

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR
WEST MERCIA**



RECORD OF DECISION

TITLE: Telford & Wrekin Safer Communities

Ref: PCC/D/2021/06

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Telford & Wrekin Safer Communities programme is a partnership initiative between the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Telford & Wrekin Borough Council.

It is intended to address the root causes of crime in targeted local areas around the borough, improving life for local communities against a range of key measures.

The project will last for two years, and receive funding of £1m from Telford & Wrekin Borough Council, and £500,000 from the PCC.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the Police and Crime Commissioner approve funding of £500,000 across the financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23, for investment in the Telford & Wrekin Safer Communities initiative, subject to the further approval of appropriate and satisfactory agreements between both partners to cover the implementation and governance of the project.

**APPROVAL OF
West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner**

I hereby approve the above proposal.

Signed

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL/EXEMPT FACTS AND FIGURES

SUPPORTING REPORT

The Safer Communities programme will build on the success of the previous Safer Streets initiative in Brookside, which saw more than £500,000 of targeted investment, which continues to deliver a range of improvements for the local community.

The Safer Communities initiative will cover a two year period, starting in April 2021 as a partnership between the PCC and Telford & Wrekin Borough Council. However, it is envisaged that engagement and monitoring will extend beyond the delivery programme, with social regeneration continuing well into future years. It is intended to focus on a wider range of geographic areas, with investment intended to benefit the whole borough.

Areas within the borough will be identified for investment. These areas will be determined via analysis of evidence and data from police, the community safety partnership and other similar bodies / partners. Intelligence from local policing teams will also be used, as well as community engagement / feedback. Metrics will also be used to ensure the best possible returns on investment. These will necessarily vary and will be appropriate to each individual investment. As examples, these metrics may include.

- Levels of recorded crime within a targeted area
- School participation (attendance, exclusion, NEETs)
- Strengthening families (numbers of child protection plans or looked after children)
- Offending (numbers of adults or juveniles receiving criminal sentences, rates of domestic abuse)
- Economic activity (levels of youth unemployment, levels of all age unemployment)
- A&E admissions (linked to knife crime)
- Levels of anti-social behaviour and environmental crime
- All aspects of crime and exploitation, including acquisitive crime, business crime or rural crime
- Public perceptions (public confidence and victim satisfaction)

The Safer Communities programme will deliver against PCC priorities in respect of crime reduction and prevention, whilst simultaneously ensuring people feel safer and more confident in their communities.

Specific arrangements to govern and manage the project will be developed. These will be agreed by both the PCC and Council to enable the project to move to full implementation. Arrangements will include reporting and monitoring mechanisms at a project level, with Board representation from senior management within the PCC's Office reporting directly back to the Commissioner. Project scope and intentions, specific areas and proposals for investment, decision making and evaluation will all be part of these agreements.

A small dedicated team of Neighbourhood Co-ordination Officers will be appointed to lead day-to-day implementation of the project on the ground, engaging with key stakeholders, including ward members, local police teams and the local community. Their input will help to steer this programme to ensure it delivers outcomes that the community welcome.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

This decision supports the following element(s) of the Safer West Mercia Plan:

- Putting Victims and Survivors First Building a More Secure West Mercia
 Reforming West Mercia Reassuring West Mercia's Communities

The decision supports this/ these objective(s) through the following:

Whilst precise arrangements for implementation are to be confirmed, the project will be expected to deliver against these three central pillars of the Safer West Mercia Plan.

The project will focus on tackling the sort of criminality and issues that impact and cause harm within communities

This sort of activity will by its nature support victims and prevent re-victimisation, reduce crime (both actual and recorded), and reassure communities so that they may feel safe, as well as being safer.

Comprehensive agreements covering this initiative will be developed between the two partners. Further approvals will be sought as this initiative and its supporting programme and projects develop to enable the project to move to full implementation.

FINANCIAL COMMENTS

The investment will see £250,000 committed by the PCC in 2021/22, and again in 2022/23. These resources will be directed towards Telford & Wrekin Council in the first instance as the lead authority in this project, although on the understanding that it is not a grant to the Council and that this remains a partnership project.

TREASURER COMMENTS

Funding of £250,000 for this project is included in the 2021/22 revenue budget and similar provision will be made in 2022/23 revenue budget.

Further development of the project is required prior to full implementation and use of these resources. This includes detailed agreements between partners in respect of the financial, operational, strategic and governance arrangements among others. These agreements also require approval from the PCC to progress this scheme.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

By virtue of schedule 11, paragraph 14 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Police and Crime Commissioner may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of commissioner. That includes: entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not) and acquiring and disposing of property (including land).

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the West Mercia Commissioner's website. Any facts and advice that should not be made automatically available on request are not included in Part 1 but instead in a separate Part 2 report.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive Officer

Signature

Andy Chapman

Date 19th February 2021