



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Acting Chief Executive

Date: 03 September 2020

SUCCESSFUL BID TO HOME OFFICE SAFER STREETS FUND

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has been awarded £545,693 to tackle residential burglary following a successful partnership bid (made in April) to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the report.

3. Background

3.1 In February 2020 the Home Office opened up the Safer Streets Fund for bids from OPCC offices on behalf of wider partnerships. Bids were limited to a maximum of £550k per small geographical residential area for evidence-based interventions using the principles of crime prevention through environmental design. To be eligible for funding areas had to meet a strict Home Office criteria around acquisitive crime or residential burglary.

3.2 Residential burglary was chosen as a focus for the Cambridgeshire bid because:

- It is a Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the “Constabulary”) priority.
- The evidenced impact of interventions is strongest for tackling burglary.
- The crime prevention toolkit indicates the most cost effective, sustainable, achievable interventions focus on burglary.
- Residents gain the most direct benefit from any intervention.

3.3 All eligible areas were considered, factoring in data on crime types and crime levels, including data from the local authority Cambridgeshire Insight system. Additional qualitative data was sourced from the Constabulary, Local Authority, Community and

Health stakeholders. Analysts, Designing Out Crime Officers and Burglary Impact Teams gave specialist advice.

- 3.4 The area chosen locally consists of four joined Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) situated in the Arbury and West Chesterton wards of Cambridge City with an estimated population of 5,665 in 2,680 households. These four LSOAs ranked numbers 1,3,4 and 7 locally when looking at residential burglaries per 1,000 population per year.
- 3.5 The Home Office notified the OPCC on 27th July 2020 that their bid had been successful. Of the £545,693 awarded the largest portion, more than £460k, will pay for targeted home security improvements for vulnerable residents living in 'at risk properties' in order to prevent them becoming victims of residential burglary. A 'gold, silver, bronze' approach will be taken to ensure that those with the highest need get the most support. The remainder will fund a programme of community engagement and development, as well as project management to support residents in developing sustainable approaches to preventing residential burglary in their community.

4. Next Steps and delivery

- 4.1 The OPCC has had initial conversations with all stakeholders who have confirmed they remain in a position to support the bid.
- 4.2 Due to delayed announcement of successful bidders, and the risks associated with Covid-19 there was a concern that the original deliverables would not be feasible. However, both the Home Office and partners are supportive of keeping the original deliverables as a target, and believe that these are still attainable and are now agreeing the project milestones. The OPCC expect to have final grant agreement signed in the coming weeks. At this point more public communication will begin.
- 4.3 A 'Designing out Crime Officer' who helped develop the bid has been agreed as the project manager. Assistant Chief Constable Vicki Evans has been identified as the Chief Officer Single Point of Contact (SPOC), and Det. Supt. Ian Simmons has been identified as the Senior Officer SPOC. Other departmental SPOCs have been identified within teams across the Constabulary and with partners.
- 4.4 Discussions are ongoing about providing any extra support to the project manager. There is a budget within the bid amount to cover costs relating to this, and there is a desire to ensure work relating to this bid is coordinated with relevant existing Constabulary and Partner workstreams, such as the annual "darker nights" campaigns.
- 4.5 Work is currently taking place to establish standard processes for the identification, assessment and referral of properties that will be offered Home Security Improvements. Gold interventions will be managed and completed through existing local authority contracts. Work is ongoing to identify procurement solutions for the completion of silver interventions and options including local authority contracts, as well as local specialist providers from the voluntary or private sector. Bronze Interventions will be carried out with support of the local Neighbourhood Watch.

5. Expected benefits

- 5.1 Target hardening is evidenced to have a cost-benefit ratio of £1: £1.84 on average in the first year alone. There is also a huge Social Return on Investment of £1: £4.76. This is particularly beneficial in the bid area which is one of increased deprivation.
- 5.2 Based on these figures we could reasonably expect that our planned investment in target hardening could see a benefit of over £860k in the first year. The total projected spend of £546,693 would provide a total social return on investment of over £2.6m.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 The Board is recommended to note the report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	
Contact Officer	Alasdair Baker, Partnerships and Communities Officer, OPCC