

## EXECUTIVE

### 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Safer Streets Fund Round 4 – 2022/23</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	David Watts, Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing (DASS)
<b>Lead Member</b>	Councillor Matthew Binley - Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling Up

<b>Key Decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Are there public sector equality duty implications?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972</b>	

#### List of Appendices

- Appendix A** – Location Maps
- Appendix B** – Project Timeline
- Appendix C** – Equalities Screening Assessment

#### 1. Purpose of Report

---

- 1.1. This report asks the Executive to approve the implementation of the Safer Streets Round 4 projects for William Knibb/All Saints, Kettering; and Queensway Wellingborough. The geographical areas each project covers are set out in **Appendix A**. The funding for these projects has been awarded by HM Government (Home Office).

#### 2. Executive Summary

---

- 2.1. The Home Office Safer Streets Fund provides funding for interventions aimed at tackling neighbourhood crime, anti-social behaviour and violence against women and girls; and overall, improve the safety of our public spaces for all.

- 2.2. As with earlier rounds, round 4 was open to police and crime commissioners, local authorities, British Transport Police and eligible civil society organisations, who could lead projects and make applications of their own. However, all applications required endorsement by the local police and crime commissioner before submission. Again, as with previous rounds, each application's proposals had to demonstrate that the localities were affected disproportionately and persistently by the crime types the fund aims to tackle.
- 2.3. North Northamptonshire Council has been awarded funding for a project in the William Knibb/All Saints area of Kettering. We are also a delivery partner in the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (OPF&CC) bid for its project in Queensway, Wellingborough. Furthermore, North Northamptonshire will benefit from the OPF&CC's project for tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG), as that focuses on the county's two significant night-time economies of Northampton and Kettering.
- 2.4. In both the William Knibb/All Saints and the Queensway projects, the funding will support a range of community safety interventions including: controlled access to alleyways (alleygating) where residents are experiencing persistent ASB and high levels of crime; extending our CCTV networks to provide 24/7 monitoring and recording in those areas; providing vulnerable residents with home security packs and target hardening; and providing and improving facilities and amenities to divert young people away from crime.

### **3. Recommendations**

---

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:
  - a) Approves the implementation of the Safer Streets Round 4 projects, using the funding award as detailed in this report and appendices.
  - b) Delegates authority to the Executive Member Housing Communities and Levelling Up, in conjunction with the Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, to take any necessary action to ensure these projects are implemented.
- 3.2 Reason for Recommendations: To ensure the funding available from the 2022/23 Safer Streets Funding programme is invested as set out in the Funding Agreements and the projects delivered as set out in this report.
- 3.3 Alternative Options Considered:
  - a) The Council was not duty-bound to apply to the Safer Streets Fund or confirm support for the OPF&CC bids. However, it would have presented a significant missed opportunity to secure Government funding for making improvements to localities suffering significant crime.
  - b) The Council could also have rejected the Home Office's offer of grant funding for the William Knibb/All Saints project, and or withdraw our support

for the Queensway one. Both bids had a high level of work from officers in terms of preparations and such rejections and withdrawal could impact negatively on the Council's reputation both as a responsible partner organisation in the community safety partnership, and as the unitary authority responsible for the project areas.

#### **4. Report Background**

---

- 4.1. The Government's Safer Streets fund supports key interventions in local communities that are disproportionately and persistently affected by neighbourhood crime including: domestic burglary, robbery and vehicle crimes; ASB and VAWG. The county has seen just under £3.5M investment so far from previous rounds. Four further projects have been awarded a total of £1.49M from this latest round (round 4).
- 4.2. The timescales for applications to the Safer Streets Fund were tight with an application turnaround time of approximately 10 weeks from the launch of the scheme. Successful applicants were notified in July. The Council was awarded £261,000 for a project in part of the William Knibb and All Saints area of Kettering. The project will facilitate a range of home security and crime reduction measures to the most vulnerable residential properties in the area; put access control measures in place (alleygating) where residents are suffering from ASB and criminal activities; and extending Kettering's CCTV network to the area to provide increased surveillance.
- 4.3. We are also a delivery partner in the OPF&CC's project in the Queensway area of Wellingborough. This is a £689,000 project in total, led by the OPF&CC with delivery on key components from the Council, Greatwell Homes and Northants Police. The Council will manage the CCTV elements, outdoor gym equipment provision and enhancements to a local bike track, totalling £285,000.
- 4.4. Both project areas suffer from disproportionate levels of crime and ASB. William Knibb and All Saints have suffered with stubborn neighbourhood crime due to the structure and physical nature of the buildings, which provide opportunities for offenders to move around undetected. Restricting access to alleyways and increasing CCTV will help combat this. Furthermore, William Knibb and All Saints are within the Kettering town area, which has been identified as having issues with heroin and crack cocaine supply. The Safer Streets 4 project in this area will be complementary to the previous Safer Streets round 2 project in a neighbouring part of All Saints, which is now seeing the early signs of deflection due to the physical improvements achieved with that earlier funding.
- 4.5. The Queensway area has also seen higher levels of violent and knife crime including the murder of a then 16-year-old male in August 2021. There are a high number of young people involved in gang culture and this is seen as a generational issue within the Queensway area. Motorcycle nuisance has become a prevalent factor across the estate and that has grown since the tragic murder last year, of which the victim was enthusiastic about motorbikes.

The estate has a bike track owned by the Council that needs developing, and in doing so will provide a worthwhile facility offering positive activities for young people. The project has a funding provision for undertaking that work.

- 4.6. The OPF&CC has also been awarded £448,000 for tackling violence against women and girls in the night-time economies of Northampton and Kettering. There are no requirements on North Northamptonshire Council to manage or lead on any elements of the project.
- 4.7. Tackling the crimes experienced in these project areas requires both physical improvements and other initiatives, all of which provide a public health approach to tackling the root causes of such problems. Already several activities have emerged in the project areas, including targeted and detached youth work; drug treatment and recovery programmes and the opportunity to provide places for positive activities for young people.

## **5. Issues and Choices**

---

- 5.1. Capital funding opportunities for community safety improvements are very limited and the Safer Streets programme is a very valuable funding stream for helping to counteract this. Its flexibility means bids can cover complementary diversionary activity aspects such as the bike track and outdoor gym equipment, which working alongside the proven crime fighting tools such as CCTV and alley-gates, will help make the areas feel safer.
- 5.2. The Safer Streets funding has up to now been confined to annual rounds and is a competitive programme. The funding secured from this round 4 will continue our investment in those localities experiencing significant neighbourhood crime and ASB, one of which (Queensway) is part of our levelling up programme.
- 5.3. Northants Police analysts and crime prevention officers provided critical information and data, which helped identify the localities and the issues that needed tackling. As highlighted above, the turnaround period for applications to the fund was tight so officers had a limited timeframe to analyse data and information, identify key improvements and obtain costings for the work required. As a significant amount of officer time was investing in preparing the bids for the fund, the offer of funding to North Northamptonshire Council for William Knibb/All Saints was accepted, and our continued support for OPF&CC's Queensway bid confirmed.
- 5.4. The two projects will be delivered over the period from now until September 2023, based on staged completion and draw down of the grant funding from the Home Office. The objectives/outcomes of the projects, which the bids were based on are:-
  - Increased detection of crimes.
  - Reduced incidents of crime and ASB
  - Reduced knife-related crime incidents

- Residents saying they feel safer as a result of the improvements
- High levels of satisfaction with the improvements
- Increased participation of young people in positive activities

Some of these outcomes will of course be realised over the long-term, and beyond the completion of the projects.

## **6. Next Steps**

---

- 6.1. The next steps will be the implementation of the projects, as set out in the Project Timeline at **Appendix B**.

## **7. Implications (including financial implications)**

---

### **7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation**

- 7.1.1. The funding for the William Knibb/All Saints project will come from the Home Office directly to the Council through a drawdown process on completion of each stage of the project. The grant drawdown points for each stage are included within the project timeline (**Appendix B**). Officers have completed a Grant Agreement with the Home Office. Officers will have regular project monitoring meetings with the Home Office team responsible for the Safer Streets Fund.
- 7.1.2. Funding for the components the Council is responsible for in the Queensway project will be drawn down via the OPF&CC. At the time of preparing this report, the OPF&CC were about to issue a Funding Agreement between them and the Council for managing this process. This will also include regular oversight and progress meetings between the Strategic Lead for Community Safety and the OPF&CC's Director for Delivery.
- 7.1.3. Both project applications were required to indicate match funding. In both projects that match funding equates to our running costs for operating CCTV and officer time involved in developing further proposals for developing the bike track in the Queensway project. No further revenue or capital commitments are required from the Council.
- 7.1.4. Oversight and management of the financial processes at the Council for both projects will be undertaken by the Strategic Lead for Community Safety.

### **7.2. Legal and Governance**

- 7.2.1 Installing alleygates in public locations requires the Council to make a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) under section 59 to 75 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. This is relevant to the Queensway project as the units are proposed for alleyways currently on public land. The

PSPO consultation is underway and likely to raise controversial issues. In accordance with Council's Scheme of Delegation, consideration and approval of the PSPO will be required by the Executive at its meeting in November 2022. A PSPO for the alley-gate proposals in the William Knibb/All Saints projects is not required as the alleyways are private to the residential properties.

7.2.2 There are procurement requirements in both projects which officers are progressing.

7.2.3 CCTV installations require planning consent and the appropriate applications for that will be submitted as part of the work to deliver the project. The installations are also subject to Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) prior to being commissioned and this will include the installation of the necessary signage indicating CCTV monitoring and recording is taking place in the areas.

7.2.4 As identified above, project management and governance arrangements are in place for the projects.

### 7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1 The Safer Streets projects support the following policies and plans:-

- **Corporate Plan 2022-25:** tackling the causes of difficult issues leading to nuisance, crime and anti-social behaviour. The projects will help make our public places and spaces safer for all.
- **North Northants Community Safety Plan 2022-25:** this is the plan of the North Northants Community Safety Partnership. Tackling the root causes of neighbourhood crime, serious violence and ASB requires a public health approach with all partners committed to working collaboratively.

### 7.4. Risk

7.4.1. The main risk associated with both projects is delays on delivery lead times for items associated with CCTV installations. The current economic climate is placing significant pressures on global supply chains.

7.4.2. As part of preparing the bids to the fund, officers were mindful to aim to complete the CCTV installation in the Queensway project in the earlier period of the project timeline. This would allow for slippage if required (up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 as opposed to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023) if supply issues became apparent.

## 7.5. **Consultation**

- 7.5.1 Consultation with partner organisations such as the Police, was undertaken to help shape and inform the preparations of the funding bids prior to submission.
- 7.5.2 A series of consultation events are currently underway in both project areas to seek residents' views on where priority locations should be for alleygates and CCTV units.

## 7.6. **Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel and Strategic Capital Board**

- 7.6.1. This report has not been considered by an Executive Advisory Panel.

## 7.7. **Consideration by Scrutiny**

- 7.7.1. Scrutiny has not considered the proposals at this stage.

## 7.8. **Equality Implications**

- 7.8.1. An Equalities Screening Assessment has been completed for the Safer Streets projects and is appended to the report at **Appendix C**. This demonstrates that the projects have the potential for only positive and neutral impacts on identified equality groups, based on the proposed amendments.

## 7.9. **Climate Impact**

- 7.9.1. There are no specific climate issues or impacts arising from the recommendations.

## 7.10. **Community Impact**

- 7.10.1 The Safer Streets projects will make improvements that support people's quality of life, especially those who are currently experiencing ASB, neighbourhood crime and serious violence. Some of the impact will be realised over the medium to long-term as the initiatives become established and make improvements.

## 7.11. **Crime and Disorder Impact**

- 7.11.1 The Safer Streets projects will support tackling the root causes of neighbourhood crime, serious violence and anti-social behaviour. These crimes can be complex and require joint approaches by partners as well as residents and businesses if they are to be tackled effectively.

## **8. Background Papers**

---

- **Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**
- **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**