



REPORT TO:	Cabinet
DATE:	16 January 2024
SUBJECT:	External Serious Violence Funding
PURPOSE:	To accept external funding to support delivery of projects to prevent serious violence and related crime and disorder in Boston.
KEY DECISION:	N/A
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Councillor Anne Dorrian
REPORT OF:	Emily Spicer, Assistant Director Wellbeing & Community Leadership
REPORT AUTHOR:	Peter Hunn, Community Safety Manager
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Station / Witham / Trinity
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

In 2023, the Government has made funding provisions available to Police and Crime Commissioners to support delivery of the Serious Violence Duty (Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022). The duty makes councils and local services work together to share information and target interventions to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Seven joint funding bids between Boston Borough Council (BBC) and Lincolnshire Police were submitted to the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership's Serious Violence Core Priority Group (SV CPG) in September 2023 (under the umbrella project 'Operation Plotting'). Six of these were approved by the SV CPG, one is to be led by Lincolnshire Police and the remaining five to be led by officers from BBC. This report provides an overview of the projects to be delivered from the funding to be received from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPPC), including the time periods over which it is to be spent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To accept the funding outlined and authorise; the Community Safety Manager, the Transformation Officer and the CCTV Manager to manage and deliver the projects as highlighted in the report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Acceptance of the funding to deliver projects in Boston will support the council in its commitment to the Serious Violence Duty. It will also support delivery of the priorities of the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership's Community Safety Strategy.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Withdraw the bids and decline the funding being offered. This option is not recommended given the evidence provided as part of the bid making process and within the report in respect to areas of concern.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The Serious Violence Duty is encompassed in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSCA). It was introduced in the context of an increase in violence over the last decade and the impact that serious violence has on victims and their families. The duty commenced on 31st January 2023.
- 1.2** The PCSCA outlines the duties for specified authorities to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence. Specified authorities include district and county councils, the police, youth offending teams, Integrated Care Systems, Probation, and the fire service.
- 1.3** In Lincolnshire the duty is managed through the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP) Serious Violence Core Priority Group (SVCPG) which is chaired by the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire.
- 1.4** Government has provided funding to Police and Crime Commissioners to support delivery of the duty. Organisations were invited to submit bids to the SVCPG to meet the strategic aims of the group. A total of seven bids were submitted jointly by Lincolnshire Police and Boston Borough Council which sit under the umbrella project 'Operation Plotting'.
- 1.5** Operation Plotting was launched in Boston to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), street-based violence and serious harm. Three years of data has been mapped including, ASB, violence and serious harm which has identified four hot spot locations. A Lincolnshire Police Crime Analyst has produced a full analytical product for each hot spot and the force Designing Out Crime Officer (DOCO) has completed an environmental assessment for each hotspot so that the response is evidence based. The public have been consulted (1029 responses, accounting for 1 in 69 of the population of Boston). 62% of respondents said

ASB/crime affects their daily activity outside the home with knife crime being the greatest area of concern by those surveyed.

- 1.6** Six of the bids, linked to the outcomes of Operation Plotting, were successful in the voting process to the SV CPG, five of which are to be led by BBC and one by Lincolnshire Police. This report outlines the funding that is to be received in respect of the five projects to be delivered by BBC over the remaining financial year, and the entirety of the next financial year, 2024/2025.

2. REPORT

- 2.1** The total amount of funding secured through the SV CPG to deliver the five projects is £305,881 (£145,881 in capital and £160,000 in revenue).

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1** The £305,881 of external funding to be received by Boston Borough Council as outlined in this report will enable the implementation of five new projects. It will support the council's commitment to the Serious Violence Duty and to the local Community Safety Strategy. The projects aim to improve the safety of residents and visitors in Boston and improve the perceptions of crime and ASB within the town.
- 3.2** Acceptance of this funding is recommended to enable the above benefits to be realised and to support local partnership working to keep our communities safe.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The funding will enable the implementation of five projects to support the council's obligations under the Serious Violence Duty and community safety partnership responsibilities. It also supports the strategic aims set out in the partnership's Community Safety Strategy 2022 to 2025. It highlights the strength of local partnership arrangements; and provides reputational benefits to the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership as a driver of local action to tackle crime and disorder.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

The acceptance of funding and commitment to project implementation demonstrates the dedication of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership in keeping our communities safe.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Boston Borough Council's Corporate Strategy, 'Priority 1 - People Focused' (main priority) - the proposed projects will help to ensure that the community feels safe.

STAFFING

Two of the projects will require the recruitment of staff to fulfil the roles on a fixed term basis namely the Hot Spot Community Wardens and Community Engagement Officer.

WORKFORCE CAPACITY IMPLICATIONS

Project management and implementation for these additional projects will be fulfilled by existing staff as part of their Community Safety and Community Leadership roles.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

In respect to the constitution, this report seeks to provide the necessary details in order to formally accept the SV CPG funding.

DATA PROTECTION

There are no data protection issues as part of this report.

FINANCIAL

The financial implications are contained within section 3 of this report. All costs are fully grant funded.

RISK MANAGEMENT

All risks associated with the undertaking of any of the projects linked to this funding will be appropriately mitigated as part of the project management process.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

As part of Operation Plotting, a resident survey was conducted to receive the views of the communities of Boston. In addition, consultation has been undertaken with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety at Boston Borough Council in respect to receiving the funding and application of the projects.

REPUTATION

The funding secured to deliver the projects outlined within this report will have a positive impact on the reputation of Boston Borough Council and within the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership as it demonstrates our dedication to improving the safety and wellbeing of our local communities.

CONTRACTS

Any contracts associated with the projects will be procured and managed appropriately by the Community Safety Team.

CRIME AND DISORDER

Implementation of the proposed projects will support the council in meeting its Serious Violence duties and the subsequent amendments made to Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which requires Community Safety Partnerships to have Serious Violence as an explicit priority in their strategies and plans.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

The projects will play a key role in helping to safeguard the local community from the threat and harm of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

The proposed projects form part of a holistic approach to addressing crime and disorder in Boston incorporating signposting to relevant support agencies to improve people's health and wellbeing and that of the local community.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no climate change or environmental implications as part of this report.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the following Missions outlined in the Government’s Levelling Up White paper.	
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.

ACRONYMS

ASB – Anti-Social Behaviour

BBC – Boston Borough Council

SLP – Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

SVCPG – Serious Violence Core Priority Group

OPPC – Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

PCSCA - Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

DOCO - Designing Out Crime Officer

BACKGROUND PAPERS	
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -	
Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022	Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (legislation.gov.uk)

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT
A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

REPORT APPROVAL	
Report author:	Peter Hunn, Community Safety Manager Peter.Hunn@boston.gov.uk

Signed off by:	Emily Spicer, Assistant Director - Wellbeing and Community Leadership Emily.Spicer@sholland.gov.uk John Leach Deputy Chief Executive – Communities John.Leach@boston.gov.uk
Approved for publication:	Councillor Anne Dorrian, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety

FINANCE PROFORMA

PROFORMA FOR APPROVAL OF THE RELEASE OF RESOURCES
(CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS)

FROM:

THIS PROFORMA PROVIDES THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
IN RESPECT OF THE ATTACHED

REPORT:

REPORT DATE:

OPTION 1	£ Year 1 2020/21	£ Year 2 2021/22	£ Year 3 2022/23	£ Year 4 2023/24	£ Year 5 2024/25
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Revenue

				£32,000	£128,000
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Total Revenue Cost

				£32,000	£128,000
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Funding required: £305,881

Total capital cost £145,881

Revenue cost £160,000

Considered by:

Enter committee here

Enter Council or
Cabinet/Executive here

Date:

Financial Services Comments

Risk

Procurement

Value for Money Efficiency

This FP is valid for 3 months from FP date	If this FP is no longer required please advise Finance	If there are changes to the original report it may invalidate this document, it must be reviewed by Finance.