

## CABINET

DATE	20/07/2022
REPORT OF	Councillor Ron Shepherd, Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Joanne Hewson, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for People, Health and Care
SUBJECT	Home Office Safer Streets 4 Funding Application
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 07/22/02

### 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

The Home Office Safer Streets 4 fund is a national initiative available for interventions aimed at tackling neighbourhood crime, anti-social behaviour and violence to improve the safety of public spaces. The local application centres around the East Marsh ward, with the submission coordinated via the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and delivered utilising Local Authority resources within the Safer & Partnerships area of Children Services.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approves the submission of the North East Lincolnshire Safer Streets 4 funding application and (if awarded) the receipt of £750,000 funding over an 18 month delivery period.

2. Delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for People, Health and Care 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 East Marsh ward of the borough, accepting that such investment may have a wider impact.
3. Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for People, Health and Care 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 (Monitoring Officer) to execute documentation arising.

## **REASONS FOR DECISION**

If successful, the award of funding will enable the Council, working in partnership, to shape an appropriate response to the types of crime and behaviour the funding seeks to reduce. Although the funding (by virtue of the Home Office criteria) will be directed within the area of one ward it is reasonably anticipated that the impact of the funding and initiatives that will permit will be felt across a wider area.

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

- 1.1 In March 2022 the Home Office launched the Safer Streets 4 fund with criteria that applications be coordinated and approved via local Police & Crime Commissioners ahead of submission.
- 1.2 Following discussions with the OPCC, it was identified that an area within the East Marsh ward was the best fit and therefore be developed as a Safer Streets 4 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 timeline from initial discussion to submission of application in May 2022.
- 1.4 Following Home Office eligibility guidance, an Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) was completed by Humberside Police Design Out Crime Officers (DOCO) with a specific focus on tackling neighbourhood crime which includes Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) including domestic burglary, robbery, theft and vehicle crime, in addition to anti-social behaviour, violence and drug related crime.
- 1.5 A subsequent funding application was developed to maximise opportunities to reduce neighbourhood crime which includes a range of measures as set out below.
- 1.6 The proposal is split into 3 sections.
  - **Community involvement** - through the development of local community champions, under the umbrella of Neighbourhood Networking and the development of a "Community Chest" enabling local groups to apply for small amounts of funding for both crime prevention and environmental aesthetics. This process will offer the project long term sustainability, as the funding will also offer set up costs and training for local groups. The community process will make environmental improvements to increase

community pride in the area.

- **Target Hardening** - for all houses and attached alleyways within the identified geographical area to be considered for target hardening if consent is gained from the occupier. 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 property marking kits to identify valuables. Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras will be installed on the outskirts of the ward to deter organised crime. Rapid Deployment Cameras (RDCs) and Dome Hawk CCTV will be installed in the wider area including parks and open spaces. Improved Street lighting will also be considered 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.

- 1.7 The North East Lincolnshire bid is the primary and only bid of the OPCC for Humberside.
- 1.8 The programme will be led by a Task and Finish Group containing senior managers from partner organisations and Council departments with a vested interest in the programme, chaired independently via the OPCC.
- 1.9 North East Lincolnshire will be responsible for the budget monitoring of the fund and will develop all aspects of the project with 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 Task and Finish group containing all relevant key stakeholders as mentioned above. The delivery model will be driven by an Operational Group chaired by the project coordinator.
- 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 percentage 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 is also enhanced by 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 county lines influences.

- 2.5 In terms of wider assurance, the application has been through the Council's Business Development Group and Assistant Directors Group for sign off.

### **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 due to amount of funding being directed into the borough focusing on neighbourhood crime and community safety. Ultimately the project aims to make people feel safer 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 communities directly involved. There are no known statutory communication requirements involved in the delivery of this programme.
- 4.3 Consultation will be developed with the communities involved to encourage participation and the development of the community networks to ensure a long-term legacy of community involvement.

### **5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 If the application is successful, the programme will be funded to the value of £750,000. The funding will be provided to NELC via a grant agreement with the OPCC for Humberside in one payment upon receipt from the Home Office. 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 50% 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 funded 100% 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 to street lighting, street cleaning and preventative measures such as CCTV.

### **6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The funded activity within this programme is primarily targeted at the reduction of serious acquisitive crime, violence, drug related offending and reducing Anti-Social Behaviour. This is mainly directed at adult offenders, however young people suspected of being involved in criminal activity will also be identified and

engaged / signposted to community and partnership led diversionary activities to reduce any further / future criminalisation. All young people identified will follow the detail within the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Model whereby the story behind the child is addressed and any concerns through vulnerability met prior to justice service actions. This will support the reduction of young people at risk of being involved in county lines. All safeguarding concerns will be directed to the Integrated Front Door.

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

- 7.1 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.

## **8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY**

- 8.1 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.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no additional budget implications 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 50% match funding, this revenue contribution will be provided by the partner organisations through the strategic management and delivery of the programme. It is anticipated that the Council will be the accountable body which will involve the usual duties such as monitoring returns. These duties will be covered within the existing resources

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Immediate legal implications arising will be around the terms and conditions of external grant funding and the completion of funding agreements and ancillary documentation. Legal Services will support this process, ensuring the interests of the Council are protected.
- 10.2 As individual projects arise throughout the delivery phase, Legal Services will continue to support colleagues.
- 10.3 The delegations sought are appropriate to an exercise of this nature

## **11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no direct HR implications

## **12. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 Due to the strict eligibility criteria set out by the Home Office, this programme will focus on a specific area of the East Marsh ward as detailed in the report but it is reasonably expected that the impact of the above activity will have an impact across a wider area.

**13. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 13.1 Home Office Safer Streets Prospectus [Safer Streets Fund Round 4 Prospectus \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612212/SaferStreetsFundRound4Prospectus.pdf)

**14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

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