



# EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

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

<b>PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:</b>	Departments
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	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.

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>1</b>
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Rebecca Hopwood</b>
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<b>DATE:</b>	01/09/2022
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<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	
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