

RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL**CONSULTATION WITH APPROPRIATE CHAIRMAN AND VICE- CHAIRMAN FOR URGENT ACTION
TO BE TAKEN UNDER STANDING ORDER 42**

**To: Cllr C Howorth & Cllr S Walsh
Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Community Services Committee**

**Cllr J Gracey & Cllr J Hulley
Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Housing Committee**

Date: 14 April 2023

Report Author: Andy Vincent/Darren Williams

Report Title: Safer Streets Funding Release

SO42 Proforma number: 1020

1. Synopsis of Report.

In September 2022 Surrey Police supported by Runnymede Borough Council (described as the Safer Streets bid in the remainder of the report) submitted a funding application for Safer Streets Funding round 4 to address issues of anti-social behaviour on the Garfield Road Estate Addlestone.

The aim of the Safer Streets Funding is to make funding available to: -

police forces, local authorities, British Transport Police and eligible community groups across England and Wales to prevent violence against women and girls in public, neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour.

These projects will be able to fund the roll out extra CCTV and streetlighting in their communities and expand work to change attitudes and behaviours and prevent these crimes happening in the first place.

The Safer Streets bid focused on physical improvement to the Garfield Road Estate to design out crime and anti-social behaviour and provide support and physical diversionary activities designed to prevent people from and to move people away from anti-social activity.

Physical improvements to the estate include: -

- Additional CCTV cameras
- Blocking off a secluded walkway
- Gating off 'rat runs' on the estate
- Additional lighting

These have been completed.

The other element of the Safer Streets bid submitted was revenue grant funding for the delivery of a Youth Café in close proximity to Garfield Road, with part of the match funding coming from the already planned capital budget for a Youth Café facility.

As a result of the unavailability of suitable/affordable premises locally to deliver the youth café, officers have worked to preserve as much of the grant funding as possible, and to deliver a service working with young people in the Garfield Road area and possibly neighbouring parts of Addlestone. As a result of this work, it is proposed for the support service will be provided by a Young Person Focused charity Eikon – who are located in Addlestone and well established in the Surrey area.

It is intended that the match funding for this function will be provided via the money spent against the other elements of the bid, and improvement to the Garfield Road estate, by revamping the play area behind Middlesex Court and a refreshed basketball court behind Hampshire Court, at a cost of approximately £90,000.

2. Reasons why this matter cannot wait for a Committee Decision.

This document is requesting for approval to work with Eikon as an alternative to the original Safer Streets funding intention. A decision is required in order to implement the alternative arrangements to ensure that the grant funding required in 23/24 is secured. Due to the need to make definite commitments relating to this, a decision is not possible to wait until the June committee cycle.

3. Recommendations.

- i. Approval is provided for the Council to enter a grant funding arrangement with Eikon, to deliver youth engagement services at Garfield Road Estate/in Addlestone, for a period of two years, funded by £160,000 of funding from the Safer Streets funding stream.

4. Context of report.

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.

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 which allowed consideration of a broader set of opportunities, some of which have been the Council's long held ambitions.

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

The second element of the bid is focused on work to reduce anti-social behaviour on the Garfield Road Estate through diversionary and educational activities.

Initially, the proposal and focus of the grant funding awarded, was to deliver years 1 and 2 of a Youth Café, at a venue not far from the Garfield Road Estate. This element secured funding of £321,000 over a two-year period. Match funding for this grant would in part be secured using the previously approved capital budget of £160,000 for such a project.

However, due to the unavailability/affordability of a suitable facility within the immediate area surrounding Garfield Road, the Youth Café element has been unable to be delivered. As a result, of the £160k of grant funding in year 1, only £67k is able to be realised due to the Council not having delivered an intervention.

Officers have worked to try and preserve as much of the grant originally awarded as possible, by considering an alternative service function, working with young people in the Garfield Road Estate area and neighbouring area. Having identified an existing project which has the potential to be extended into this area, it is proposed that the Council work in partnership with Eikon, a young people focused charity.

Their proposal is to provide the following interventions: -

1. Children and young people 8-18 years in Runnymede (including those out of school) are identified, assessed, and supported with relevant, and direct early interventions to improve their wellbeing and mental health either in a community or school setting;
 - a) Intensive 121 support with the child (and with a parent or sibling in some cases) to help overcome anxieties and early level concerns;
 - b) Targeted group work addresses key topics such as healthy relationships (including boys' groups with a focus on healthy boundaries with girls/ women and challenging domestic violence social norms), anger management, friendship circles;
 - c) Preventative work with larger cohorts of children addresses key topics such as anti-bullying, online safety, and school transition support;
2. Parents and carers in the community are supported by building their knowledge, confidence, and skills to support their young person's wellbeing and mental health longer term;
 - a) 121 support with the young person in community settings;
 - b) Parent webinars on topics such as 'Supporting your Child's Mental Health and Wellbeing,' 'Supporting your Child's Self-esteem and Confidence,' 'Supporting your

Child through Year 10 & 11' (and bespoke events can be arranged). These are funded elsewhere, but parents in the programme will be signposted.

The partnership with Eikon would be for a two-year period, costing £160,000 in total. This would be funded by the Safer Streets grant received.

In order to realise this grant, the Council would need to ensure it delivers its own commitments, as agreed with the Home Office, in Garfield Road. Given that £67k of funding has been received in 2022/2023, these commitments in 2023/2024 would need to total a minimum of £97,000. Using existing budgets within Housing, set for the purpose of estate enhancements, it is proposed that improvements will be made to playgrounds and basketball courts.

Whilst the above does not deliver the Youth Café initially intended, it does provide a solution to accessing as much of the remaining grant funding, as possible, and to placing youth intervention services in the Addlestone area. The Corporate Heads of Housing and Community Services have spent a significant amount of time, rescuing the original funding submission and it is felt that if this approach is either not approved by Members, or by the Home Office (in principle it has), then the only other option would be to withdraw from any partnership with Eikon and confirm that we will not be drawing down any of the remaining 23/24 grant funding available.

6. Policy framework implications

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.

7. Financial and Resource implications

In 2022/23 the following has been spent – in line with the original funding application on activities on the Garfield Road Estate.

Item	Year 1 Spend
	£
Gates	3,700
Cameras	12,692
Lights	300
Metal Fences	
Wooden Fences	6,507
Turf	-
CCTV Monitoring/Maint	22,560
Project Management	4,999
Ongoing Maintenance	4,000
Patrols on Surrey Towers Estate	12,000
Total:	66,758

Expenditure by Runnymede Borough Council is match funded through Safer Streets – and therefore this money is available to support diversionary activities.

8. Legal implications

It is possible for the Council to apply, either on its own or in partnership with another organisation, for grant funding from Government schemes. Any such grant funding will normally be subject to certain conditions e.g. to be spent on specific projects or to have match funding provided by applicant organisations. In the present case the Council is required to provide match funding for certain elements of the projects for which funding has been granted.

The securing of an external organisation to deliver elements of the projects for which funding has been secured is permissible subject to appropriate controls being put in place i.e. auditing of expenditure.

9. Equality implications

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for the target hardening, diversionary activities, and floating support service.

No equalities issues have been identified – although it is essential that the floating support service reaches all parts of the community.

This will be monitored through regular contract meetings.

10. Other implications

Engagement with residents is essential in this project. A meeting was held with residents in July and October 2021.

Regular updates have been provided on improvement measures to the Garfield Road estate via newsletters.

Engagement on diversionary activities and the floating support service is planned for the early summer 2023.

11. Background papers

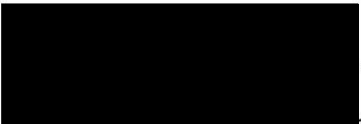
[Safer Streets Funding final.pdf \(runnymede.gov.uk\)](#)

12. Chief Officer(s) Decision

Signature of authorised officer 

I have been consulted and am in agreement with the above

Signature(s) and position(s) of other relevant Chief Officer, Corporate Heads, or authorised representatives



NB. this must include the Assistant Chief Executive or their authorised representative where the decision involves expenditure, loss of income, or future implications for budget or financial forecast.

13. Chief Executive's Decision

Signature of Chief Executive 

I have been consulted and am in agreement with the above

14. Chairman and Vice-Chairman Comments

Community Services

I concur in the Chief Officer's decision.

Howarth
Walsh

Signed

[Redacted Signature]

Date

April 27th 2023

Signed

[Redacted Signature]

Date

April 27 2023

I have the following further comments:

Further information may be obtained from Andy Vincent – Corporate Head of Housing or Darren Williams – Corporate Head of Community Services

The completed copy is to be returned by the Councillors to the Corporate Head of Law and Governance (Mario Leo) who will send a copy to the Chief Officer and report to the relevant Committee for information.

14. Chairman and Vice-Chairman Comments

Housing

J Gracey
Hollis

I concur in the Chief Officer's decision.

Signed _____

Date _____

Signed _____

Date _____

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