



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 2nd November 2022

To the Chair and Members of the Cabinet

Approval to Receive Safer Streets (Round Four) Grant Funding from the Home Office

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision?
Councillor Rachael Blake	All wards	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Doncaster has been notified that the application for Safer Streets (Round Four) Home Office funding has been successful and the City has been awarded £750,000, which is the largest amount awarded to any single Council in South Yorkshire.
2. The grant funding will support various CCTV, solar lighting and educational schemes across the borough (see appendix a). These schemes were identified in consultation with a range of stakeholders and will greatly enhance the city's CCTV and lighting infrastructure and importantly assist in tackling neighbourhood crime, anti-social behaviour and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) as set out in the criteria of the grant.
3. A designated project team has been established to ensure that the individual projects are delivered within the timescales set out in the grant criteria. Also ensuring that projects are monitored, and any potential risks are identified mitigated and escalated where necessary. Progress reports will be compiled and delivered to the Safer Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) at regular intervals.

EXEMPT REPORT

4. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. To note the content of the report and to accept receipt of the £750k Safer Streets (Round 4) Grant Fund from The Home Office.
6. To note the schedule of projects in (Appendix A) which were all identified and agreed in consultation with stakeholders including Local Ward Members and further informed by data analysis.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

7. Reducing neighbourhood crime, anti-social behaviour and tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a priority within the Doncaster Community Safety Strategy. Using this funding we will improve the quality of life for citizens in the local community and contribute to the public feeling safer in vulnerable locations, such as parks and open spaces.

BACKGROUND

8. We have received notification from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner that Doncaster will receive £750k of funding from the fourth round of the Home Office Safer Streets fund.
9. Doncaster City submitted a single bid as part of a wider countywide process alongside Sheffield, Rotherham and Barnsley Councils. The bid was quality assured by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner before being forwarded to the Home Office.
10. Each Local Authority area was able to submit a bid up to a maximum of £750,000, which would be split over 2 consecutive years (£500,000 in the first year and a further £250,000 over the period ending in September 2023).
11. Doncaster's bid was to the value of the maximum amount of £750k and represents the highest award to a single council within South Yorkshire. Included in our bid was a 50% match funding element and this includes officer time, existing investment e.g. future parks funding, or costs for monitoring and maintaining CCTV cameras.
12. The primary focus of the new fund was based on the three specific criteria's specified as follows:

Tackling Neighbourhood Crime,
Violence against Women and Girls,
Anti-Social Behaviour.

Doncaster's bid incorporated all three of these elements and focused upon a

number of areas across the City, which were chosen through engagement and consultation with Localities, Lead Ward Members and Area Managers.

13. Part of the funding will include installation of lighting and CCTV, which will assist in improving perceptions of safety and help to detect and reduce anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime. The additional CCTV will align with the wider strategic objective to improve CCTV throughout Doncaster. All locality areas will benefit from the 52 new cameras funded through this scheme.
14. In addition, the funding will provide highway improvements, in the area of Lower Wheatley and Thorne Road, an area identified as suffering from high levels of crime, perceptions of safety and anti-social behaviour.
15. In addition, across the City, there will be a programme established to deliver safer streets training to key partners and an exciting youth coaching programme in schools to tackle youth related anti-social behaviour focused on young people aged 10 to 17.
16. In terms of administering and monitoring the funding, we have established a stakeholder group to consult and approve the key elements of the scheme. Regular progress reports will be provided to the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) and each locality area.
17. As with previous awards from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, there are tight timescales, which we will need to follow. All the funding has to be spent by 30th September 2023 and there is a requirement to deliver the requisite amount of match funding by March 2024.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

18. Present a business case to the Senior Management Team seeking approval to use grant funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in a specified way.

Option 1: Do Nothing

19. This is not viewed as a viable option, as without the required approval to use grant funding in this way; we may risk non-compliance with financial regulations. Should we not take up the option to utilise this funding, it would mean that a number of important projects for this area would not go ahead.

Option 2: Seek approval to use the grant funding received from the OPCC for the purpose specified in this report.




REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION






20. The additional grant funding would enable the Council and our partners to deliver on our key priorities, respond to emerging challenges and facilitate our ability to support local initiatives and activities. It would also enable the Council and SSDP to continue to tackle the key priorities identified within the Community Safety strategy and our Great 8 priorities, detailed below:

- Creating Safer, Stronger, Greener and Cleaner Communities;
- Protecting Vulnerable People;
- Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Reducing Crime and Re-offending;
- Tackling Serious and Organised Crime;

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

21.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change	✓			
The Investment in solar lighting in parks will reduce carbon emissions, and enhance green spaces, making them more accessible and safer spaces for all.				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work				✓
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs	✓			
Many parks and open spaces are part of the leisure offer within Doncaster and help to boost the number of visitors and tourists into our new city. Therefore the changes we are making to local parks and open spaces can only have a positive benefit to local businesses and securing local jobs linked to the leisure offer.				

 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all	✓			
<p>Encouraging the public to use our parks and open spaces will create opportunities for everyone to enjoy the outdoors, promoting healthier, happier and longer lives for all.</p>				
 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs	✓			
<p>The project aims to improve lighting and cctv in parks and open spaces and across the Borough we will be running a programme in schools across Doncaster to raise awareness of the impact of anti-social behaviour. These projects will significantly contribute to creating safer and stronger communities.</p>				
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough	✓			
<p>CCTV and improved lighting will encourage children, young people and parents to enjoy our parks and open spaces for family activities and sport nurturing our child and family friendly borough.</p>				
 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities	✓			
<p>The installation of improved lighting and CCTV cameras in parks and open spaces will enable members of the public to use these facilities during darker evenings and will contribute to an improved feeling of safety.</p>				
Fair & Inclusive				✓

Legal Implications [Officer Initials: SRF | Date: 22.08.22]

22. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with a general power of competence, allowing the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council power to purchase goods and services.
23. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 makes it clear that tackling crime should be a partnership matter, with key local organisations working together to achieve a shared strategy for the benefit of local communities.
24. The purchase of any goods and services using the funding should be carried out in accordance with funder requirements & the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
25. Legal advice should be sought upon the grant agreement.

Financial Implications [Officer Initials: CS | Date: 25.08.22]

26. Acceptance of the £750k grant is subject to key decision rules and will need to be approved by CFO and relevant director as per Financial Procedure Rule E.9 "Directors are authorised to apply for external funding, in consultation with the CFO, which contribute to the delivery of Council services or achievement of Council goals. Grant acceptance and/or commitment is subject to key decision rules".
27. The total proposed grant is £750k, £500k will be funded in 22/23 and must be spent by 31st March 23 and £250k will be funded in 23/24 and must be spent by 30th September 23. The proposed grant will be fully funded from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund and a signed agreement is required to accept the funding. There is a 50% match funding element which will be provided by officer time, existing investment e.g. future parks funding, or costs for monitoring and maintaining CCTV cameras, this must be spent by 31st March 2024. 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. Grant claims must be submitted each quarter by the 14th of the following month.
28. There are two elements to the funding, revenue and capital.

Capital

29. The capital cost amount is £550k for the installation of CCTV along with other crime/anti-social behaviour reduction tools and highway improvements as stated

in the body of this report. Contingency hasn't been included in these figures as they are based on quotes from the framework agreement.

30. As the Adults Health and Wellbeing Capital Programme does not currently include this scheme as per Financial Procedure Rule B.9. The CFO is responsible for agreeing any in-year additions to the capital programme. Following the 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. Approval is sought in this report. A CAP1 form has been submitted and circulated to CAMP Board members.

Revenue

31. The revenue cost amount is £200k for delivering safer streets training to key partners to tackle youth related anti-social behaviour as stated in the body of this report.
32. The on-going maintenance costs are initially expected to be minimal but could equate to £1k per year per camera per annum. This will need to be funded from existing revenue budgets within community safety.

Human Resources Implications [Officer Initials: SB | Date: 19.08.22]

33. There are no HR implications associated within this report.

Technology Implications [Officer Initials: PW | Date: 22.08.22]

34. There are no technology implications in relation to the receipt of grant funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) following the successful award of the safer streets (Round 4) funding from the Home Office. However, it is essential that Digital & ICT continue to be fully involved (via the TGB process) in all new CCTV projects to agree on the proposed designs and logical and physical security etc.

Health Implications [Officer Initials: RS | Date: 19.08.22]

35. Safety and the perception of safety have direct and indirect impacts on health. This funding should help address these issues. Decision makers will want to assure themselves that the impacts of the funding are monitored and that the funding addresses the areas most effected by neighbourhood crime, violence against women and girls and anti-social behaviour.

Equality Implications [Officer Initials: BH | Date: 12.08.22]

36. Equality impact assessments completed during the development of the Community Safety Strategy and other key partnership strategies identified that the Partnership and DMBC deliver key services to under-represented groups and individuals with protected characteristics.

37. The proposals for use of this grant funding enables the Partnership and ourselves as a public authority to discharge our responsibilities effectively within the terms of the Equality Act, ensuring that our services do not tolerate prohibited behaviours and we actively work to reduce discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and the fostering of good relations.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

38. The potential risks of the project are failing to complete the planned work before the funding deadline of 30th September 2023. To mitigate this, a project coordinator has already been appointed for each area and a wider project group from all involved services has been established, supported by a full project plan.

CONSULTATION

39. The cabinet lead for Community Safety, Councillor Rachael Blake, has been consulted on the proposal, alongside lead locality ward members.

40. Regular updates regarding the grant activity will be provided to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner by the stakeholder group.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

41. Appendix of background information.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

42. OPCC – Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
VAWG – Violence Against Women and Girls

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