

Report title	Safer Streets Grant Allocation	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Health and Wellbeing	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	Bilston East, Bilston North, Ettingshall	
Accountable Director	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
Originating service	Community Safety	
Accountable employee	Lynsey Kelly	Head of Communities
	Tel	01902 550042
	Email	Lynsey.Kelly@Wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Directorate Leadership Team	29 June 2021
	Strategic Executive Board	8 July 2021

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve that the City of Wolverhampton Council can act as Accountably Body for the Safer Streets Grant, as detailed in the report.
2. Approve the establishment of supplementary revenue budgets totalling £187,602 and capital budgets totalling £60,000 fully funded by the £247,602 Safer Streets grant allocation.
3. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Director of Public Health, to utilise the £247,602 Safer Streets Fund from the Home Office for 2021-2022 and to approve the award of grants for activity outlined within the report.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval for the creation of supplementary budgets and delegated authority for spend against the Safer Streets grant funding awarded to the City of Wolverhampton Council from the Home Office.
- 1.2 The funding will be utilised to compliment mainstream activity of the City of Wolverhampton Council and Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) by upscaling place-based activity in targeted lower super output areas (LSAOs) to address neighbourhood crime.
- 1.3 Areas for intervention were selected based on Home Office eligibility criteria for bids outlined within the report, however benefits will reach across the city. All activity associated with the funding will be subject to a full evaluation, adding to an evidence base for crime prevention activity. Where there are further areas that are disproportionately affected by crime, learning from the project will be utilised to inform future strategy, commissioning and intervention across the partnership. Strengthening the evidence base around crime prevention activity will also support in accessing future funding for upscaling activity and focusing on additional areas.

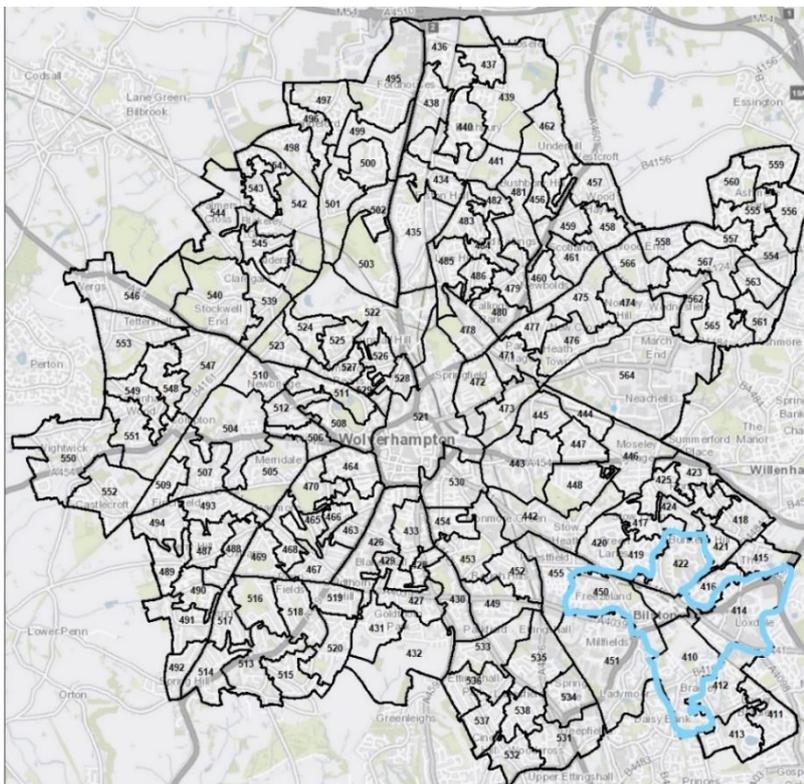
2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Safer Streets Fund enabled Police and Crime Commissioners and local authorities to bid for investment in initiatives that have been proven to prevent neighbourhood crime.
- 2.2 The Council, in partnership with West Midlands Police (WMP) and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), have been successful in bidding for £247,602 from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund to address neighbourhood crime in four eligible LSOAs. The funding will support initiatives to address robbery, theft from person, vehicle crime and burglary in LSOAs incorporating the WMP Bilston Impact Area.
- 2.3 The funding aims to:
 - A. reduce neighbourhood crime in targeted areas, making residents safer and reducing demand on the police
 - B. build evidence to strengthen the case for future investment in targeted crime prevention
 - C. grow local capability to undertake data driven problem solving approaches to crime prevention

3.0 Geographical areas of focus

- 3.1 Bids were invited to focus on a small number LSOAs in which to focus neighbourhood crime prevention activity. Areas for intervention had to meet the following criteria:

- A. Bids had to be developed in partnership.
 - B. Bidders had to apply for funding to provide targeted investment into a small area with disproportionate neighbourhood crime rates. The Home Office recommended bids should focus on a targeted area of between 500 – 3,500 households.
 - C. Bidders had to demonstrate that their chosen area is persistently and disproportionately affected by neighbourhood crime. In order to determine this the Home Office, set a range of crime rate benchmarks which had to be met in order for an area to be eligible for funding.
 - D. Intervention had to have a strong evidence-base around effectiveness of crime prevention, a summary of literature, eligible interventions and evidence was provided by the Home Office in a toolkit.
- 3.2 In order to lead a bid, local authorities needed endorsement from the OPCC, who were only able to support three bids across the region. Geographical areas for bids therefore had to align with WMP and OPCC priority areas (impact areas). At the time of bidding there were two impact areas in Wolverhampton, one within Bilston and another within Whitmore Reans.
- 3.3 To inform the bid, data analysis around neighbourhood crime across the city was conducted. The analysis clearly showed an area with disproportionately high rates of neighbourhood crimes which met the criteria for bids. The area covers four geographically adjoining LSAOs which incorporate the whole WMP Bilston impact



area. This was the only area which had a clear cluster of geographically adjoining LSOAs which met the criteria for bids. The area is outlined on the map below:

- 3.4 The Safer Streets funding must be used on activity within this targeted area in order to comply with grant conditions. Despite this, the benefits will reach outside of the specified area. All activity associated with the funding will be subject to a full evaluation, adding to an evidence base for crime prevention activity. Where there are other areas that are disproportionately affected by crime, learning from the project will be utilised to inform future strategy, commissioning and intervention across the partnership. Strengthening the evidence base around crime prevention activity will also support in accessing future funding for upscaling activity and focusing on additional areas.
- 3.5 Funded activity will form part of a wider place-based approach being rolled out across the city. This approach is data driven and will provide targeted intervention, coproducing solutions to community concerns to address health inequalities, deprivation and crime at street-level.

4.0 Activity

- 4.1 Analysis of the LSOAs showed disproportionate rates of all specified neighbourhood crime types and therefore activity will be centred on addressing all eligible crime types set out by the Home Office:

- A. Burglary
- B. Theft from person
- C. Vehicle crime
- D. Robbery

- 4.2 The successful application has been awarded £247,602 for activity to address these crimes during the 2021-2022 financial year. A breakdown of this funding and associated activity is detailed below. Activity was selected in partnership with WMP and the OPCC and utilised the Safer Streets toolkit provided by the Home Office which set out evidence-based crime prevention techniques which could be utilised by the funding.

Activity	Rationale	Funding Allocation
Capital Funding		
Installation of CCTV cameras in targeted areas with high levels of neighbourhood crime	Increased use of CCTV cameras will act as a deterrent to offenders and will provide evidence and intelligence to the police. Camera locations will centre in and around high demand areas for neighbourhood crime.	£45,000

Lighting to be installed or replaced in and around car parking facilities in targeted areas	Data analysis suggests that neighbourhood crime is more likely to take place outside daylight hours. Improving street lighting will act as a deterrent to crime, whilst increasing the likelihood that offenders will be identified and increasing the effectiveness of any CCTV.	£15,000
Total capital funding		£60,000
Revenue Funding		
Wolverhampton Homes current Safer Homes Scheme to be expanded to include targeting hardening of properties following residential burglary	Data analysis identified that most burglaries in the LSOAs targeted are residential and that there are a high number of repeat victims. A visit to properties after a burglary would deter offenders and reduce the risk of repeat victimisation.	£70,602
Promotion and coordination of neighbourhood watch, street watch and active citizen groups	Neighbourhood watch groups are shown to be effective in tackling neighbourhood crime and therefore supporting groups within targeted areas will contribute to a reduction in neighbourhood crime, particularly burglary and vehicle crime in residential areas.	£15,000
Multi-agency days of action to tackle vehicle crime	There are a number of devices which can prevent theft of vehicles, this equipment will be disseminated to communities during days of action. Disseminating this equipment will not only reduce the risk of vehicle crime but also give agencies the opportunity to engage with residents, build community relations and raise awareness of other crime types.	£40,000

Support for local community groups to increase activity around awareness and crime prevention, including coordination of a youth group	Supporting local community groups will be vital in delivering key messages utilising existing relationships with those embedded within the community. A youth group will also be established in collaboration with young people to promote and complement existing youth activity within the area, promote services, raise awareness of crime and divert young people from criminality.	£50,000
Project support	Support with monitoring outcomes of the project, reporting to the Home Office, coordinating the project board.	£12,000
Total revenue funding		£187,602
Total funding allocation		£247,602

- 4.3 The activity outlined above will form part of Wolverhampton’s wider place-based approach to addressing deprivation and health inequalities, it will also support in building community capacity and coproducing solutions to local concerns.
- 4.4 Confirmation of the successful bid was received in June 2021 and activity will need to take place by March 2022. A multi-agency project group is now being established to oversee the delivery of the activity, facilitate internal and external stakeholder engagement and measure and monitor outcomes.
- 4.5 This project group will provide regular updates to the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership who will have overall governance of the project. The City of Wolverhampton Council is the recipient of the grant funding and will act as the accountable body, reporting quarterly to the Home Office on spend and delivery against the grant. Where partners are involved in the project’s delivery, the Council will enter into a back to back grant funding agreement with delivery partners, fully reflective of the conditions of the Home Office grant, setting out their responsibilities to mitigate the risk of non-compliance and possible grant clawback.

5.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 5.1 Option one - approve the recommendations within the report in order to deliver activity outlined in section 4.2. This will ensure that the Council is delivering on the conditions of the grant. It will also ensure that funding can be utilised to compliment mainstream activity of the Council and Safer Wolverhampton Partnership by upscaling place-based activity in targeted LSAOs to address neighbourhood crime. Activity will be subject to a full evaluation and therefore contribute to an evidence base to inform future commissioning and the possible upscaling of interventions in other areas of the city.

5.2 Option two – refuse the creation of supplementary budgets and delegation of funding from the Home Office Safer Streets grant. This is not recommended as the Council would not be able to deliver against the conditions outlined in the grant agreement and could not provide account for expenditure to the Home Office.

6.0 Reasons for decision

6.1 Approving the establishment of supplementary budgets and granting delegated authority will allow the Council to work with partners to deliver on the conditions of the grant and enhance intervention around neighbourhood crime in targeted areas.

6.2 Restrictions around Covid-19 resulted in decreased levels of neighbourhood crime within the city. Activity outlined within this report will help to prevent an increase in neighbourhood crime as lockdown restrictions ease and support the vital work of relighting our city.

7.0 Financial implications

7.1 The Council has been awarded £247,602 from the Home Office to deliver the activity outlined in section 4.2 of the report in line with grant conditions.

7.2 This report seeks approval to establish a supplementary revenue budget of £187,602 and capital budget of £60,000 (totalling £247,602) fully funded by grant and delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Director of Public Health to utilise the grant and to approve the award of a grants for services detailed in section 4.2.

[JB/06072021/Z]

8.0 Legal implications

8.1 Sections five and six of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 require the Council and other responsible authorities to formulate and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder in the area. The activity associated with grant funding outlined within this report will enhance City of Wolverhampton Council and Safer Wolverhampton Partnership crime prevention activity contributing to delivery against this statutory duty. The Council will be required to adhere to the terms associated with the grant funding.

[SZ/01072021/P]

9.0 Equalities implications

9.1 The four selected LSOAs are areas of social deprivation and high crime. Three of the selected LSOAs are in the top 10% of deprivation within the UK, with the other falling into the top 30%. Safety and crime are contributing factors to deprivation and therefore activity outlined within this report will support place-based work to tackle inequalities within the city.

9.2 All activity associated with the funding will be informed by a full equalities analysis.

10.0 All other Implications

- 10.1 Activity outlined within this report seeks to address neighbourhood crime. As crime is a wider determinant of health, tackling neighbourhood crime will have a beneficial impact on the health and wellbeing of residents.
- 10.2 Restrictions around Covid-19 have resulted in decreased levels of neighbourhood crime, however as restrictions ease rates of neighbourhood crime are increasing in line with regional and national trends. Activity outlined within this report will help to prevent neighbourhood crime as lockdown restrictions ease and support the vital work of relighting our city.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

- 11.1 No background papers.