



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 1st October 2020

To the Mayor Ros Jones

To approve Doncaster Council to receive funding from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, to initiate an improvement project in Doncaster.

Relevant Member(s)	Cabinet	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Chris McGuinness Councillor Glyn Jones		Hexthorpe	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Doncaster has been part of a joint bid with South Yorkshire Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to access the Home Office Safer Streets fund.

The objectives of the fund were to:

- Reduce acquisitive crime in areas – making residents feel safer and removing demand from the system.
- Build evidence about the impact of targeted investment to strengthen the case for future investment.
- Grow local capability to undertake data driven problem solving and capture evidence and practical learning about how to implement interventions to prevent crime.

2. The bid was submitted in March 2020, with an expected announcement of success in early April. However due to the Covid emergency and the introduction of lockdown the final decision making process was delayed. Final notification of the successful bid was released on the 28th July 2020 providing **£547,164.00** of funding for physical and community safety related improvements into the specific locality of Hexthorpe.
3. The use of the Safer Streets Fund and the implementation of the improvements outlined below will provide some much needed investment into this priority area.

EXEMPT REPORT

4. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. To approve:-
 - the acceptance of £547,164.00 grant funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, of the Home Office Safer Streets Fund in order to deliver the project within Hexthorpe.
 - the addition of the scheme (£490k) to the capital programme.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

6. Reducing crime and anti- social behaviour is a priority within the Community Safety Strategy and tackling fly-tipping is a mayoral priority as part of our Borough's commitment to the cleaner, greener agenda. Using this funding we will improve the quality of life for citizens in the local community, provide identifiable investment into this deprived locality, promote community involvement in decision making and enable proven successful initiatives to be utilised elsewhere in the Borough.

BACKGROUND

7. An analysis of crime and anti-social behaviour identified Hexthorpe as being an area, which would especially benefit from this type of longer-term investment.
8. Hexthorpe is a clearly defined village that is located near to the heart of Doncaster Town Centre, bordering Balby and the Balby Bridge Estate. The area has a population figure of approximately 2,047 residents with a mixture of settled and transient households with a mixture of ethnicities and cultures living within the small, densely populated locality.
9. The area has seen 912 Acquisitive Crime offences in the LSOA across a 3-year period, with Burglary, Vehicle Crime and other theft featuring as the main reported incidents.
10. The housing status within the area focused on for the delivery of the Safer Streets Project is mainly terraced property, with communal alleys to the rear. It is clear that over time most of these properties have been acquired by social landlords and are now in the main being rented out. Standards within these properties are not consistent and it is clear that the area has suffered as a result, with most residents within these properties being transient and not having a sense of belonging.
11. South Yorkshire Police colleagues completed an Environmental scan report of Hexthorpe using the Seven Attributes of Safer Places – the planning system and crime prevention.

These attributes consider the following:

- Access and movement
- Structure
- Surveillance
- Ownership
- Physical Protection
- Activity
- Management and maintenance

12. The report identified that there were a number of physical aspects of the targeted area that could be implemented, to create an improved streetscene. The focus was around still providing the existing levels of community safety measures but with a more consistent and uniformed approach. This would include replacing pre-existing damaged or missing structures, which have all contributed to a 'broken window' syndrome within the area.

13. The recommendations for the physical improvements in the area include:

- Replacement of existing alley gates throughout with the same design and locking systems to provide ongoing security but with a softer design.
- Replacement of existing concrete street lighting to metal
- Installation of additional CCTV and aerial capabilities to ensure footage is fed through direct into CCTV suite
- Replacement of existing concrete / metal bollards for a uniformed design throughout the area – community consultation to be included to choose final design
- Replacement of existing street name plates – community consultation to be included to choose final design
- Removal of existing brick planters and replacement with trees
- Provision for a deep clean of area including use of anti-graffiti and anti-urine paint

14. The report also identified community safety crime prevention measures to be delivered as part of the bid. These recommendations were focused around the previously detailed figures around reports of crime in the area around burglary and the standards within some properties, which left them vulnerable to targeting.

15. Below is a summary of projected spend for each element of the bid:

	Number	Total
CCTV	10	£40,000.00
Signage	30	£9,900.00
CCTV Maintenance	1	£5,000.00
WIFI connection	1	£20,000.00
Bollards	84	£42,000.00
Alley Gates	29	£174,000.00
Street Lights	50	£125,000.00
Crime Reduction Equipment	1	£20,000.00
Trees	32	£40,000.00
Planters	10	£10,000.00
Deep Clean	1	£7,000.00
Handyman scheme	1	£10,000.00
		<u>£502,900.00</u>

Project Manager	9	£25,634.77
PCC Indirect Staff Costs	1	£2,800.00
		<u>£28,434.77</u>

Community Engagement	2	£10,000.00
		<u>£10,000.00</u>

Contingency		£5,829.23
Total		<u>£547,164.00</u>

16. It was recognised that resident involvement was key in the continued aim of improving community cohesion and responsibility, and therefore a dedicated amount, to be led by the Hexthorpe Positive Activities Group (PAG), was created. The members, all key

community champions, will have the responsibility to plan and deliver smaller community safety themed projects in the area.

17. The community safety recommendations within the report include:

- Provision of crime reduction equipment – such as ‘Ring’ doorbells, handrail covers, home safety assessments and other additional crime prevention equipment identified. This will include fitting of all equipment.
- Community safety activity fund – as described above – to be led by the Hexthorpe PAG for smaller projects.

18. The Safer Streets fund also allows funding for a coordinator to manage the delivery of the scheme which is consistent with the duties of the existing Stronger Communities Coordinator post.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

19. The following options have been considered:

Option one

20. To not accept the Safer Streets forward funding - this is not viewed as a viable option as will not enable the much-needed improvements recommended by South Yorkshire Police, into Hexthorpe, to be completed.

Option Two

21. To accept the Safer Streets forward funding of £547,164.00 to enable the delivery of the much needed physical and community safety focused improvements within Hexthorpe as recommended by South Yorkshire Police as part of their evidenced based Environmental Scan report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

22. The recommended option is the second option, as this was seen as providing the greatest opportunity to support the project and provide some key investment to improve the local infrastructure in the priority area of Hexthorpe, an area identified as requiring this level of additional support.

23. Whilst there is an existing partnership plan in place for Hexthorpe, many of the ambitions and recommendations from this plan can now be taken forward following the successful application to the Safer Streets fund with the full support of elected members and with vital input from the local community.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES

24.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work 	<p>It is likely that local businesses will benefit from this funding with the introduction of additional CCTV and replacement alley gates to provide up to date security measures.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>The project outcomes will lead to improvements in the local area contributing to a healthier and more vibrant community with reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour and serious acquisitive crime.</p> <p>It will also support wider plans to improve access to safer areas for physical activity and sport.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>Improving the experience of children young people and adults in this community is important to improve cohesion and bring communities together. The project will involve the local community in this project, ensuring there is ownership and buy-in from residents, key groups and existing community networks.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>Part of the project delivery is aimed at supporting vulnerable residents, focusing on crime prevention methods and updating older security measures to provide an increased feeling of safety within the area.</p> <p>The project also aims to remove physical structures known for increasing anti social behaviour and replacing with more environment improving trees and foliage.</p>
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and 	<p>A key feature of the project is the involvement of key community assets and the link to residents in both decision making within the relevant schemes of the project, but</p>

	<p>delivering value for money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>also via the Positive Activities Group, supporting the development and delivery of smaller community led schemes focused around aspirations and the 'Nudge Theory'.</p>
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RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

25. The key potential risk of the project is failing to complete the planned work before the funding deadline of 31st March 2021. To mitigate this, Council officers have already commenced work on the delivery of the schemes and communication with the relevant teams has started. A project group from all involved services has been established, supported by a full project plan, which will constantly manage the delivery, as well as regular communication with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Home Office representatives.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PC Date 04.09.20]

26. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything that individuals may generally do.

27. Legal Services to assist with agreeing the final terms of the Grant Terms and Conditions which, from the Grant Funding Letter included with this report, would appear to contain Council obligations to:

- Deliver all grant funded activity by the 31st March 2021.
- Provide monitoring information in accordance with the terms and conditions and monitoring schedule, failure to provide monitoring information as required could result in payments being suspended, withdrawn or recovered.

28. If the council needs to procure services this should be done in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Public Contract Regulations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer initials HR Date 07.09.20]

29. This report is seeking approval to receive the £547k grant awarded to Doncaster Council as per Financial Procedure Rule (FPR) E9 whereby grant acceptance is subject to key decision rules.

30. The grant awarded is to fund community safety improvements in the Hexthorpe area and is made up of both capital and revenue. In year additions to the capital programme require approval of the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) as per FPR B.9. Following CFO agreement and before any commitment to spend, a project specific report in line with key decision rules, is required to approve the capital project for inclusion in the capital programme. As per the capital strategy and capital budget report this bid has been reviewed and scrutinised by the capital and major projects board to ensure the business case is robust and the scheme fits into the council's priorities.

31. The conditions of the grant state that all grant funded activity must be delivered by 31 March 2021 and all expenditure must be completed by 31 March 2021, this is a very tight deadline and the service will need to ensure the timescales are managed in accordance with the grant conditions in order to avoid the council incurring costs that they are unable to claim for. The new post identified to deliver the scheme should cease at 31 March 2021 in line with the end of the grant funding.

32. Some of the grant will be used to replace Alley Gates, CCTV equipment, bollards and street signs which have to come an end of their useful life, this grant therefore potentially saves the outlay of council resources to replace them in the near future. There will however be on-going maintenance that will need to be found from within existing budgets. The grant will pay for the first year of the CCTV maintenance but the Council will have to meet the following years, which is estimated to be £5k per year. Maintenance of Alley Gates £3k per year and the trimming of the new trees estimated to be £1.5k per year will also have to be found from existing budgets. The removal of the planters will reduce the need for maintenance as the majority of them are in poor repair and in need of significant work just to make them safe.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials AT Date 07.09.20]

33. There are no Human Resources implications.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 03.09.20]

34. There are no direct technology implications in relation to this report. ICT need to be fully involved in the installation of additional CCTV and aerial capabilities to ensure footage is fed through direct into CCTV suite.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials CEH Date 04.09.20]

35. Indirect long-term influences of exposure to crime can include the psychological and physical consequences of injury, victimisation and isolation due to fear. Without safe and secure communities, measures to encourage people to exercise, socialise or adopt more sustainable lifestyles (e.g. using public transport) are more likely to fail as people feel trapped in their houses and cars and unable to engage with local communities. Even broader economic inequalities can remain stubbornly entrenched when investment in the poorest communities by businesses and organisations is inhibited by risks of crime to staff and customers.

36. It is recommended that interventions to address crime are co-produced with residents but based on research and evidence with ongoing evaluation to ensure that there are no unintended consequences and to determine impact and inform future resourcing decisions. A wider system approach to the prevention of crime utilising expertise from different disciplines that focus on the primary prevention of crime and violence through reducing risk factors and promoting protective factors over the life course and the role of the built environment would be welcomed.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials JE Date 07.09.20]

37. We believe that the acceptance of this funding and implementation of these measures in Hexthorpe will not only tackle ongoing issues relating to crime and all forms of antisocial behaviour but they will have a positive impact for the whole of the community across all ethnic groups.

38. In the planning of the project there has been a multi-agency approach to achieve community provision that will be accessible to all.

39. There are therefore no equality implications

CONSULTATION

40. The elected members for the area have been fully briefed, along with the Cabinet leads Councillor Chris McGuinness and Councillor Glyn Jones. Engagement has also taken place with local community groups and key networks.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

41. OPCC Grant Award letter

42. OPCC Grant purpose letter

43. Police Crime Prevention Initiative EVA template - Hexthorpe

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