

## **HOMES & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

**18 JANUARY 2021**

### **UPDATE ON THE DELIVERY OF THE SAFER STREETS INITIATIVE**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To update Members on the progress made on the delivery of the Safer Streets initiative.

#### **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 In January 2020 the Home Office released the prospectus to allow Police and Crime Commissioners to submit bids for the Safer Streets Fund 2020/21.

2.3 Police data was used to identify two areas of Newark as meeting the criteria. The OPCC put together a small project team to work on the bid and to identify the types of interventions that would be delivered if the bid was successful. The bid was subsequently submitted in April. The bid for Newark was the only one submitted for Nottinghamshire

2.4 In July it was announced by the Home Office that the Nottinghamshire bid had been successful and an award of £550,000 had been made to deliver the actions set out in the bid.

2.5 Since this time the project board and lead officers have been developing and delivering a range of local schemes and activities to ensure that the project aims are met. Set out in appendix one are the key themes and performance objectives for the project.

2.6 The project has to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and all projects are progressing well. An update on all the projects that the district council is leading on is detailed below.

2.7 **Target Hardening Chatham Court** – The use of residents surveys, analysis of crime data and input from the Designing Out Crime Officer at Notts Police has informed the scheme to improve the security at Chatham Court. The existing door entry system is to be upgraded to provide a remote video entry system and improved door closure and locking system. Two contractors have been asked to quote for the work. Housing colleagues have been involved during this process and the scheme will be overseen and delivered in association with them. Improved lighting to the communal areas will also be part of the scheme.

2.8 **Bicycle Theft Reduction Chatham Court** – The current cycle store at Chatham Court is not well used due to the perception that it is not secure. A redesign of the store has been approved by the Designing Out Crime Officer at Notts Police and detailed drawings are being developed. In addition this additional secure storage is to be provided in a second location at Chatham Court.

2.9 **Redeployable CCTV** – two redeployable CCTV cameras have been purchased to support the crime reduction activities in the safer streets areas. A full survey of the two areas has been completed and suitable fixing points have been identified. The County Council and ViaEM have been requested to fix brackets at these locations.

2.10 **Bicycle Theft Reduction** – This theme has a number of interventions associated with it. Residents living with the safer streets areas are being provided with Home Office approved

bike security locks. A number of events are being run in conjunction with the police and a local bike business to provide and fit the locks. To date over 100 locks have been distributed. The second intervention on this theme is the purchase and supply of GPS trackers for bikes. Volunteers have tested a range of devices. A preferred GPS tacker has now been selected and this will be provided and fitted to qualifying bike owners.

- 2.11 **Improved Secure Bike Storage Newark** – Ten hot spots for bicycle theft were identified in the original bid. These areas have been surveyed and assessed for the potential to provide secure on street cycle storage. The suitable sites have been identified and Planning Service colleagues have indicated there they have no objection to the locations. Cycle pods identified by the Designing Out Crime officer are being used. Two of the sites are within Newark town centre and the town council have indicated that they would like the cycle pods to be the same colour as the surrounding street furniture. The suppliers have indicated that this is possible but that it does increase the price significantly due to the need to purchase the paint and the need to respray the readymade pods. The unit price for the pod increases from £280 to £613. Advice has been obtained from the Council’s conservation team and they have a preference for black pods to be used as they feel that Royalist Red would be overpowering in these locations. However, they would not object to Royalist Red being used.
- 2.12 One of the hot spots is Baldertongate. After conducting the assessment the nearest suitable possible siting point is Baldertongate Car Park (opposite London Rd Car park). Discussions have taken place with the Car Park’s Manager and he has identified a parking space within the car park that is not as well used as others that would be suitable for the cycle pods.
- 2.13 **Chatham Court Community Hub** – A Community Partnership hub is to be provided within a vacant unit at Chatham Court. Partners such as the police, Nottinghamshire County Council, and local support groups have committed to supporting the hub. Planning permission is being sought for the change of use. Once agreed, it is anticipated that the internal alterations required (that have been agreed) will be undertaken as soon as possible and the hub will be available for use around the end of March.

### **3.0 Proposals**

- 3.1 As can be seen from the updates provided above progress is being made on all the thematic areas for which the district council is the lead.
- 3.2 The project is due for completion in March 2021 therefore it is It is proposed that a final report after completion of the project is presented to the committee in May 20121

### **4.0 Equalities Implications**

- 4.1 There will be a range of people from, for example different backgrounds, nationality, religions, etc within the two safer streets areas. All communications and engagements will need to be targeted appropriately so as to reach a range of communities.

### **5.0 Digital Implications**

- 5.1 None from this report

## 6.0 **Financial Implications (FIN20-21/7141)**

6.1 Set out below is the breakdown of funding for each area of work.

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Target Hardening commences - Chatham Court                                    | £50,000         |
| Bicycle Reduction Contractor/fitter   | £15,580         |
| Physical Security: Commence work installing new bicycle storage across LSOAs  | £34,000         |
| Purchase of two re-deployable 4G CCTV cameras for use in top 10 hot spots     | £10,000         |
| Explore and Purchase Bicycle GPS Tracker devices for 30 Bicycle Theft Victims | £5,000          |
| Bicycle, Vehicle Property Marking Event - Security devices                    | £4,000          |
|   | <b>£118,580</b> |

6.2 It is not anticipated that there will be any overspend on the overall budget. The list above has been based on estimated costs and there is scope to move funds where necessary across the thematic areas. Spend is being closely monitored.

6.3 It is expected that all spend will occur before 31 March 2021 and currently, the budget has been split £94,000 Capital and £24,580 revenue based on the estimates provided.

6.4 The grant will be claimed quarterly in arrears, based on expenditure incurred.

## 7.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS that:**

a) **Members are asked to note the progress in the implementation of the Safer Streets project and;**

b) **Support the proposal to have a report at the completion of the project.**

### **Reason for Recommendations**

**To update Members on Safer Streets bid and the actions arising from it.**

### **Background Papers**

Nil

For further information please contact Alan Batty on Ext 5467

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