



Officer Decision Report

Author/Lead Officer of Report: Jason Siddall

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Report to: Director of Communities

Date of Decision: 17th August 2022

Subject: Acceptance of Safer Streets Fund Round 4 grant funding

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 1218				
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-				
<i>"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."</i>				

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 2022/23 Safer Streets Fund Project. A total grant of £230,000 has been successfully awarded to Sheffield City Council (SCC) 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:

- SCC accept grant funding of £230K from the Home Office, to meet the aims and objectives of this report.
- Agree match funding of £115K, to meet the aims and objectives of this report.
- Agree commissioning of works and services as set out in this report.

Background Papers:

(Insert details of any background papers used in the compilation of the report.)

None

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.
	Finance: Sonya Oates
	Legal: Henry Watmough-Cownie
	Equalities & Consultation: Ed Sexton
	Climate: n/a
<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	SLB member who approved submission: <i>John Macilwraith</i>
3	Relevant Policy Committee <i>Community, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.
	Lead Officer Name: <i>Jason Siddall</i>
	Job Title: <i>Head of Communities</i>
Date: 17 th August 2022	

1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 The grant will fund the purchase and deployment of 15 re-deployable CCTV cameras linked to the Council's existing CCTV network and provide upgraded recording equipment to assist in the detection and reduction of crime.

- 1.2 The area selected covers residential areas either side of Ecclesall Road running from the City Centre to Hunters Bar Roundabout which is a main thoroughfare into the town centre, 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.

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

There are strong connections between the Local Authority, the University and the police in this area. This bid seeks additional investment, which will provide monitoring of the entire 'Ecclesall Road Corridor' between the City Centre and Hunter's Bar to address the pernicious problems which blight this part of the city

- 1.3 Beyond the end of Ecclesall Road is the Moorfoot area of the City Centre. This area is known as the 'Gay Quarter' which includes a small collection of LGBTQ+ venues. This area connects directly to the LSOAs running along Ecclesall Road. There are regular reports in the press of homophobic attacks in the area. This area is not covered by CCTV and represents a gap in coverage of the City Centre.
- 1.4 Sheffield City Council's CCTV network is scant in this area, with no coverage on or around the identified residential streets. Aside from burglary, Ecclesall Road abounds with bars and restaurants. This investment will help to keep patrons, particularly lone females, safe and to feel safe. This is a timely opportunity, in light of recent events, to take real action to tackle this crucial issue.

A detailed assessment was undertaken by accredited Designing Out Crime Officers (DOCOs) which recommended a number of interventions to reduce residential burglary along the Ecclesall Road corridor. Many of these, for example the installation of alley gates, have been implemented as part of Safer Streets Round 2 funding. The exception is CCTV. This proposal recommends provision of CCTV to cover the whole of Ecclesall Road and a link to the City Centre Gay Quarter.

- 1.5 **Breakdown of the funding:**

Deliverable	Total cost	Evidence/rationale (max 300 words per deliverable)
<i>Installation of 15, redeployable CCTV Cameras on</i>	<i>165000</i>	<i>The analysis shows high rates of neighbourhood crime in streets off the Ecclesall Road corridor and</i>

connected via link to the Council's existing CCTV monitoring centre.		<i>antisocial behaviour along the target LSOAs. The network of cameras will provide both a deterrent and a means of identifying perpetrators by monitoring the entry and exit of vehicles from the area. Footage from the cameras will be available through 'follow me' system allowing live monitoring of issues throughout the area. The cameras will also close a gap in the city centre CCTV coverage and link coverage to a key route into and out of the city centre.</i>
Upgraded recording equipment	15000	<i>To accommodate the additional high definition footage received from an additional 15 cameras, improved recording equipment is required.</i>
Out of hours installation costs	8,000	<i>Installation needs to take place outside of normal working hours to minimise disruption during installation.</i>
5 years all-inclusive maintenance paid upfront following installation	15000	<i>A 5 year, all-inclusive maintenance package will provide annual servicing and replacement of any equipment required during the first 5 years of operation, including rapid response to emergency/critical call-outs. This will ensure the cameras are maintained in excellent condition and protect the investment in the infrastructure for 5 years.</i>
Committed sum for 10 years electricity costs paid up front	10,000	<i>All additions to highway infrastructure require future energy costs to be paid in advance to ensure ongoing costs are covered.</i>
Framework Procurement Fees (3%)	6000	<i>Procurement through an existing framework ensures both best value and compliance with standing orders</i>
Contingency (5%)	11,000	<i>Inflation is currently increasing and therefore it is prudent to ensure that there is contingency to cover any additional costs associated with the project</i>
Total:	230,000	

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?

- 2.1 The decision contributes to the Our Sheffield One Year Plan Communities and Neighbourhoods ambition '**Neighbourhoods that are clean, green, safe and thriving**'.
- 2.2 We expect the CCTV installation to bring benefits in deterring/detecting a range of crime – not only acquisitive crime. We hope for a 16% reduction in acquisitive crime because of the camera installation.

Cameras will provide reassurance to local people and help make people, feel safe when out and about. The area is home to many young women living away from home for the first time, we believe the camera installation will increase feelings of safety in women.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 The proposals have been discussed with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

No direct consultation on the proposals has been undertaken however, between October and December 2021, a city-wide survey was carried out to identify the priorities for new Local Area Committees (LAC). The target area all falls within the Central LAC.

Below is a selection of comments from the survey relating to the priorities of local people:

- *'Security.'*
- *'The area isn't covered by CCTV direct feed for in time monitoring'*
- *'Need better security measures (CCTV) and visible policing'*
- *'More CCTV'*
- *'Improve safety at night'*
- *'Safety especially for women'*
- *'There's too much crime. We've been burgled and see reports of burglaries most weeks. Don't feel safe.'*
- *'Car theft has become a bigger issue since lock down'*

The Central LAC contains a high proportion of the city's student population and the Ecclesall Road corridor and surrounding residential streets contain many student lets. The LAC is implementing a Student Engagement Plan which will provide dialogue with the students in the area, including providing advice and guidance on crime reduction. Student properties are a target for burglary as they tend to have poor security and a large number of high value, portable items such as laptops and other electronic equipment.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality Implications

4.1.1 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 multidiverse area, is identified); sexual orientation and age (younger people / students are identified).

It is highly likely that the proposal will benefit people who share other protected characteristics – e.g. age (older people), sex (women) and disability.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

4.2.1 The grant allocation of £230,000 from The Home Office must only be used for the purposes specified within the bid and Grant Purpose document. Match funding of £115,000 is to be provided by SCC as detailed above.

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 31st March 2023. No carry forward of grant funding will take place.

Grant funding will not be received in advance of need.

An asset register must be maintained, and evidence of insurance coverage for the life of the assets must be provided.

At the end of the grant agreement period, title of the assets will transfer to the funder unless agreed in writing by both parties.

Match funding is to be spent by 31st March 2024.

The risk of fraud/conflicts of interest must be reviewed as part of the project's risk assessment processes.

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

4.2.2 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.

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.

Duplicate funding may not be applied for from other sources.

Progress reporting must be undertaken as detailed within the grant agreement and according to the schedule on page 39 of the agreement. An annual review will also take place.

4.2.3 Match Funding

The grant requires match funding of an additional 50% of the award (ie £115,000).

Match funding resources will be used to ensure the project is managed and that the equipment is integrated into existing structures smoothly and will, therefore, support the successful delivery of the intervention as follows.

Integration and monitoring of the equipment

A significant amount of officer time within the CCTV monitoring team will be needed to both integrate the new cameras into the system and monitor the cameras. The additional cameras represent an increase of around 15% in the number of cameras monitored by the team. Over the duration of the funding period, it is anticipated that, on average, this will result in in-kind benefits (pro-rata employee time) of £2,375 per month for 16 months to the end of March 2024. Total in-kind match funding £38,000.

Project management

A 0.2FTE Project management resource will be provided between July 2022 and January 2023 to ensure the project is completed on time and within budget. This equates to 7 months at £1000 per month. Total in-kind match funding £7,000.

Indirect administration costs

Administrative support (including financial monitoring, business support and procurement professionals) will be provided by other services within SCC. It is anticipated that this will be approximately 7% of the project grant funding (ie £15,000).

Highways commuted sum

Additional fixtures and fittings to highways infrastructure require a commuted sum to be paid in advance to cover future maintenance and, where necessary, replacement. This will ensure that all the ancillary equipment fitted to lamp posts throughout the area will be fully maintained and available to ensure that the cameras are fully operational beyond the funding period. Commuted sum is estimated to be £5,000.

Safer Neighbourhoods Coordinators

The target area cuts across 3 policing areas. A Safer Neighbourhood Coordinator is allocated to each area and each will spend around 1/3 of their time working on crime reduction and problem solving plans specifically for those three areas, with a focus on the specific gay quarter and Ecclesall Road and surrounding residential areas. Targeting will run from after the CCTV (January 2023) is installed for a period of at least 12 months (to December 2023). Staffing costs for 1/3 of each of 3 officers for 12 months, including oncosts amount to £50,000.

4.2.4 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.

Commercial Services are involved in this project. The work will be delivered through a procurement process where needed.

4.3 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 the grant agreement.

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

4.4 Climate Implications

4.4.1 A Climate impact assessment is not required for this decision. The decision will result in a small increase in electricity consumption from the deployment of the cameras and associated monitoring equipment

4.4 Other Implications

4.4.1 None

5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 Not to accept the grant funding.

If the grant monies are not accepted and utilised for this work, the benefits of a reduction in acquisitive crime because of the camera installation and reassurance to local people and help make people, feel safe when out and about will not be realised.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 Once approved, this grant will 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 violence against women and girls 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.

