

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 15 October 2013	Decision Taker: Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Community Safety
Report title:		Community Safety Initiatives – Funding Programme 2013/14	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director Environment & Leisure	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety formalises the previous decision to fund the two community safety projects, (Neighbourhood and Home Watch and Southwark Gypsy and Travellers Group).
2. That the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety notes the current position in relation to police access facilities in Dulwich and the neighbourhood police base in Rotherhithe and approves the increase in funds set aside for Rotherhithe of £250,000.
3. That the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety formally approves the list of recommended community safety projects set out in the report.
4. The cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety instructs officers to investigate further the possibility of purchasing property marking equipment and body cameras for the police.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5. In the cabinet's consideration of the Quarter 3 Revenue Monitoring Report, the cabinet asked the strategic director of finance and corporate services to set aside the 2012/13 savings arising from the Tooley Street acquisition for additional investment in community safety schemes in the borough. Those savings amounted to £750,000.
6. Following the initial consultation process on the draft Police and Crime Plan 2013/14, it was clear that the proposals put forward by the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime (MOPAC) had the potential to leave a significant gap in front counter and neighbourhood policing provision in the south of the borough. This gap was compounded by the proposed closure of policing provision in the neighbouring areas of Croydon, Lambeth and Lewisham which have been in part alleviated by the retention of Gypsy Hill Police Station.
7. The impact of the MOPAC proposals for the Dulwich area meant that the only provision was the Seeley Drive Safer Neighbourhood Base. The council funded the cost of a combined victim support and police contact point at Dulwich Library to help to fill the front counter gap and offered to fund £100,000 of the capital cost of alternative accommodation in the Dulwich area if that would enable police officers to have better provision for a local base in order to reduce travelling time and maximise police

presence.

8. At the time that the new local policing plan came into force in June 2013, MOPAC and Southwark Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) did not consider that alternative accommodation was necessary to deliver neighbourhood policing in Dulwich but have agreed to review the position after six months. The council is therefore holding this money until that review is complete. In addition the council is working with MPS Southwark and MOPAC to identify viable accommodation in the Rotherhithe area for a neighbourhood police base.
9. In light of the above changes, the cabinet agreed in May 2013 that the priorities for the Tooley Street savings were to mitigate against the gaps in provision and accordingly the decision on the final allocation of spend for the £750,000 would be based on the following criteria:
 - Firstly, monies will be used to establish the most suitable police accommodation in both Rotherhithe and Dulwich. This will include a viable neighbourhood policing team base in Rotherhithe.
 - Secondly, monies will be used to establish police contact points at a range of publicly accessible location in the borough. This will include the establishment of victim care points as part of the council's offer to support and improve the satisfaction of victims of crime. The proposals for the police contact points and victim care points are set out below.
 - Finally, any remaining monies will be used on a range of one off community safety initiatives which can be delivered to reduce crime and the fear of crime. Initiatives will be discussed and agreed through the Safer Southwark Partnership Board once the costs for the first two priorities have been established.
10. The Leader also delegated to the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety the authority to determine which initiatives should be funded and the amounts to be spent from the £750,000 set aside in 2012/13.
11. This report provides an update on the current position in relation to policing provision in Dulwich and Rotherhithe as set out above and sets out for the cabinet member's approval the current proposals for community safety initiatives.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Council's offer to fund police premises, neighbourhood policing team base in the Rotherhithe area

12. Rotherhithe Police Station is scheduled for closure and disposal. The council has offered part of Seven Islands Leisure Centre as a neighbourhood policing team base for the North East cluster. The MPS have confirmed that this is operationally useful and their property team have carried out a site visit and are working with officers to the most feasible use of the site. Whilst this is still in the early stage, the estimated cost to the council of the work needed to bring this into use as a police base is in the region of £250,000.
13. Architects have been commissioned to undertake a feasibility survey at the leisure centre site that considers the MPS operational requirements. This will be completed by early October 2013 and will establish estimated costs and options for the site. The cost of the feasibility survey is £8,000 and is included in the £250,000 estimated project

costs for the police station.

Neighbourhood policing accommodation in the Dulwich area

14. The MPS are currently undertaking a time and motion study to assess operational policing requirements in the area. On completion of this review a meeting will be set up. Until costs are confirmed by the MPS it is proposed that a figure of £100,000 is set aside to cover capital costs.

Police contact points on council premises

15. The council has agreed with MOPAC and the MPS to provide facilities for police contact points. The current police contact points are located at Bellenden Road Retail Park, Canada Water Library, Dulwich Library and the Kingswood safer neighbourhood team base. These opened in late June 2013 and were able to be provided with no capital costs.

Victim contact points on council premises:

16. Cabinet agreed funding for victim support care points to be established for crime victims. These points have been set up and operate from Harris Street Housing Services Office, Aylesbury Housing Office, Dulwich Library, Canada Water Library and Southwark Council Queens Road Office. A pool of ten volunteers have been recruited and trained and publicity produced. Initial project development included pre-arranged 1-2-1 support at these sessions although drop in visits are now becoming more common. The cost of this service will be approximately £25,000 in total.

Formal approval of previous decisions

17. The cabinet member agreed on the 3 June 2013 to provide funding to support the Southwark Traveller Action Group and the Neighbourhood and Home Watch (NHW) programme in the borough for £10,000 and £65,000 respectively.
18. A proposal was submitted by housing management to support the Southwark Traveller Action Group (STAG) to hold a gypsies and travellers event during gypsy and traveller history month. The recommendation was made to promote the diversity of gypsies and travellers and reduce hate crime. The event was well attended and helped to foster good community relations. We are working with STAG to develop the equivalent of a tenants and residents association so that they can have a stronger presence to represent the challenges faced by their community.
19. There will be a refresh and re-launch of the NHW programme. A strategic review has been completed which looked at the current provision in the borough and best practice in other areas. We have met with the police to discuss the review and police provision and will be looking to re-launch the programme in December 2013.

New proposals for approval

20. Officers have been working with partner, community and voluntary agencies to identify a number of community safety initiatives that would make a significant contribution to tackling crime, anti social behaviour and improve confidence and satisfaction for those affected by crime.
21. Other community safety initiatives that we are seeking approval for from the cabinet

member for finance, resources and community safety are:

- Two thermal imaging guns to detect cannabis factories and beds in sheds. The thermal imaging cameras will be used by officers from the Southwark Anti Social Behaviour Unit (SASBU) and environmental health officers in conjunction with local police teams. They will be deployed regularly and will focus on areas where there is intelligence of drug dealing and use along with premises which are converted into unlawful accommodation. Our expectation is that through the use of the thermal imaging cameras we will be able to identify a minimum of 10 cannabis factories by the end of the 2013/14 financial year. The cost of the mobile device is £5,000 per unit.
- CitySafe scheme was launched in June 2012 and provides a safe haven for people in fear of crime. The funding will promote the existing six City Safe schemes and 39 safe havens in the borough which can provide secure places for people who are fearful of crime or anti social behaviour and are looking for a place of safety. The funding will help to reduce the fear of crime amongst young people, build stronger relationships between the police and young people along with shop keepers. The aim is to develop the leadership capabilities of young people. 2000 young people will be engaged with in the CitySafe campaign through ten awareness events and one CitySafe road show with 500 young people across six schools. The cost of the initiative is £5,000.
- Part time youth worker employed by Bede House for the Blue. There has been a significant rise in crime and anti social behaviour in the Bermondsey areas over the last 12 months, particularly in and around the Blue. The part time youth worker will be specifically employed to identify, engage and establish diversionary activity amongst those young people in the area. The programme will aim to target a minimum of 20 young people with the outcome of reducing anti social behaviour and improving confidence of local residents and businesses. Cost of the work is £9,000.
- Close Circuit Television (CCTV) at Greenland Quay – As part of the CCTV refresh programme two redeployable cameras were due to be sited at this location. This area has experienced high volumes of robbery and snatch incidents over the last 12 months. The funding will enable us to provide three fixed zoom public space surveillance cameras and operational connection to the council's CCTV operational control room. Re-deployable cameras are not a suitable option here due to the lighting columns. A design specification will be procured for a permanent CCTV system. Approximate cost £40,000.
- Rape Crisis Centre - This proposal is to back fill the £20,000 that MOPAC top sliced and applied to our London crime prevention funding bid after the allocation was finalised. This top slice was made to all London boroughs that did not make a voluntary contribution to funding the sub-regional rape crisis centre. This decision was taken by the Mayor without formal or proper consultation with local community safety partnerships. As a result, if the backfill is not agreed the funding for other domestic abuse services will be reduced.
- Police specific operation - The police have requested support from the council to fund a local operation targeted at robbery and mobile phone thefts, as part of the joint commitment to address the recent rises in this criminal activity. A figure of £20,000 has been requested and will be match funded through the MPS.
- Pre-work skills and readiness training – The initiative has been proposed by the Southwark Youth Offending Service (YOS) and will work with Bubble Theatre to focus on pre-work skills and readiness for work using drama and film techniques,

particularly with the post custody or intensive supervision and surveillance cohort to get them to understand the attitudes and behaviour required for the work environment, linking in with businesses to do mock interviews and learning. The finding will help to reduce recidivism and increase access to education, training and employment. The cost is £20,000.

- Reparation work programme – The reparation programme will be delivered through Southwark Youth offending Service in East Dulwich. Activities depend on the need from the local community but expected to be environmental improvements such as outdoor planters, outdoor planters/park benches. The total cost is £10,000.
- Safety on the street workshops - A series of safety on the street workshops for young people, commissioned through an external organisation, commissioned by the youth service and delivered at youth centres or events over the half term and Christmas period. The total cost is £6,000.
- Young people’s conference - Organisation and delivery of a young people’s conference, led by the youth council and focusing on community safety issues which would include a 'hustings' element where young people can question and offer suggestions to strategic leads within the SSP partnership. The aim would be to engage around 500 young people increasing participation and community reassurance. The total cost is £10,000.
- Ben Kinsella Exhibition – A proposal has been submitted from the Ben Kinsella Trust to extend the current anti knife crime exhibition for a further 3-6 months to enable better access to primary schools in line with their timetables. The Trust is looking to engage around 20 primary schools at year 6 level, with a target audience of around 600-800 pupils. The funding will also provide lesson plans that link with the exhibition, based around staying safe and managing risk. An allocation of £5,000 has been requested.
- St Giles Trust mentoring and housing support - To engage an additional mentor through St Giles Trust to support young adults who are at risk of involvement in serious violent offending. Funding to provide accommodation through established processes which will keep clients safe. The funding will provide an additional mentor for six months who will work with a minimum of 20 clients. It will also provide three additional rehousing placements for clients at risk. This will assist in maintaining our reductions in violent crime. Total cost is £40,000.
- Southwark Council Events Team Firework Display - Funding will ensure this years display at Southwark Park will take place. Monies will be used to enhance crowd management controls including security, signage, stewarding, fencing and allowing arson reduction messages to run alongside the promotion of the event. Total cost - £51,000.

22. The above requests have been added to the current list of projects which have been submitted and are set out in the below table.

Project title	Cost
Rotherhithe Neighbourhood Policing base	£250,000
Dulwich Police Accommodation	£100,000
Victim Support – Contact Points	£25,000
Southwark Traveller Action Group	£10,000
Neighbourhood Watch	£65,000
Total	£450,000

Project title	Cost
Recommended projects	
Thermal Imaging Equipment	£10,000
Bede House 0.5 Youth Worker	£9,000
Greenland Quay – CCTV	£40,000
Rape Crisis Centre	£20,000
Police and partnership anti robbery operation	£20,000
City Safe	£25,000
Pre-work skills and readiness training	£20,000
Reparation work programme – East Dulwich	£10,000
Safety on the street workshops	£6,000
Young people’s conference	£10,000
Ben Kinsella exhibition	£5,000
St Giles Trust mentoring & housing support	£40,000
Southwark Council Events Firework Display	£51,000
Recommended project total	£266,000
Total overall spend	£716,000

23. In light of the above spending profile, it is recommended that the cabinet member for finance resources and community safety authorises the funding for the following projects:

- Thermal imaging equipment - £10,000
- Bede House Youth Worker - £9,000
- Greenland Quay CCTV - £40,000
- Rape Crisis Centre - £20,000
- Police and partnership anti robbery operation - £20,000
- City Safe - £25,000
- Pre-work skills and readiness training - £20,000
- Reparation work programmes - East Dulwich - £10,000
- Safety on the street workshops - £6,000
- Young people’s conference - £10,000
- Ben Kinsella exhibition - £5,000
- St Giles Trust mentoring and housing support - £40,000
- Southwark Council Events Firework Display - £51,000

24. Each of the programmes has been discussed with the relevant partner organisations to ensure that they support existing priorities.

25. The total funding for the above projects listed in paragraph 23 amounts to £266,000 bringing the overall total for committed or allocated projects to date to £716,000, leaving a balance of £34,000. Any future proposals seeking support from this money will be assessed based on how the project supports the delivery of the council’s key priorities and community safety related targets. These include:

- Reducing violence by 2% and reducing the cost of violence by 2%
- Maintaining the percentage of residents who think that anti social behaviour is a problem in their area at 20%
- Increasing the CCTV detection rate by 13%

- Increasing the number of adults leaving treatment in a planned way by 5%
 - Ensuring the night time safety perception rate of 72% is maintained
 - To improve access to domestic abuse services particularly amongst 16-18 year olds
26. Further to this, the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety has instructed officers to investigate the possibility of purchasing property marking equipment and body cameras for the police. This would include:
- Property marking - A range of specialist property marking equipment has been developed over the past ten years which provides unique DNA coding which can be applied to valuables in a person's home or business. The equipment can be provided to residents and businesses in areas where burglary is a specific issue helping to reduce residential burglary and increase community reassurance.
 - Body cameras (police) – The purchase of this equipment will enable the police to record stop and search actions and confrontational face to face arrests. This will prevent allegations against the police during these activities and provide far greater evidential information when police attend the scene of certain crimes such as domestic violence.

Financial implications

27. The £750,000 to be spent in 2013/14 has been set aside by the strategic director of finance and corporate services from the savings arising from the purchase of Tooley Street. Lower priority initiatives will only be funded to the extent that they fall within this envelope.
28. The total proposals set out in paragraph 22 for which approval is sought in this report amounts to £266,000 and will be spent before 31 March 2014. There is no provision to fund any commitments beyond this date.

Consultation

29. Consultation has taken place with senior officers in MPS Southwark to identify operational needs.

Community impact statement

30. The community safety team supports the work carried out by the Safer Southwark Partnership (SSP) to identify and highlight disproportionalities in crime types, victims, offenders, locations and times. The SSP uses this information to ensure best use of resources and the most impact for the communities in most need. It is the intention that the proposals recommended for approval in this report will be tabled at the forthcoming SSP board scheduled on the 5 November 2013.
31. Officers will work with the lead agencies for each of the projects being delivered to ensure that they provide information to ensure that local residents are benefitting regardless of their gender, faith, age or disability.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Legal Services

32. The Localism Act 2011 grants councils a general power of competence whereby a local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally may do. This power can be used even if legislation already exists that allows a local authority to do something. However the general power of competence does not enable a local authority to do anything which it is unable to do by virtue of a pre-commencement limitation.
33. The provision of funding under the Community Safety Initiatives 2013-14 programme falls within the scope of the kind of activities the council can undertake under the general power of competence as this includes a power to give financial assistance to any person.
34. Under section 92 of the Police Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act") the council may make grants to any police authority established under section 3 of the 1996 Act whose police area falls wholly or partly within the council's area. Such grants under this section may be made unconditionally or with the agreement of the chief officer of police for the police area concerned, subject to conditions.
35. In addition section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states the council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.
36. In allocating funding under the Community Safety Initiatives 2013-14 the council must have regard to its equality duties set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.
37. On 3 May 2013 the leader of the council delegated authority to the cabinet member for finance resources and community safety to determine which initiatives should be funded and the amounts to be spent from the £750,000 set aside in 2012-13. The cabinet member can make the allocations under paragraph 6 of Part 3D of the Constitution.

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services

38. This report seeks approval from the lead member to various community safety projects outlined in this report. The financial implications are detailed above.
39. The strategic director of finance and resources confirms that this is one-off funding and that awards will not exceed the £750,000 total available. Spend will be reported through the council budget monitoring processes. The approval of the remaining £34,000 unallocated fund will be subject to meeting the criteria outlined above.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet Report:- Community Safety Initiatives 2013/2014 http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s37685/Report%20Community%20Safety%20Initiatives%20201314.pdf	Community Safety & Enforcement, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Jonathon Toy 020 7 525 5214

APPENDICES

No	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

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Version	Final	
Dated	15 October 2013	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Legal Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	15 October 2013	