

<b>Report title</b>	Safer Streets Round Four Grant Funding		
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER		
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Health and Wellbeing		
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes		
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes		
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards		
<b>Accountable Director</b>	John Denley, Director of Public Health		
<b>Originating service</b>	Communities		
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Public Health Leadership Team	9 August 2022	
	Strategic Executive Board	23 August 2022	

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### Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve that the City of Wolverhampton Council can act as Accountable Body for the Home Office Safer Streets Grant, as detailed in the report.
2. Approve the establishment of a supplementary revenue budget totalling £356,667 fully funded by the Safer Streets grant allocation. This includes an allocation of £207,437 from September 2022 – 31 March 2023 and £158,230 from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023.
3. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Director of Public Health, to utilise the Safer Streets Fund from the Home Office 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 activity to improve the safety of women at night and address youth anti-social behaviour with a focus on the City Centre.
- 1.3 Although the activity will focus on the City Centre, elements of the project will take place across the City (for example, educational workshops). The activity will also benefit residents from across the City who access the City Centre for work, leisure, travel and the nighttime economy.
- 1.4 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.

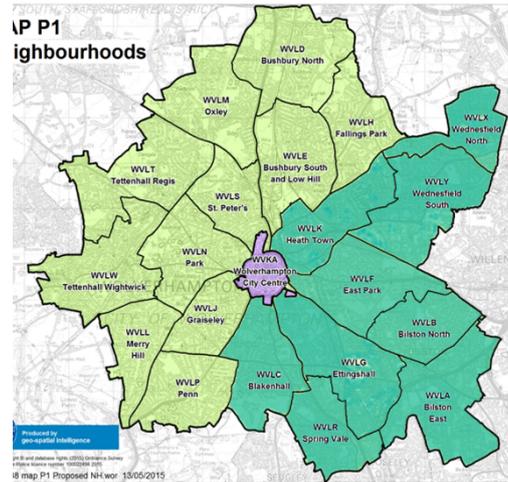
## **2.0 Background**

- 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. Wolverhampton have previously been successful in Round Two of Safer Streets where nearly £250,000 was awarded to tackle neighbourhood crime in Bilston and Ettingshall.
- 2.2 The key aims of Round Four of the funding are to:
  - A. Increase feelings of safety relating to violence against women and girls (VAWG);
  - B. Reduce VAWG in public places, to include harassment and intimidation, rape, sexual assault and drink spiking;
  - C. Reduce anti-social behaviour
- 2.3 Wolverhampton has been awarded £356,667 to delivery activity towards the aims above, mobilising activity which must be delivered by the end of September 2023. The activity will compliment existing activity being undertaken by the City of Wolverhampton Council and partners and contribute to the Our City: Our Plan priorities of healthy inclusive communities and a thriving economy.
- 2.4 The proposals were developed in partnership with the City of Wolverhampton Council, West Midlands Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Wolverhampton Bid.

2.5 As well as addressing the crime outlined above it is expected that the activity will also have a positive impact on rates of violence, domestic abuse, acquisitive crime and exploitation of children, young people and adults.

### 3.0 Geographical area of focus

3.1 The conditions of the funding mean that activity must focus on a defined geographical area of the City. The activity in Wolverhampton will focus on the City Centre highlighted in purple on the map (right).



3.2 In order to inform this area of focus data was obtained from West Midlands Police and other partners. Analysis of this data showed that, as is the case in many urban areas, the City Centre suffers from disproportionality high rates of anti-social behaviour and violence (including VAWG). This is likely due to the fact that it has a high footfall and busy nighttime economy.

3.3 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.

3.4 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 The successful application has been awarded £365,667, a breakdown of this funding and associated activity is detailed below.

Activity	Rationale	Funding Allocation
<b>Safe Haven</b>	Additional 68 nights of delivery of Wolverhampton 'Safe Haven' (one additional weekend per month). This provides a safe space for people enjoying the evening economy to seek welfare, advice and support and is complemented by the provision of first aid. Delivery will also include the trial of provision of 1 single toilet and 1 urinal/block and increased use of Wolverhampton BID Night Guardians.	2022-2023: £65,086 2023-2024: £51,881 <b>Total: £116,967</b>

<b>Safety of Women at Night training &amp; charter</b>	Bespoke training will be delivered to operators within the NTE including licensed venue staff, door staff, taxi marshals and taxi providers. This will also include a Women's Night Safety Charter. This will increase the confidence of staff in knowing how to respond to and report incidents of VAWG and ensure that they respond appropriately if they witness or receive reports of incidents of VAWG.	2022-2023: £19,000 2022-2024: £9,500 <b>Total: £28,500</b>
<b>Educational workshops</b>	Educational workshops will be upscaled with young people and provide intervention work through preventative sessions on ASB, violence, vulnerability and exploitation, using trained professionals with lived experience. They equip young people with practical tools and strategies that they can use to build resilience to negative peer pressure.	2022-2023: £21,990 2023-2024: £18,010 <b>Total: £40,000</b>
<b>Policing initiatives</b>	Additional 10 officers to be present around the city centre during peak times for 5 hours per day, 2 days per week. This will allow officers (including uniformed and plain clothed) to identify young people involved in ASB. Once young people are identified their schools will be engaged and they will be offered diversionary activity. Where there are persistent offenders WMP will make use of civil interventions such as criminal behaviour orders and community protection notices.	2022-2023: £76,622 2023-2024: £58,578 <b>Total: £135,200</b>
<b>Community Guardian Scheme</b>	A network of community guardians will be established. Local community groups, residents, businesses and partners will be trained and upskilled to become active positive bystanders in the community, improving community cohesion, building capacity within our community networks, being proactive in supporting their community and making our streets feel safer.	2022-2023: £5,498 2023-2024: £4,502 <b>Total: £10,000</b>
<b>P3 Navigator</b>	One additional P3 Navigator to engage those engaging with street drinking and off-licenses selling high strength alcohol.	2022-2023: £19,242 2023-2024: £15,758 <b>Total: £35,000</b>
<b>Total funding allocation</b>		<b>£365,667</b>

- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Confirmation of the successful bid was received in July 2022 and activity will need to take place by September 2023. 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.
- 4.4 This project group will provide regular updates to the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership which will have overall governance of the project.

## **5.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

- 5.1 Option one - approve the recommendations within the report in order to deliver activity outlined in section 4.1. 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 areas to address 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 Activity will support delivery of Our City: Our Plan priorities of healthy inclusive communities and a thriving economy.

## **7.0 Financial implications**

- 7.1 The Council has been awarded £356,667 from the Home Office to deliver the activity outlined in section 4.1 of the report in line with grant conditions.
- 7.2 This report seeks approval to establish a supplementary revenue budget totalling £356,667 fully funded by the Safer Streets grant allocation 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 4.1. This includes an allocation of £207,437 from September 2022 – 31 March 2023 and £158,230 from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023.

7.3 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.  
[JM/16082022/S]

## **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.

8.2 The Council must also comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and its internal Contract Procedure Rules and so where the Council is procuring services in relation to this grant then it must ensure compliance with the Regulations.  
[SZ/16082022/P]

## **9.0 Equalities implications**

9.1 Interventions have been developed which will particularly benefit groups who are disproportionately affected by crime. For example, there is specific intervention to improve the safety of women at night who are disproportionately affected by sexual violence and harassment and activity developed around young people who are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims or perpetrators of youth ASB, violence and exploitation.

## **10.0 All other implications**

10.1 None.

## **11.0 Schedule of background papers**

11.1 None.