

Report To:	COUNCIL
Date:	2ND DECEMBER 2021
Heading:	SAFER STREETS FUNDING & INITIATIVES
Portfolio Holder:	CLLR HELEN-ANN SMITH, DEPUTY LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME REDUCTION
Ward/s:	CENTRAL AND NEW CROSS (ST. MARY'S, THE DALES, CARSIC AND LEAMINGTON) & DISTRICT WIDE INITIATIVES
Key Decision:	YES
Subject to Call-In:	YES

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to recommend the acceptance of the Home Office 2021/22 (Round 3) Safer Streets funding from the Office of the Police and Crime for Nottinghamshire, and for the capital funding to be included in the Council's Capital Programme.

The report also illustrates additional funding that has been secured to support the implementation of key Community Safety initiatives throughout the District, all of which are fundamental to the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and commitments set out for creating a safer and stronger District.

Recommendation(s)

1. Note the work that has been undertaken and continues to be developed to secure funding and deliver initiatives to improve Community Safety throughout the District.
2. To authorise acceptance of the Safer Streets funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner of Nottinghamshire (OPCC) and for the capital funding to be included as part of the Capital Programme.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The acceptance of the Safer Streets funding will enable various initiatives to be undertaken to address issues within Sutton-In-Ashfield that relates to the fear and perception of crime and anti-social behaviour, vulnerability, and female safety.

Alternative Options Considered

For the Council not to accept the funding, however this will hinder the delivery of the project and may result in many of the initiatives set out as part of the Safer Streets agenda not being delivered.

Detailed Information (Safer Streets)

It was announced on 2nd October 2021 that the District of Ashfield has been awarded £550,000 for the delivery of the Safer Street's agenda. A national programme that centralises its focus on addressing longstanding community concerns relating to women's and girls' safety, violence, and the perception of crime in public spaces.

The main aims of the initiative are to:

- Reduce VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) and increase women and girls' feelings of safety in public spaces;
- Build the evidence base for what works on reducing VAWG crimes and increasing women and girls' feelings of safety in the public domain;
- Improve the national and local data picture regarding VAWG crimes in public spaces, which could include increase reporting for some crime types; and
- Make public spaces safer for all.

The funding has been secured for Sutton-In-Ashfield due to the higher numbers of women and girls feeling unsafe in the area. Over a three-year period 47% of females felt unsafe in Sutton which is ranked the 5th highest across Nottinghamshire when key crimes and wider determinants were factored in. As part of the funding allocation framework, all public spaces within the area will be reviewed, however primacy focus will remain on Central & New Cross Wards including the town centre as the data suggests this is an area of prominence.

The following themes will be undertaken throughout the delivery of the project:

Theme 1 - Community Engagement and Assurance

Various communication methods will be used to provide assurance and advice to make women and girls feel safer and more aware of the presence of CCTV. We will work with the private sector to develop a technical solution (free app) to help girls and women to use their smartphones to call for help if they feel uneasy or vulnerable. Domestic Abuse services will be commissioned to consult and work with local communities to explore how safety and perceptions of safety can be further improved.

Theme 2 - Preventing Crime

CCTV devices will be installed and upgraded at key locations throughout Sutton-In-Ashfield. A Safe Spaces Accreditation Scheme will also be established to enable small business to know how to support women and girls seeking help and we will fund CCTV to provide greater deterrent and detection capabilities. Nottinghamshire Police will pilot a scheme of undertaking high visibility patrols on public transport at key times to deter offences. A new Public Space and Cohesion Lead has been appointed to lead on this theme and will be reporting directly to the Council's Community Safety Manager and OPCC.

Theme 3 – Enforcement

There are opportunities to provide ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) on key arterial roads; up to ten new ANPR cameras will be installed to help deter and detect serious offences. High visibility patrols will be undertaken by the Council and Police in areas where feelings of being unsafe are highest and the top 10 offenders will be targeted which will be identified and reviewed through partnership operational tasking meetings, co-chaired by the Council and Police.

Theme 4 – Improving the Environment

Streetlights will be upgraded, and un-adopted land will be cleaned to make it feel safer and clean-up operations will be undertaken as part of the 'designing out crime' principles.

Theme 5 – Changing Attitude/Behaviour

There is support for new training to change attitudes and behaviours and to increase awareness for professionals on factors which drive fear of crime and increase vulnerability. Diversionary and training activities will be introduced to work with young and adult males and provide safety awareness for school/college girls. Local Police Officers and Council Officers will be trained by the voluntary and community sector on issues and concerns which make local girls and women feel unsafe.

Theme 6 – Project Governance and Policy

A Project Manager position will be established to support the management of the project and to ensure delivery timeframes remain within tolerance. A review of local transport policies will be undertaken to determine how safety and feelings of safety can be improved, with a particular focus on local bus services utilised within Sutton-In-Ashfield.

Additional Community Safety initiatives being delivered for 2021/2022:

In addition to the six above themes, a number of early intervention, preventative and educational initiatives are being delivered across the District to support the delivery of the Council's Corporate and Partnership Plans as below:

- Youth Intervention Project
- Domestic Abuse Educational Programme
- Redthread – King's Mill Hospital Health interventions
- Ashfield Vulnerable Adult Support Scheme
- Sanctuary Scheme – Domestic Abuse Support

Youth Intervention Project

As part of this project, three designated Youth Workers will be seconded to Ashfield District Council to target anti-social behaviour (ASB) and local issues involving young people aged 10-19 within Ashfield for two evenings per week. The project work will:

- Promote existing youth provision available to young people
- Engage young people in positive activities

- Contribute to local intelligence gathering
- Refer young people to other agencies
- Reduce ASB within the District
- Targeting individuals for focused youth work interventions
- Change behaviour.

- Funding Received – Total £28,750 (Approved by ODR)

Domestic Abuse Educational Programme (GREAT)

Twenty educational programmes will be delivered in Ashfield primary schools in high reporting areas for domestic violence. Good Relationships are Equal And Trusting (GREAT) is a fun and interactive project delivered to primary school pupils in Years 5 and 6 by Equation, a Nottinghamshire based specialist charity.

Designed in collaboration with teachers and pupils, GREAT raises awareness about domestic violence, improves children's access to support services, changes attitudes to prevent future domestic violence, and empowers young people to aspire towards healthy relationships. Two-hour lessons are delivered over a 4-week period to classes of approximately 30 children. Staff training will also be provided.

- Funding Received – Total £17,250 (Approved by ODR)

Redthread – King's Mill Hospital Health Interventions

This project funds a worker within the Youth Violence Intervention Programme, leading on work at King's Mill Hospital which serves Ashfield, Mansfield and wider county areas, and with occasional support to the team at Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham.

The role is primarily based at King's Mill Hospital taking a lead in establishing a new service and being the main point of contact for referrals. Based in the Accident and Emergency department the worker supports young people who are experiencing trauma or tragedy, and their families, working with them in the Emergency Department, on the wards and when they are discharged into the community.

- Funding Received – Total £6,000 for post contribution (Approved by ODR)

Ashfield Vulnerable Adult Support Scheme (VASS)

Ashfield District Council and Nottinghamshire Police have jointly launched a dedicated partnership vulnerability programme with a primary aim of reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and vulnerability through person centred interventions. A cohort of up to 15 adults will be managed at any one time; individuals in the cohort will often have complex support needs and will be diverted away from criminality/exploitation through providing wrap around support. The initiative is jointly overseen by a Community Safety Team Leader and Police Sergeant.

- Funded through existing resources (No ODR Required)

Sanctuary Scheme

The Sanctuary scheme is a homelessness prevention scheme that is administered by the Council to enable survivors of domestic abuse and their children to remain in safe accommodation by increasing the security of the home or alternative housing options. The Council receives a high number of requests relating to survivors and their housing needs and this grant funding will allow additional measures to be put in place to support survivors of domestic abuse.

- Funding Received from Notts County Council, Total £30,000, £20,000 Match Funding and £10,000 intervention (Plan B) Budget (Approved by ODR)

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The various initiatives support the theme of Safer and Stronger; and the vision of ensuring the foundations for a good quality of life are in place through place enhancement, increased surveillance, and reduced vulnerability.

Legal:

The current arrangements provided are in support of the Council's crime and disorder duties set out in Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. [RD 17/11/2021]

Finance:

The Council has received an offer up to £271,500 from Office of the Police Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire for the Safer Streets programme (Round 3) to lead on a number of key areas outlined within the project. [BB 18/11/2021]. This has been illustrated in the proposed budget allocation plan below:

Theme	Themes and Interventions	Budget
Theme 1	Neighbourhood and Capacity Building	£30,000.00
Theme 2	Public Safety and Cohesion Lead	£40,000.00
Theme 2	Safe Spaces Accreditation Scheme	£40,000.00
Theme 2	Safe Space Target Hardening (Business Support)	£50,000.00
Theme 2	4 x Fixed CCTV or Upgrades (Capital)	£19,595.00
Theme 2	1 x Deployable CCTV or Upgrades (Capital)	£6,500.00
Theme 2	Gating Order (Revenue 3 years)	£7,000.00
Theme 2	Gating Order (Capital)	£5,000.00
Theme 3	Technological Safety Device / App Scheme	£15,00.00
Theme 4	Making Safer Spaces (e.g. Unadopted Land)	£50,000.00
Theme 5	Review of Transport Policy Procedures (e.g. buses)	£8,405.00
		£271,500

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	1. Addition to the revenue budget for 2021/22 of up to: £240,405 – Funded by the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire for the Safer Streets programme
General Fund – Capital Programme	<p>1. £31,095 to be added to the Capital Programme for Safer Streets in 2021/22– Funded by the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire for the Safer Streets programme.</p> <p>2. To allow for a potential future increase to the Safer Streets Capital Scheme. This is to enable funding to be switched from the revenue allocation to deliver further capital elements should the needs arise. This would only be actioned following agreement with the funding provider for the use of the funding. This would reduce the amount added to the revenue budget in 2021/22.</p>
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Risk

Risk	Mitigation
Failure to spend the funding by 31 st March 2022	A Project Board has been established which comprises of key officers from the Council, Police, Partners and OPCC. In addition, a performance framework has been implemented to ensure the project is delivered within tolerance and in accordance with the Home Office funding stipulations.

Human Resources:

There are no HR implications in relation to the acceptance of funding, however there may be implications dependant on the requirements for the delivery of the initiatives which is not included in this report.

Environmental/Sustainability:

No issues identified.

Equalities:

The Safer Streets project is specifically designed to support women and girls feel safer, supporting the Council's equalities principles encircled within the Council's Corporate Equality and Inclusion Policy. The various initiatives are to be undertaken with due regard to Section 149 Equality Act 2010.

Other Implications:

Not applicable

Reason(s) for Urgency

The urgency for a decision is pertinent due to the prescribed timeframe of 31st March 2022 for the delivery of the project, which entails procurement of CCTV and Street Lighting.

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not applicable

Background Papers

Not applicable

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