

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER MEETING – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES****21 January 2014****Report of the Strategic Director – Health and Communities****Community Safety Projects****Purpose of Report**

To consider a request to fund general clean ups /graffiti removal at targeted sites and the provision of street lighting in areas of crime and disorder across Derbyshire.

Information

During 2013, the Community Safety Unit coordinated projects to reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder by organising clean ups across the county and the provision of street lighting whereby impacting on the levels of recorded crime and residents perception of crime in their local areas.

Clean ups / Graffiti removal

Potential sites for being cleaned up were nominated by District and Parish Councils, Community Safety Partnerships and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) departments. The project utilised the Probation Community Payback Scheme for all general clean-up work supported by a contractor for the graffiti removal.

Funding was used for materials and supervisor costs for Probation and materials and labour for the graffiti removal contractor. As of December 2013, 12 sites have been completed by Probation Community Payback with a further 15 sites scheduled for clean ups. Work has included clearing up woodland, allotments and recreation grounds by cutting back vegetation and removing litter, basic painting and decorating such as rubbing down and staining picnic tables and benches, preparing and varnishing doors and painting corridors. The contractor has removed graffiti from 11 sites and prepared a site on a countryside trail for a large mural. There are a further 16 sites awaiting cleaning which equates to three weeks work depending on the level of graffiti on each site. Sites are mainly underpasses and bridges along with walls and community buildings. Positive feedback has been received during the project from proposers of work and local people. All previous funding has now been committed and an additional project budget of £20k is being sought to enable continuation.

Street Lighting

During 2013-14, 37 requests for street lighting improvements were proposed of which ten met the project criteria and a further eight are still being assessed. Each request is screened against criteria which include establishing the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in that area, cost of any scheme and input from local partners. Work is also undertaken with the Part Night Lighting project to ensure that

any newly proposed street lighting does not conflict with the implementation of this project. The aim of the street lighting initiative is to improve street lighting in areas where there have been higher levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and where it is considered that additional street lighting would have a positive impact on these issues thereby improving the quality of life for local residents.

An evaluation of 16 street lighting improvement schemes installed since 2011 shows a number of locations having significant reductions in ASB related police calls for service.

- The overall monthly figure for police calls for service fell by almost 15% post installation.
- The overall monthly figure for total crime fell by almost 11% post installation, violent crime reduced by almost 18% and criminal damage and arson by just over 27%.

Satisfaction surveys following the installation of street lighting recorded that residents were satisfied with the new lighting and that they felt safer after dark. The projects will also contribute to the Anti-Social Behaviour Key Performance Indicator in the Derbyshire Community Safety Agreement and the Service Plan 2013-14.

All previous funding has now been committed and an additional project budget of £45k is being sought to enable continuation.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity; and environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

Background Papers

Community Payback – Evaluation Report 2012-13.

Officer's recommendation

That the sum of £65,000 be awarded from the Communities Budget to support community safety projects (general clean ups and graffiti removal £20,000, street lighting £45,000) whereby reducing crime and disorder across Derbyshire.

David Lowe
Strategic Director – Health and Communities

