

Public Document Pack

Executive Member Decisions

Friday, 2nd September, 2022
10.00 am

AGENDA

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Development of a new Prayer Shelter at Pleasington Cemetery - Part 2 - Restricted

Date Published: Friday, 2nd September, 2022
Denise Park, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION



REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention & Wellbeing
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Adults and Health
DATE:	01 September 2022

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Departments
WARD/S AFFECTED:	Audley & Queens Park;

SUBJECT: Safer Streets 4 Funding

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Blackburn with Darwen (BwD) Borough Council has been successful in its application to the Safer Streets 4 Fund, a Home Office funded project aimed at reducing acquisitive crime in small Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) over an 18-month period. The bid was developed by the Community Safety team and approved by the Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership. This is the third time the partnership has been successful in applying for funds from Safer Streets projects, having successfully run two of these projects in the past three years.

As per previous rounds the bid is focussed on LSOA's with higher rates of crime, particularly violent crime and improving the safety of public spaces. The total project cost is £750,000 and the amount of grant to be received from the Home Office is £375,000. A further £375,000 will be provided as matchfunding through existing schemes and improvements in the area, including a greenspace project in the area, planned CCTV installations and officer time.

As noted, Safer Streets 4 project will be delivered in the Audley and Queens Park Ward area. This area was chosen based on extensive data research completed by the Partnership Crime Analyst.

The funding will be spent on tangible measures that can be sustained beyond the lifetime of the programme and are proven responses that can reduce crime and improve detection.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

Approve the commencement of the programme in line with the grant content and terms and conditions.

Agree to a supplementary revenue estimate of £375,000 (for the 18 month period) in 2022/23 to support the delivery of the project (noting that this will be wholly funded by grant from the Safer Streets 4 Fund).

3. BACKGROUND

Safer Streets is a project developed by the Office of the Police Commissioner (OPCC) and funded by the Home Office. Its primary aim is to reduce the impact of theft and burglary on vulnerable communities.

This is the fourth round of Safer Streets funding and was announced in March 2022. Local Community Safety Partnerships apply for the funding through an Expression of Interest to the OPCC who then determines which bids to support.

Blackburn with Darwen were notified of their successful bid in July 2022. From commencement of delivery, the project will run for an 18 month period.

The area chosen was Audley and Queens Park, based on crime and ASB data, specifically data relating to violent crime. The team also undertook a visual audit to catalogue contributors to crime and perceptions of crime in the local area, in order to develop our proposed response.

Deliverables that the funding will be spent on include

- 1) CCTV installations and monitoring costs for 3 years
- 2) Community Engagement
- 3) Improvements to green spaces and multi-use game areas
- 4) Gating schemes and domestic security
- 5) Upgraded Street Lighting
- 6) Community Clean ups

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The programme is fully funded from the grant. The match funding from Blackburn with Darwen and partners (including Lancashire Constabulary) is from existing staff, who will work to support the implementation of the programme and include pre-approved investments in the local area, for example, environmental improvements. There is no requirement for additional cash resources as part of our match funding in kind commitment.

The Project Manager will keep a risk and opportunities log, and this will be closely monitored through the weekly, monthly and quarterly project and contract review meetings

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications as a result of the programme. Local Authority current policies and processes will be utilised.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A total of £375,000 will be received from the Home Office, and spent over an 18 month period. The funding will be held only by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council. The Council will also keep a record for the return to the home office of the deployment of match funding.

The project will have no further implications on existing council budgets.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Any expenditure and works for the project will be commissioned through the Council's commissioning team. This will use all relevant pre-existing procedures and checks including, where relevant, the use of the councils enforcement powers, required, for example, should alley gates be installed as part of the implementation.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional resource implications arising from this report. A Project Manager will be commissioned to complete the project, funding for which will be allocated from the project grant. Existing staff will support the project, as part of match funding in kind. The project will also include match funding in kind resources from partner agencies to include for example the Lancashire Constabulary. Funding has been allocated to improve an area of greenspace and a play area in the area.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

The areas applied for within the bid were chosen based on an extensive data gathering exercise for these crime types across Blackburn with Darwen, together with the Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Rebecca Hopwood
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DATE:	01/09/2022
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	
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EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION



REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Growth and Development
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Environment & Operations
DATE:	2 September 2022

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Environment & Operations

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT: Development of a new Prayer Shelter at Pleasington Cemetery

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In August 2021, Executive Board approved the construction of a new modular build Muslim prayer shelter within the new cemetery extension at Pleasington Cemetery, subject to planning permission being granted.

A capital budget was estimated for the cost of constructing a new Muslim prayer shelter, using modular construction, the budget included a 5% contingency budget. The estimated costs were based on an actual quote which was obtained via soft market testing. The final cost would be confirmed following a tendering process led by the corporate procurement team.

Executive Board gave approval for the establishment of a capital budget in the financial year 2021/22 to fund the surveys, professional fees and construction costs and gave approval to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development, to award the contract to build the prayer shelter following a tendering process.

On 17th February 2022, the Planning & Highways committee granted the planning application to construct the new Muslim Prayer Shelter

In June 2022, the construction project was advertised on the Chest for a four week period. A total of six bids were received and following evaluation, one bid was adjudged to be the most economically advantageous. However, due to rising inflation and increased costs of materials and labour, the cost of constructing the new prayer shelter exceeds the approved budget included in the Executive Board report in August 2021

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

- Awards the contract to RG Stones to build the prayer shelter following a tendering and evaluation process.
- Agrees in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Governance for a supplementary capital sum of £181,335 to be added to the existing budget provision from the

3. BACKGROUND

The current Muslim burial grounds which surround the existing prayer shelter will be at capacity by 2023 at which point all future burials will take place in the new extension to the north of the cemetery, which is some considerable distance from the existing prayer shelter. Traditionally, the deceased is taken to the Muslim prayer shelter and immediately following the prayers, the deceased is then carried to graveside and buried.

The existing prayer shelter is not built to modern day standards and is not fit for purpose. It has a metal panel roof which is not insulated and during rainfall, it leaks in areas and causes water damage to the carpet. The current electrical supply to the prayer shelter only provides enough energy to power the lights and one plug socket so as a result, the building has no hot water or heating, hence in the winter months it is extremely cold. The water pipes burst regularly in the winter months because the shelter is so cold, the water freezes. When the pipes burst, it causes considerable water damage to the carpet. There is significant condensation on the windows and doors which in turn creates a damp atmosphere within the shelter which is not conducive to the health of those using the prayer shelter to mourn and pray for the deceased.

Planning permission has been obtained for a new prayer shelter to be located on the new extension to the north of the cemetery on land which was overgrown and contained self-seeded immature trees and saplings. The land is adjacent to Olive section which is only suitable for single depth graves, accordingly it makes sense to use this section solely for Muslim burials as Muslims require a single depth grave, whereas the majority of applications for Christian and non-denominational burials request a grave which can accommodate 2 or 3 burials

A tendering process has been completed for the construction of a new modular prayer shelter which includes a prayer hall of a similar size to the existing prayer shelter, a small kitchen, WC's, utilities/services, a heating system, decoration and finishes throughout and perimeter works outside the shelter.

The tendering process required tenderers to price for the project by providing a breakdown of cost for site preparations; modular building construction; sanitary ware; mechanical and electrical works; drainage solutions; internal decoration and finishing works; external landscaping and finishing works and general items on completion of the project. Six companies submitted tenders for the project, their overall tender costs are detailed in the table below:

RG Stones	Contractor B	Contractor C	Contractor D	Contractor E	Contractor F
£512,161	£731,500	£744,750	£790,111	£822,137	£756,808

The cost of constructing the new prayer shelter has increased as a result of rising inflation and the increasing cost of materials and labour. Therefore the amount of funding required exceeds the budget estimate approved by the Executive Board on 12 August 2021.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The current Muslim burial grounds which surround the existing prayer shelter will be at capacity by 2023 at which point, Muslim burials will take place in the new extension to the cemetery.

Executive Board approved, subject to planning permission, the construction of a new modular build prayer shelter to be located in the new extension to the cemetery. Executive Board gave approval to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Growth and Development, to award the contract to build the prayer shelter following a tendering process. Planning permission was granted in February 2022 and the construction of the new prayer shelter project was advertised on the Chest for a four week period in June 2022.

The cost of constructing the new prayer shelter has increased as a result of rising inflation and the increasing cost of materials and labour and additional capital funding is required to deliver the project.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of constructing the new prayer shelter has increased as a result of rising inflation and the increasing cost of materials and labour. RG Stones submitted the most economically advantageous tender for £512,161.

A total of £19,174 has been spent from the capital budget of £350,000 on surveys, assessments and the installation of mains electric for the new prayer shelter. Accordingly, a supplementary capital sum of £181,335 is required to deliver the prayer shelter project, these funds will be vired from the Asset Management Strategy budget.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The tender evaluation process has identified a preferred contractor who has submitted the most economically advantageous tender for the construction of the prayer shelter. The contract will be in a form approved by legal officers in the Contracts and Procurement team

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Officers from the Construction and facilities team will perform clerk of works role working with the appointed contractor on the delivery of the scheme.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

Consultations were undertaken as part of the planning process

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Martin Eden
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DATE:	26 August 2022
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	
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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted