

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
CABINET**

Date 7th February 2023

Report Title: Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner – Safer Streets Round 4

Submitted by: Head of Neighbourhood Delivery Services

Portfolio: Community Safety and Wellbeing; Finance, Town Centres and Growth

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To inform Cabinet of an offer of grant funding from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) under the Safer Streets Round 4 scheme and seek approval to accept and spend the grant on an agreed programme of projects.

Recommendation

That Cabinet approves the acceptance of the Safer Streets Round 4 grant and authorises proper officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, to seek tenders/quotations for the agreed projects and award contracts to deliver the schemes.

Reasons

To ensure that the Safer Streets Round 4 grant is utilised effectively to address identified community safety priorities in Newcastle Town Centre.

1. Background

- 1.1 In July 2022 a generic funding bid was submitted by the office of the PFCC on behalf of Staffordshire for a number of funding opportunities in relation to the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour. Various partners submitted ideas for projects which could benefit from the funds. As a result of this, £750,000 was awarded to the PFCC which was to be split across 5 areas in North Staffordshire – Newcastle-under-Lyme being one of these areas. The funding must be defrayed in full by September 2023, with a significant proportion to be defrayed by 31st March 2023.

2. Issues

- 2.1 On the 10th October 2022, a partnership walkabout was arranged with PFCC for Newcastle town centre, to highlight any issues that could be addressed utilising the funding from the Safer Streets Round 4 fund.

A number of schemes were looked at; improvements to the CCTV network, improvements/installations for alley gating, environmental improvements including tree pruning, lighting schemes, subway improvements as well as other target hardening initiatives.

A number of projects were identified and partners were tasked to obtain quotes and project designs that could be delivered before the 31st March 2023, the deadline for the first tranche of funding.

The PFCC have been very clear, that any projects that form part of the first tranche of the Safer Streets Round 4 programme need to be completed prior to 31st March 2023. They have also clarified that there is limited funding available for specific areas of work i.e., lighting, CCTV, environmental, alley gating.

Through collaboration and agreement with partners, the following projects have been prepared that can be implemented prior to 31st March 2023, resulting in a total investment of £65,349.91 in safety improvements to Newcastle Town Centre. A further estimated £85,000 investment in Newcastle is being managed directly by PFCC, resulting in a total value of around £150,000 from the fund.

2.2 CCTV

A proposal has been drafted by Stoke-on-Trent City Council (the Borough Council's contractor for the Newcastle CCTV system) for the installation of 8 additional CCTV cameras in the town centre that will assist in the detection and prevention of anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder. The police and BID are supportive of this proposal which would increase coverage of current "blind spots" where incidents of crime and ASB are occurring.

These will include the following locations:

Ironmarket
Lancaster Building 1
Lancaster Building 2
High Street
Guildhall
Midway 1
Midway 2
Goose Street

Total cost for new installation = £34,600.

To implement the cameras in all of these locations will mean an annual increase of £6,000 as part of the ongoing maintenance and monitoring contract. Additional revenue budget will be needed to cover this cost. NuL BID has agreed to make a contribution of £3,000 per annum to the additional revenue costs, with the Borough Council funding the remaining £3,000.

2.3 Lighting

The following projects are being taken forward

Goose Street lighting upgrade – total £3083.51

Lancaster Building lighting upgrades – total £12,362

The PFCC will provide this funding to the Borough Council to directly commission these contracts with the providers.

2.4 Environmental Works

The following environmental works have been agreed to improve CCTV coverage from existing cameras. A Purchase Order will be raised by the Borough Council to commission these works with a contractor.

Ironmarket – tree pruning to 2x limes/3x ginkos/1x maple, 6x London plane total cost £1,020.00.

High Street – tree pruning to 5x London planes/1x sycamore/1x maple total cost £870.

Goose Street (bank side) – tree pruning to 7x sycamore/8x maples/1x London plane total cost £1,785.00.

Traffic management will also be required for this location totalling £1,451.40.

Goose Street car park - tree pruning to 1x Maple/3x limes total £180.00.

Removal of redundant Christmas light cabling from trees located around the town centre - £1,998.

2.5 Gating

A gating contract has been tendered and procured by the PFCC to assist in the delivery of gating improvements. A number of existing gating locations have been identified for upgrades and improvements. The final total cost of these upgrades/improvements is estimated to be £15,796. Additional new gating locations may be considered in the second tranche of funding post-March 2023 if they are considered as priorities.

2.6 Education Packages and Personal Development

This project, which is being led by the PFCC, will develop the resources and materials available in order to deliver education resource packs for Primary and Secondary schools. This will include interactive theatrical sessions to address anti-social behaviour.

2.7 Street Pastors

The PFCC have granted £8,000 towards a street pastors scheme. As this is not something that is already up and running within the Newcastle area, it is hoped to link in with neighbouring districts in order to be able to deliver this. Aspirations would be for this to be continued longer term where the team would be able to utilise the

Women's Safe Space located in Newcastle Town centre. A range of providers is being scoped to determine ability to assist in the delivery of this project.

2.8 Anti-social Behaviour Campaign

A total of £40,000 has been allocated as part of Safer Streets Round 4 that will be spent on anti-social behaviour campaigns. The project is still in its infancy but it is hoped that these campaigns will help to discourage particular behaviours and promote reporting mechanisms.

2.9 Future Potential Projects for Safer Streets

A second tranche of funding from Safer Streets Round 4 will be made available in 2023/24. The following projects may be put forward for consideration:

- Friars Street subway tiling refurbishment
- Lighting upgrades to Cheapside, Castle Walk
- Target hardening for private property, including gating.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 That Cabinet approves the acceptance of the Safer Streets Round 4 grant and authorises proper officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, to seek tenders/quotations for the agreed projects and award contracts to deliver the schemes.

4. Reasons for Preferred Solution

- 4.1 To ensure that the Safer Streets Round 4 grant is utilised effectively to address identified community safety priorities in Newcastle Town Centre.

5. Options Considered

- 5.1 The grant support scheme and eligible projects are prescribed by PFCC, so there are no other feasible options to consider.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 The grants and distribution mechanisms will comply with the Local Government Finance Act 1998 and the Localism Act 2011.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The projects will seek to ensure that their impact results in equal, fair and consistent outcomes for town centre visitors.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 The Safer Streets Round 4 allocation to the Borough Council is £65,349.91 for the projects identified in this report to be delivered by the Borough Council. There is an additional, estimated amount of around £85,000 of funding which

the PFCC will spend in Newcastle on projects delivered through its commissioning framework. The full capital costs of the identified projects will be covered by the Safer Streets Round 4 funding.

- 8.2 There is an additional revenue cost of £6,000 per annum to maintain and monitor the new CCTV cameras which are to be funded via the Safer Streets Round 4 funding. NuL BID has agreed to make a contribution of £3,000 per annum towards the revenue costs and the remaining £3,000 per annum will be funded from the Council's general fund revenue budget from 1st April 2023 onwards. The staff resource implications of managing the projects will be prioritised into existing work programmes in view of the contribution this initiative makes to delivering the Council Plan (Town Centres for All: Healthy, Active and Safe Communities).

9. **Major Risks**

- 9.1 Failure to accept and spend the grant from PFCC is highly likely to lead to severe reputational damage to the Council, potential loss of future grant funding support, and challenge from the community and partners. To mitigate these risks, it is recommended that the Council accepts and spends the grant on the proposed projects.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**

- 10.1 In considering this decision, the following UN sustainable development goals will be considered:



11. **Key Decision Information**

- 11.1 This is not a key decision as defined in the Council's Constitution.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

- 12.1 None.

13. **List of Appendices**

- 13.1 None.

14. **Background Papers**

- 14.1 None.