

## **13. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

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