

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	11th March 2021	CATEGORY:
		RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - SERVICE DELIVERY	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	CHRIS SMITH, COMMUNITIES TEAM MANAGER, 01283 595 924 chris.smith@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	SAFER STREETS FUNDING SCHEME- SWADLINCOTE CENTRE	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	SWADLINCOTE WARD	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee approves the submission of a full funding application to be made to the Home Office for Safer Streets Funding.
- 1.2 That, subject to the application being successful, the Committee approves the creation of two new temporary positions as part of the application; an additional Town Centre Community Safety Enforcement Officer, on a twelve-month fixed-term contract and a new Shop Watch Manager on a two-year fixed-term contract. The grade of the posts to be subject to job evaluation as appropriate.
- 1.3 That, subject to the bid being successful, the Committee approves the use of Communities Team budget reserves to pay for the second year of the Shop Watch Mangers post.
- 1.4 That the Committee agrees for the report to be submitted to Finance and Management Committee for approval of the establishment of two new fixed-term posts and the use of the Communities Team Reserves to pay for the second year of the Shop Watch Manager Post.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To inform the Committee of the details of the Safer Streets Funding Scheme and the South Derbyshire Expression of Interest which will be developed into a full funding application, to be submitted to the Home Office by 30th March 2021.
- 2.2 To seek Committee approval for the recommendations detailed under 1.1 to 1.4.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Home office has launched Round two of the Safer Streets Funding. It has been extended so that Local Authorities can now submit applications for funding via the local Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

- 3.2 The funding stream is designed to enable organisations and partnerships to design and deliver local crime prevention plans in hotspot areas with the outcome of reducing neighbourhood crimes through situational prevention. The objectives of the fund are to:
- Reduce neighbourhood crime (burglary, vehicle related theft, theft from the person, robbery) in areas that receive funding – making local areas safer and reducing demand on the police to focus on higher harm crimes.
 - Continue to build evidence about the impact of targeted investment in situational prevention in high crime areas to strengthen the case for future investment, both at a local and national level.
 - Grow local capability to undertake data driven problem solving and capture evidence and practical learning about how best to implement situational interventions to prevent crime.
- 3.3 Each Force area can submit three applications (of up to £430,000) and the PCCs Office will decide which applications have been successful. Each District was given the opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest for the funding which is to reduce Neighbourhood Crime (Burglary, Robbery, Vehicle Crime) in a specific hot spot Local Super Output Area (LSOA).
- 3.4 A spreadsheet has been developed by the PCC's office and shows all the areas that meet the threshold in terms of crime rates against the four target crime areas (Burglary, Robbery, Vehicle Crime and Neighbourhood Crime, which is Burglary, Robbery and Vehicle Crime combined).
- 3.5 The only Local Super Output area to feature heavily for South Derbyshire is Swadlincote Centre LSOA, which meets the threshold for three of the four crimes types. The map attached to the report at Appendix 1 shows the boundary.
- 3.6 Swadlincote LSOA is currently ranked in Derbyshire as below:
- 5th for Burglary,
 - 9th for Theft from the person and
 - 14th for Neighbourhood Crime.
- 3.7 The PCC received a number of Expressions of Interest from Local Authorities in Derbyshire and on 1 March, in consultation with the Police, it was decided that the Swadlincote Town Centre Expression of Interest, attached at Appendix 2, was one of three successful bid proposals. South Derbyshire District Council will now be invited to complete a substantive bid through the Home Office portal. The Police and Crime Commissioners Office will assist with the development of the bid.
- 3.8 The application will be centred around improving the security of shops and businesses in and around the Town Centre and increasing the visible presence of officers patrolling the area. It will impact on reducing rates of Burglary, Theft from the Person and Shoplifting. Should the application be successful the following initiatives will be delivered over the next two years:

East Midlands Chamber Crime Reduction Partnership (£35,000) – The Chamber will provide shops and businesses in the Town Centre with tailored support, to help protect their premises and their employees against crime. The Chamber will support businesses to reduce overall security costs, providing them with a free Premises Security Review. The Partnership will bring retailers together in the form of a Shop Watch scheme which will help combat theft and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the

Town Centre through the implementation of the DISC online information sharing messaging system.

Shop Watch Manager (£42,500, inc on costs and equipment) - Employed on a fixed-term contract for a two-year period the Shop Watch Manager would be responsible for working with the East Midlands Chamber to develop and co-ordinate the Business Crime Reduction Partnership and the Shop Watch Scheme. They will oversee the procurement of the extension to the Town Centre CCTV system and be responsible for the monitoring, viewing and maintenance of the system. The postholder would stay informed of any incidents occurring in the Town Centre and would work closely with businesses, the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, the Council's Community Safety Enforcement officers and the Council's Communities Team (Community Safety Partnership).

Town Centre Community Safety Enforcement Officer (CSEO) (£37,500 including on costs and equipment) - An additional Town Centre CSEO would be recruited for a 12-month fixed-term period. There is already one CSEO based in Swadlincote Town Centre, however, that post also covers the three urban parks (Maurice Lea Park, Swadlincote Woodlands and Eureka Park). During 2020 the CSEO was frequently required to patrol the three urban parks during the summer as they became a hotspot for ASB after the lockdown was lifted in June 2020. Having a second CSEO would enable one officer to remain in the Town Centre and enable the other officer to spend more time in the three parks, one of which Eureka Park falls inside the Swadlincote Centre LSOA..

Extension of the Swadlincote Town Centre CCTV System (£15,000) The existing Town Centre system has been unable to cover the bottom half of Swadlincote High Street due to the size of several trees which obstruct the wireless signal. The District Council has been informed these trees can be removed as they are causing damage to the ground and nearby shops, this will enable the system to be extended down to the bottom of the High Street.

Mobile CCTV Cameras (£10,000) – Wireless CCTV Cameras will be purchased to be located at areas around the Town Centre that are not currently covered by the existing CCTV system but can attract ASB or Crime issues i.e. the Odeon cinema at the Pipeworks retail park, McDonalds at the Belmont Street retail park and at Eureka Park. These cameras will be re-deployable and can be re-located as and when required.

3.9 The total cost of the above initiatives is £140,000.

3.10 **Match Funding (£35,000)** -The Home Office has stated that the applicant must demonstrate 20% match funding towards the total cost of the application. This will be provided by the existing Town Centre Community Safety Enforcement Officer post (£35,000).

3.11 The total project cost will be **£175,000**

4.0 **Financial Implications**

4.1 Should it be successful the application will bring in an income of £140,000 into the District and provide direct benefit for residents, businesses, and customers.

- 4.2 The cost of maintaining the Shop Watch Manager post for a second year (£40,000) will be funded using Communities Team budget reserves.

5.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 5.1 Two new posts will be recruited if the application is successful, a Town Centre Shop Watch Manager (expected to be on scale SO1) on a two-year fixed-term contract and a second Town Centre Community Safety Enforcement Officer (on scale 6) on a one-year fixed-term contract.
- 5.2 At the end of a fixed-term contract any employee having over two years continuous service will be entitled to a redundancy payment should the contract not be renewed and if they are current members of the Local Government Pension Scheme and are aged 55 or over that they are entitled to immediate access to their pension. If they are able to access their pension, then the Council will have to pay an additional cost for the impact on the pension fund.
- 5.3 The Fixed-Term (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2002 ensure that fixed-term employees are not treated less favourably than comparable permanent employees. The terms and conditions provided are in line with the NJC for Local Government Services and therefore the same as comparable permanent employees.
- 5.4 These Regulations also provide that the continued renewal of fixed-term contracts that result in four years continuous service for an employee should be on a permanent contract unless it can be objectively justified to remain on a fixed-term basis. Any extension directly linked to funding arrangements will provide justification for continuing on a fixed-term contract basis. As noted above, the Council does employ them on comparable employment terms and will provide redundancy payments at the end of the fixed-term contract for an employee with two years continuous service.

Legal Implications

- 5.5 None

Corporate Plan Implications

- 5.6 Delivering the initiatives mentioned above would work towards the following Corporate plan indicators:
- Enhance the appeal of Swadlincote Town Centre as a place to visit.
 - Improve public spaces to create an environment for people to enjoy.
 - Help tackle anti-social behaviour & crime through strong and proportionate action.
 - Encourage and support business development and new investment in the District.

Risk Impact

- 5.7 The application, if successful, would support the actions taken by the Council and its partners to reduce the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in the District. This would promote a safe and secure environment for customers and businesses in the Town Centre and in the Council's Parks and other open spaces.

6.0 **Community Impact**

The delivery of the initiatives would improve the safety and security of Swadlincote Town Centre and would help encourage both business and shoppers into the Town Centre.

7.0 **Conclusions**

Should the application be successful, it will bring welcome investment into Swadlincote Town Centre for local businesses to improve their security and reduce the number of burglaries in the Town Centre. It would also increase the presence of Officers both in Town Centre, local parks and other open spaces which will help reduce thefts, ASB and keep visitors safe.

8.0 **Background Papers**

- App1 Map of the Swadlincote Local Super Output Area.
- App2 Copy of the submitted Expression of Interest.