

Safer Streets Funding Application, (Community Services, Darren Williams)

Synopsis of report:

- The Council has long held an aspiration to deliver a youth café facility in Addlestone to provide a local recreational facility for young people, as well as diversionary activity, in the hope of reducing anti-social behaviour in the area.
- Working in partnership with the Neighbourhood Police team, an opportunity to submit a joint funding bid to the Safer Streets fund became available, and Officers from across Community Services and Housing, supported by the Corporate Bid Writer, worked at short notice to write a funding bid which sought to make improvements in the Garfield Road estate area, and to pilot a youth café facility, locally.
- As a result of the funding bid being approved, the Council has been awarded the sum of £321,000 towards the above aspirations, match funded by the Council via a combination of finances included within the MTFs for a Youth Café facility, contributions from the Housing Revenue Account towards the works at Garfield Road, and the in kind support from Officers to deliver the project.

Recommendation(s):

None. This report is for information.

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 In May 2022, the Home Office launched the Safer Streets 4 grant funding initiative, aimed at supporting communities that are affected by varying forms of criminality and anti-social behaviour.
- 1.2 The Council was invited to partner on a funding bid with Surrey Police, focussing on the Surrey Towers and Middlesex Court area of Addlestone (the Garfield Road Estate). The area of focus for the application was determined by Police, based on crime statistics and trends observed.
- 1.3 Council Officers worked at extremely short notice to prepare a funding bid comprising different initiatives and elements, while support was also provided with improving the overall standard of the application.
- 1.4 This report details the application that was submitted, the outcome and the work that is now being undertaken in relation to Safer Streets.

2. Report

- 2.1 The launch of Safer Street 4 grant funding by the Home Office, prompted Surrey Police to consider opportunities for projects across the County. Locally, the Runnymede Neighbourhood Team, focused on the Surrey Towers and Middlesex Court area of Addlestone (the Garfield Road Estate),

given the levels and variety of criminality and anti-social behaviour in the area.

- 2.2 The Council was asked to join the Police led funding bid, with representatives from Community Services (including Community Safety and Safer Runnymede) and Housing participating, supported by the Corporate Grant Bid Writer, joining the Police in a partnership bid, allowed consideration of a broader set of opportunities, some of which have been the Council's long held ambitions.
- 2.3 Working with Police Officers and their Designing Out Crime Officer (DOCO), the initial consideration for the bid focused on the physical Garfield Road housing estate area. Following a walk around by Officers, where options to reduce ASB and criminality were considered, several components were included as part of the application. These were:
 - The installation of gates into stairwells
 - Installation of CCTV cameras, linked to Safer Runnymede
 - Installation of additional lighting
 - Reconfiguration of gardens to remove secluded pathways
- 2.4 Officers then took the opportunity to engage Police colleagues on the opportunity to incorporate a pilot project for a Youth Café in Addlestone, as it was felt that the addition of diversionary activity would be of benefit to the larger community, and therefore strengthen the bid submitted.
- 2.5 Members will be aware that the provision of a Youth Café in Addlestone has been a long-held aspiration of the Council. However, with limited opportunities to secure revenue funding for its delivery, the funding of such a facility would likely fall to the Council.
- 2.6 Therefore, with Police in agreement to include the Youth Café within the bid, an opportunity presented for funding to be secured to deliver a two year pilot service, the impact of which could then be evaluated before determining whether the service had value, in turn helping the Council to determine whether financially it was willing/able to fund such a service in the longer term.
- 2.7 As a result an application was submitted including the enhancements to Garfield Road Estate highlighted in 2.3 and for the set up and delivery costs of a Youth Café pilot.
- 2.8 The grant fund required a 50% match fund contribution, which was able to be presented as a combination of financial contributions and in kind contributions (e.g Officer time). As a result, the funding bid, totalling £643,940 required match funding of £321,970.
- 2.9 The match funding requirement was met through a combination of financial and in-kind contributions. Financially, the £160,000 capital budget for the fit out of a youth café, that already existed within the MTFs was included, whilst financial contributions from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) were included for the enhancements at Garfield Road Estate. In kind contributions largely came through staff resources that would be used at different stages of the project, as well as the provision of CCTV monitoring services.

2.10 The table below details the costings submitted for the bid:

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total	Request from Safer Streets
Gates	£4,400	5	£22,000	
Cameras	£2,200	6	£13,200	
Lights	£110	10	£1,100	
Metal Fences	£1,100	6	£6,600	
Wooden Fences	£10,605	1	£10,605	
Turf	£1,650	1	£1,650	
Fire Door ST	£3,850	1	£3,850	
Youth Café Y1a	£176,860	1	£176,860	
Youth Café Y1b	£179,049	1	£9,000	£170,049
Youth Café Y2	£161,491	1	£9,570	£151,921
CCTV Monitoring	£22,560	1	£22,560	
Mgmt Fit Out	£8,975	1	£8,975	
Mgmt GR Works	£4,000	1	£4,000	
YC Delivery Mgmt	£17,000	1	£17,000	
Project Mgmt	£4,000	1	£4,000	
Ongoing Maintenance	£4,000	1	£4,000	
Consultation	£2,000	1	£2,000	
Contingency	£5,000	1	£5,000	
Total:	£643,940		£321,970	£321,970

2.11 Members will note that a sum of £321,970 was applied for specifically, for the revenue costs associated with delivery of the Youth Café pilot.

2.12 At the end of July 2022, the Police and Crime Commissioners Office confirmed that the application had been approved. As a result, Officers were intending to commence the planning of the Youth Café provision, including identifying an appropriate delivery model etc.

2.13 However, when in receipt of further confirmation of the bid approval, it was noted that only funding to the total of year 1 of the project had been approved, and the year 2 budget not. As a result, working with the PCC and Police, a clarification request was submitted to the Home Office, in the hope that the full figure applied for will be awarded.

2.14 On 21st October 2022, confirmation was received that the Council has been awarded the full grant value of £321,970 for the two year period. This confirmation will now enable officers to plan and implement the youth café provision.

2.15 Work at the Garfield Road estate has commenced, with CCTV camera installed and additional lighting units on order. Consultation with residents on the installation of gates in stairwells etc. is planned for the near future.

2.16 The work relating to the Youth Café has also commenced following the delay as a result of the award process. Two elements of the service are required to be developed. Firstly, led by Assets and Regeneration, the identification of suitable premises from which to deliver the pilot, is required, following which

appropriate fit out works are necessary to make a suitable venue for a Youth Café.

- 2.17 The previous site identified, which was the first floor office accommodation on Station Road, is not considered a viable option due to the projected fit out costs and issues relating to access and egress which will require permission from third parties in the event of an emergency. Whilst other sites are to be identified, it is considered possible that the former Eileen Tozer Day Centre building could be used as a temporary venue, although it is recognized that this is not an ideal scenario.
- 2.18 The other aspect of the Youth Café for implementation is the service delivery model. Officers have a preference to work in partnership with an organisation that has experience in youth work and in the delivery of youth services, as this is seen as both the most appropriate, and potentially the quickest way to reach commencement of service delivery.
- 2.19 Working with colleagues in Assets & Regeneration, the Council has received an offer of consultancy to assist in the development of the Youth Café, including working with specialist Youth Workers, from a charity organisation based in Leatherhead, although this presents concern that timescales will create a risk around the availability of funding. Officers have also made initial contact with the youth charity, Eikon, based in New Haw, with the hope of further discussions, and the potential for a partnership model.
- 2.20 Therefore, whilst the award of funding is extremely positive news for what has long been a priority for the Council, it should not be underestimated how much work is required to mobilise the project across both the premises and service delivery aspects. Officers will seek to move this forward as quickly as possible in order to retain full access to the grant awarded via Safer Streets. As developments take place, a further report outlining the intended service delivery model will be provided working with expert youth advice.

3. Policy framework implications

- 3.1 The Safer Streets funding bid supports the objectives of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, given the impact community safety has on the wider determinants of health. Specifically, this project meets the themes of Healthy Homes and Healthy Communities within the strategy.

4. Resource implications/Value for Money (where applicable)

- 4.1 Securing funding for the delivery of this project whereby existing budgets or in kind support to the project is able to be used as match funding has limited the resource implications and the need to finance this project within the two years of the project.
- 4.2 Within the capital programme, the budgeted sum of up to £160,000 will be required to fit out the premises for the Youth Café, but the key aspect is where within ADD1 are we best placed to deliver this key facility.
- 4.3 Beyond the two year pilot, should the Youth Café be continued, alternative sources of funding will be required. If it is to be funded by the Council, a supplementary annual budget will be required. Currently, there is no revenue budget for the delivery of a Youth Café.

5. **Legal implications**

- 5.1 There will be a number of potential legal implications concerning this project (i.e. property issues, employment and insurance/liability issue); as it remains rather early in the process, Officers leading this project will look to identify those issues at the appropriate time and seek any necessary legal advice along with seeking any necessary authority from Members to make decisions not currently delegated to those same Officers.

6. **Equality implications**

- 6.1 An equalities impact assessment on the provision of a Youth Café has not yet been completed due to the uncertainty of the model that will be able to be delivered. An EQIA will be completed at the early stages of project mobilisation once the delivery model is confirmed to ensure the Council is meeting its Public Sector Equality Duty.

7. **Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications**

- 7.1 There are no implications at this stage. However, possible implications will be considered as part of the mobilisation of the project.

8. **Conclusions**

- 8.1 This report highlights a positive outcome in securing funding for a Youth Café in Addlestone, whilst sharing the current status relating to the full funding amount.
- 8.2 The work on the Safer Streets funding bid, highlights the positive, collaborative approach internally with contributions from Community Services, Housing, Assets & Regeneration and the Chief Executive's Office. It also highlights the positive working relationship with the neighbourhood police team, and in particular Inspector James Wyatt (Runnymede Borough Commander), who fully supported a partnership approach to the application.
- 8.3 As this project evolves and a delivery model for the Youth Café is identified, a further report will be brought to this Committee to outline this in due course.

(For information)

Background papers

None stated.