



## Executive Director/Director Non-Key Executive Decision Report

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**Report to:** Dawn Shaw - Director of Communities, People Portfolio

**Date of Decision:** 26 January 2002

**Subject:** Home Office – Safer Streets Fund Round 2

Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing, Parks & Leisure

Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken? Yes ☐ No ☒

If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? (*Insert reference number*)

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes ☐ No ☒

If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below: -

*“The (**report/appendix**) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (**insert relevant paragraph number**) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”*

### Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the acceptance and use of Home Office Funds that have been successfully obtained following a partnership bid into the Government led 2021/22 Safer Streets Fund Project. A total grant of £430,000 has been successfully awarded to the Sheffield partnership which includes The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, South Yorkshire (OPCC); South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and Sheffield City Council (SCC). SCC have been awarded a total of £380,000 that will be used in a hotspot area of the City that is suffering from high levels of acquisitive crime. (Burglary, Robbery, Theft from Person and Vehicle Crime).

## Recommendations:

1. Sheffield City Council accept grant funding of £380,000 from the Home Office under the Safer Streets Fund Project.
2. Agree match funding in the sum of £106,594 as detailed and set out in this report.
3. Approve the procurement of works as set out in this report.
4. Delegate authority to the Head of Service of [ ] in consultation with the Director of Finance and Commercial Services to agree the terms of the contract and award the contracts to the successful tenderers, and to take such steps to meet the aims and objectives of this report.

## Background Papers:

I have referred to the BID Application Form jointly submitted to the Home Office via the office of the South Yorkshire PCC.

Lead Officer to complete: -		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	<div>Finance: <i>(Insert name of officer consulted)</i> <b>Sonya Oates</b></div> <div>Legal: <i>(Insert name of officer consulted)</i> <b>Henry Watmough-Cownie</b></div> <div>Equalities: <i>(Insert name of officer consulted)</i> <b>Ed Sexton</b></div>
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> Maxine Stavrianakos	<b>Job Title:</b> Head of Community Safety and Safer Neighbourhoods
	<b>Date:</b> (Insert date)  21.1.22	

## PROPOSAL

The proposal is to provide extra security provision / target hardening to those that are affected by the actions of criminals within Sheffield as explained below:

The Home Office earlier this year announced that there would be further funds available via the Safer Street Round Two Grant / Project to address and prevent neighbourhood crime.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to a substantial reduction in neighbourhood crimes, the Government expect crime to increase to pre-pandemic levels once life returns to normal, with early indicators suggesting some bounce back since sharp falls were reported during April.

It remains unclear how the government restrictions will affect future crime trends, making it of paramount importance to deliver and invest in the most robust and best evidenced solutions for preventing neighbourhood crime.

The 20/21 Safer Streets Fund was introduced as a commitment designed to deliver exactly this kind of well evidenced crime prevention activity. The fund has provided funding to 35 PCCs to invest in a range physical situational crime prevention measures, such as alleygating, CCTV, street lighting and home security, across 52 high crime areas in England and Wales. There is strong evidence to suggest that neighbourhood crimes can be prevented through these interventions, which either remove opportunities to commit crime or act as a deterrent by increasing the chances of an offender being caught.

This second, £20m round of the Safer Streets Fund aims to build upon the momentum instilled by the first round of funding, offering the opportunity to invest in new hotspot areas. This second round maintains a number of the core characteristics of the fund that have made it a success. This round focused the fund around the four neighbourhood crime types (burglary, robbery, theft from the person, vehicle crime).

Sheffield did not take part in the first round of funding but has chosen to take part in round 2 to benefit the city and its residents.

Sheffield City Council has worked jointly with South Yorkshire Police, the Police Crime Commissioners Office to identify hotspot areas of acquisitive crime across Sheffield. Based on police analysis of the areas it was identified that Ecclesall Road and the surround minor streets with large numbers of houses in multiple occupation (HMO's) was the main area for this type of crime. A plan of action to address crime levels has resulted in the partnership successfully gaining funds to improve Community Safety within this area.

A full community safety analysis has been undertaken and that along with relevant crime data highlight disproportionate levels of neighbourhood crime in our project area. Adopting a partnership approach to this bid, a range of interventions have been discussed, involving Local Authority/SYP/OPCC.

The bid utilised the Safer Street Toolkit to assist in selecting interventions with a strong evidence base, good value for money and achievable. As a result, we have identified locations which are consistently most adversely affected by acquisitive crime, specifically burglary. The Sharrow area of Sheffield is highlighted as being our most problematic.

Bisecting this location is Ecclesall Road which is a main thoroughfare into the City characterised by boutique retail and vibrant hospitality. Around this area, are numerous venues relating to Sheffield Hallam University. The Housing stock is traditional terrace with a very high proportion of HMOs for students.

Thus we have a main arterial route, enabling criminals to readily enter the area, networks of side streets of aging housing; and a populace of transient tenants, naïve to the city and the risks, with each property containing numerous consumables.

The Plan is to take proactive action within this area via the below:

### **Action Plan Template**

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Total cost (funded via Safer Streets Grant)</b>	<b>Evidence/rationale</b>
Installation of 13 CCTV cameras (5 fixed, 8 portable)	£204,000	Analysis shows the hot spot locations for acquisitive crime where cameras will be installed. The hot spot locations all suffer with high levels of acquisitive crime. The cameras will act as a deterrent to offenders and will provide evidence and intelligence to the police.
Installation of 78 Alley-gates	£144,000	Analysis highlights the vulnerability of the back alleys of the terraced housing dominant in the area. This vulnerability is exploited by criminals. Alley-gates have proven to be effective in reducing acquisitive crime in other areas of South Yorkshire and the Safer Streets Toolkit talks to the strong evidence of their effectiveness.
Community Engagement including Op Shield – property marking for 1000 homes	£12,000	Property marking has been shown in the Safer Streets Toolkit to reduce domestic burglaries.
Home Security Improvements to 80 homes with potential joint investment from private landlord	£20,000	Improvements to home security feature at the top of the Safer Streets Toolkit for interventions with a strong evidence base of impact.

## HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

The proposal to accept the grant would contribute to the Corporate Plan Priorities of being / creating Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities especially ensuring that Sheffield feels safe and be a safer city.

It would contribute to the one year plan to improve Community Safety in the city.

Acquisitive crime rates will reduce in the Ecclesall Rd/Sharrow area of the city and Sheffield residents and visitors will be attracted to spend more time in the area bringing much needed financial activity and growth. Overall people will feel much safer whilst in their home or visiting the area.

## HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

None currently but there is an element of funding set aside for community engagement whilst working with residents in the area on smart water marking of electrical items and/or valuable goods

## RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

### 1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

The proposal supports the Council's responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and, specifically, the Public Sector Equality Duty. Under the Duty, we have to pay due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations

The proposal satisfies all of these criteria.

In particular, it is noted that the funding is intended to be used in hotspots of high levels of crime where the population shares certain protected characteristics – race (Sharrow, a multi-diverse area, is identified); and age (younger people / students are identified). Although not mentioned in the report, it is highly likely that the proposal will benefit people who share other protected characteristics – e.g. age (older people), sex (women) and disability.

### 2 Financial and Commercial Implications

The grant allocation of £380,000 from South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner (SYPCC) must only be used for the purposes specified within the bid and Grant Purpose document.

Match funding of £106,594 is to be provided by SCC as detailed in the Grant Purpose document.

The funding forms part of the Home Office Safer Streets funding provided to the SYPCC. The recipient must participate in Home Office evaluation of this funding as a condition of this grant.

Activities and grant spend must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. No carry forward of grant funding will take place.

Failure to comply with the grant terms and conditions may result in clawback/termination of the grant agreement.

Progress monitoring is to take place as follows:

Quarter 2	July - September	04 October 2021 (deadline missed)
Quarter 3	October - December	04 January 2022
Quarter 4	January - March	04 April 2022

The funding is to support crime prevention/target hardening in the Sharrow/Ecclesall Road area.

Funding must not be received by other sources in respect of this project, with the exception of any match funding detailed in the bid.

The grant may not be used for activities that were pre-planned prior to the receipt of the grant offer.

Eligible expenditure must be net of VAT.

The grant must not support activity that is political or religious in nature.

The grant must not be used to support activity that will result in profit or commercial gain or to cover any direct costs to establish fundraising capability.

Any unspent funding must be returned.

#### **Assets:**

Title and ownership of assets procured by grant shall remain the property of the Commissioner and shall be clearly identified as such.

An up to date asset inventory must be provided to the SYPCC for any items exceeding £1,000 that have been purchased with a grant.

Written permission must be sought from the Commissioner prior to disposal of the assets purchased by this funding.

#### **Procurement:**

All public sector procurement is governed by UK National Law. In addition, all procurement in Sheffield City Council must comply with its own Procurement Policy, and internal regulations known as 'Contracts Standing Orders' (CSOs).

Contracts Standing Orders requirements will apply in full to the procurement of services, goods or works utilising grants. All grant monies must be treated in the same way as any other Council monies and any requirement to purchase/acquire services, goods or works must go via a competitive process.

The Project Manager will need to read, understand and comply with all of the grant terms and conditions, including the additional terms and conditions attached to this grant, and the [Code of Conduct for Grant Recipients](#).

3. Commercial Services are involved in this project. The work will be delivered through existing contracts Sheffield City Council contracts where possible (for example the property security improvements workstream) and through a procurement process where needed (for example the property marking workstream).

4. Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 The procurement process and any contract awards must be undertaken in accordance with all relevant provisions of the Council's Constitution including its Contracts Standing Orders.

The Council must comply with the grant conditions laid out in any proposed grant agreement, which legal has not had sight of.

The Decision maker must be satisfied with the proposals as set out in this agreement regarding proposed match funding.

Other Implications

None

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 1 Alternatives considered: if the grant monies are not accepted and utilised for this vital work Sheffield would probably be unable to fulfil most of its Community Safety objectives.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Once approved, this grant will immediately bring benefits to the communities most affected by acquisitive crime in the Sharrow/Ecclesall Rd area.

The main outcomes will be:

- The number of victims of acquisitive crime will reduce.
- Crime Rates will reduce in the area and Sheffield residents and visitors will be attracted to spend more time in the area bringing much needed financial activity and growth.
- Overall people will feel much safer whilst in their home or visiting the area.
- The area identified contains a lot of student accommodation so will benefit students by them feeling safer and attracting more students to the city
- CCTV will also help to combat VAWG with cameras in the area being monitored and reports passed back to SYP.

Should the grant money not be accepted then Sheffield would not be in a position to immediately enhance or improve community safety within those areas identified and the opportunity for crime to increase will be much greater.