

Report to Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board

18 December 2023

Subject:	LUP Community Safety Update Report
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To set out the progress of the LUP Community Safety Project

2. Recommendations

2.1 To approve that project delivery commence for the CCTV and business crime reduction partnership components of the community safety project

2.2 To note that no significant project risks are reported.

3. Background

3.1 The community safety project aims to improve community safety and perceptions of safety within Wednesbury

3.2 The project includes:

- Upgrading and expansion of CCTV infrastructure in Wednesbury Town Centre and Friar Park



- Purchase of new deployable cameras to tackle fly tipping across Wednesbury
- Introduction of Radio Link Scheme for local businesses
- Installation of Nuisance Bike Inhibitors in Friar Park area
- Recruitment of a Community & Business Engagement Officer

3.3 A breakdown of the budget is provided below:

Upgrade and expansion of CCTV and new deployable cameras	£0.25m
Nuisance Bike Measures	£0.15m
Community & Business Engagement Officer and other revenue costs	£0.1m
Total	£0.5m

3.4 The project work to date has included commencing recruitment of the Community & Business Engagement Officer, obtaining quotes for CCTV, establishment of task and finish group to consider nuisance bike measures and site visits with Design Out Crime Officer from West Midlands Police.

3.5 Following a capital appraisal undertaken by the Council as part of project assurance arrangements, the Council's S151 Officer has approved that project spend can commence.

Consultation and Engagement

3.6 Consultation with Ward Members is due to take place on 04/12 and information was included in Safer 6 week events. Input from the WLUP Board will be sought at their meeting on 18/12. Once appointed, the Community and Business Engagement Officer will play a key part in engagement and consultation moving forwards.

Monitoring and Evaluation



- 3.7 Project output measures were submitted to DLUHC as part of a return made prior to the Grant Funding agreement being issued. The measures were proposed but were not quantified.
- 3.8 Based on the project development to date, the expected outputs are:
- 26 New/upgraded cameras
 - 8 deployable cameras upgraded/new
 - 1 new business radio scheme implemented
 - 6 locations with improved preventative measures
- 3.9 Once quotations have been received for nuisance bike preventative measures, the project budget will be reviewed. If there is sufficient budget remaining (including contingency allowances) up to an additional two locations for preventative measures will be considered. The WLUP Board will be updated as part of ongoing monitoring.
- 3.10 The community safety project is expected to contribute to the LUP programme outcome measures of:
- Resident satisfaction with their local area as a place to live
 - Residents perception of crime and antisocial behaviour
 - Recorded crime and ASB in Wednesbury
 - Number of nuisance bike reports in areas with new measures installed
 - Business vacancy rate in Wednesbury Town Centre/ Business Growth Measure / equiv.

4. Implications

Resources:	<p>£0.5m has been granted for the community safety project.</p> <p>A capital appraisal has been undertaken and project spend approved by the Council's S151 Officer.</p>
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	The LUP Grant includes the requirement for all spend to be made by March 2025. All project capital spend is due to be spent by mid 2024.
Legal and Governance:	Procurement for the project will be in accordance with Sandwell MBC's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Contracts. Cabinet gave delegated approval to undertake all necessary procurement processes (including entering into contracts for the provision of goods and services and any direct contract awards) necessary to deliver the Levelling Up Partnership interventions. (Ref 96/23/12)
Risk:	A project risk register is in place and this has been reviewed as part of the project capital appraisal. As a result of the capital appraisal review, additional risks have been added to the register to reflect the risk of displacing crime and ASB. There are no significant project risks to report.
Equality:	The Equality Impact Assessment for the CCTV services does not identify any adverse impact for those with protected characteristics. The services are provided for all residents and businesses and does not discriminate against any protected characteristic.
Health and Wellbeing:	The underpinning objective of the LUP is to 'level up' and reduce inequalities. The proposed interventions focus on tackling health inequalities in a multi-faceted way and compliment public health programmes. Improvements to community safety measures are expected to lead to improvements in residents' perceptions of crime and safety.
Social Value	The proposed interventions will be delivered in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and will deliver social value in line with the council's requirements.



Climate Change	There are no implications for climate change
Corporate Parenting:	<p>Young peoples' views and opinions (voice of the child) have been considered through a suite of insight which informed the project's inclusion in the LUP. These included the Residents' Survey, SHAPE young people's survey, and specific engagement around crime and safety issues. Common themes of concerns were raised around ASB/drug use and dealing, off-road bikes, more police presence/visibility, improved safety at the bus station, groups hanging around the streets.</p> <p>Within the Council's Young People's Corporate Plan, a commitment is made to have more CCTV cameras. This intervention will help deliver on the commitment.</p>

