

RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND  
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



**RUNNYMEDE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** 17 JUNE 2019

**LEAD OFFICER:** GORDON FALCONER. COMMUNITY SAFETY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** JOINT COMMITTEE COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDING UPDATE

**AREA(S) AFFECTED:** ALL

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The Joint Committee has a delegated budget of £3,000 for community safety projects in 2019/20. This report sets out the process by which this funding should be allocated to the Community Safety Partnership and/or other local community organisations that promote the safety and wellbeing of residents. The report also provides a progress update regarding last year's funding.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Runnymede Joint Committee is asked to agree that**

- (i) The Committee's delegated community safety budget of £3,000 for 2019/20 be retained by the Community Partnership Team, on behalf of the Committee, and that the Community Safety Partnership and/or other local organisations be invited to submit proposals for funding that meet the criteria and principles set out at section 3 of this report.
- (ii) Authority be delegated to the Community Safety Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the joint committee and divisional members as appropriate, to authorise the expenditure of the community safety budget in accordance with the criteria and principles stated in section 3 of this report.
- (iii) The committee receives updates on the project(s) that are funded, the outcomes and the impact it has achieved.

**The Runnymede Joint Committee is asked to note**

- (iv) The update on the projects funding by the committee's funding in 2018/19 set out in section 2.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The report sets out a process for allocating the committee's delegated community safety budget of £3,000 to local organisations to achieve the recommendations outlined above.

There is also an update on how last year's funding was used in order to provide visibility and promote accountability within the Community Safety Partnership.

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 Prior to 2016, the committee had historically chosen to passport its delegated community safety funding to the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to assist in their efforts to tackle crime and anti- social behaviour on behalf of residents.
- 1.2 Following countywide analysis of the projects that were funded through CSPs and the outcomes achieved, the committee agreed that its local CSP should firstly be invited to provide an outline of any prospective projects that could be supported from the committee's funding for approval. This aimed to provide greater oversight of the committee's expenditure. In the context of the County's Medium Term Financial Plan and the requirement upon all county services to contribute to significant savings, the process would also help to achieve better value for money from projects in support of the County Council's wider community safety priorities.
- 1.3 Last year, the funding helped to support two local projects, tackling fly tipping and alcohol abuse. An update to both of these projects has been set out below.

## **2. ANALYSIS:**

Purchasing equipment to prevent fly-tipping:

Committee's contribution: £1,790

Outcomes:

- 2.1 Project funding has provided essential resources (to replace losses due to out of warranty failures and damage/theft) to maintain the programme of deploying mobile cameras to established and emerging fly-tipping sites to apprehend and deter offenders. It has enabled the continued disruption of waste crime offenders by providing cameras to capture evidence which can be used to seize and crush vehicles. Incidents of over 20m<sup>3</sup> of waste are investigated by the Environment Agency and information about such incidents is shared with them.

#### Impact:

- 2.2 Fly-tipping offences are hard to prosecute as they can occur in remote areas so incidents are often not witnessed. Further, it can be difficult to identify offenders, or there may be no registered keeper of the vehicle used. The cameras provide evidence of vehicles used in offences that, together with stronger powers (amended in 2015), mean we can pursue the vehicle even where no defendant is identified.
- 2.3 A recent example which demonstrates the effectiveness of this equipment came about when borough council officers rapidly deployed mobile cameras to a site that was a target for fly-tippers and which was subject to an on-going investigation by one of the partner agencies. As there was no access to mains electricity, regular CCTV equipment could not be situated there which compounded the team's ability to gather evidence. The rapid response by the team enabled an incident to be caught in camera within 24 hours.

#### Benefits:

- 2.4 Residents care about where they live and perceived quality of environment affects how people feel about their surroundings.
- 2.5 This funding supports action against those who offend and increases public confidence that offenders face consequences for their actions. This has a knock on effect in that cameras and associated signage are powerful deterrents.
- 2.6 An additional benefit is that the equipment is loaned to other departments where appropriate to deter other types of anti-social behaviour.

#### Alcohol awareness leaflets:

Committee's contribution: £894

#### Outcomes:

- 2.7 There is a need to increase alcohol awareness to promote a healthier and safer borough.

This literature provided an opportunity to:

- Signpost Runnymede residents to the "Health Surrey" website which provide information on safe drinking levels and to the "Don't Bottle It Up" online alcohol test.
- Increase awareness of the 'Don't Bottle it Up' campaign.
- Support national Alcohol Awareness Week Nov 2018

Impact:

2.8 Three items were produced:

- A leaflet on alcohol awareness.
- A leaflet on how to talk to your children about alcohol
- A calorie and unit calculator.

900 leaflets were dispatched across borough libraries and doctors' surgeries and within the civic centre. This was complemented by a social media campaign throughout the week and an email to borough councillors and officers

Benefits:

2.9 The promotion of a safe and healthier borough along with promoting services available to residents/RBC staff who need support relating to alcohol abuse.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

- 3.1 As in the previous year, a clear and simple process designed to support CSPs will be adopted in order that funds can be processed efficiently this year.
- 3.2 Local CSPs will be invited to submit a brief outline of the projects that they would like to put the committee's funding towards, on a simple template designed for this purpose.
- 3.3 To assist CSPs in identifying suitable projects, the following criteria will be provided as a guide:
- a) Results in residents feeling safer.
  - b) Has clear outcomes that align with the priorities of the local committee and/or the CSP.
  - c) Is non recurrent expenditure.
  - d) Does not fund routine CSP activities (e.g. salaries, training).
  - e) Is not subsumed into generalised or non-descript funding pots.
  - f) Does not duplicate funding already provided (e.g. domestic abuse services, youth work, transport costs, literature which could be coordinated across all CSPs).
- 3.4 To ensure funds can be utilised within the current financial year, it is suggested that a deadline is imposed for the submission of outline projects by CSPs and/or local organisations. This deadline will be communicated widely to local CSPs and partner organisations and the Committee will be updated when this has been set.
- 3.5 To ensure that funds can be distributed speedily and efficiently, it is recommended that authority is delegated to the Community Safety

Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee, along with the relevant divisional member, to authorise the expenditure of the committee's funds outside the formal quarterly committee meeting cycle. This should allow local organisations to obtain approval, initiate and implement projects with the minimum of delay.

- 3.6 Once implemented, the CSP and any other recipients of this funding will be required to provide the Committee with a short update on each project, outlining how the funding was used and the difference and impact it has made in the local community.
- 3.7 All viable options were considered and appraised when forming the recommendations to the Committee. The previous arrangement, whereby the Committee transferred both its funding and the decision-making about how the funding could be used to the CSP was not considered to provide sufficient information on the impact that the funding or the outcomes it had achieved.
- 3.8 The recommended funding arrangements will employ a simple process for the commitment of funds by the Committee to enable greater scrutiny over the use of this funding.

#### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

- 4.1 Local and Joint committee chairmen were collectively consulted about this process for allocating community safety funding as recommended in this report, before its implementation two years ago.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 The costs of the recommendations in this report are contained within existing revenue budgets. Early scrutiny of proposed projects by CSPs and local organisations will help to achieve better value for money for the Committee's funding.

#### **6. WIDER IMPLICATIONS:**

- 6.1 There are no direct equalities or diversity implications. However, through its membership of the local CSP and external bodies, the County Council can help to ensure that local services are accessible to harder to reach groups. The CSP also maintains ongoing monitoring of hate and domestic abuse crimes.

<b>Area assessed:</b>	<b>Direct Implications:</b>
Crime and Disorder	<i>Potential implications depending on chosen projects.</i>
Equality and Diversity	<i>Potential implications depending on chosen projects)</i>
Localism (including community involvement and impact)	<i>Potential implications depending on chosen projects</i>
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	<i>Potential implications depending on chosen projects</i>
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	<i>Potential implications depending on chosen projects</i>
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	<i>Potential implications depending on chosen projects</i>
Public Health	<i>Potential implications depending on chosen projects</i>

6.2 The County Council's membership of local CSPs helps ensure the achievement of its community safety priorities. The Committee's funding for local community safety projects enables the CSP and/or other local organisations to help to promote safety, reduce crime, and tackle antisocial behaviour and raise awareness of safer practices and behaviours.

## **7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 7.1 The proposals contained in this report will enable CSPs and/or other suitable local organisations to submit projects that support the County Council's strategic goal of enhancing resident experience.
- 7.2 The recommendations contained in this report are intended to secure greater oversight of the committee's community safety expenditure and achieve better value for money through projects that help to achieve the County's community safety priorities.

### **The Joint Committee (Runnymede) is asked to agree that:**

- 7.3 The Committee's delegated community safety budget of £3,000 for 2019/20 be retained by the Community Partnership Team, on behalf of the Committee, and that the Community Safety Partnership and/or other local organisations be invited to submit proposals for funding that meet the criteria and principles set out at section 3 of this report.
- 7.4 Authority be delegated to the Community Safety Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the local committee and divisional members as appropriate, to authorise the expenditure of the community safety budget in accordance with the criteria and principles stated in section 3 of this report.
- 7.5 The Committee receives updates on the project(s) that are funded, the outcomes and the impact it has achieved.

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/runnymede](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/runnymede)

**The Joint Committee (Runnymede) is asked to note:**

7.6 The update from the two projects regarding the use of the funds in 2018-19.

<b>8. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:</b>
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8.1 The CSP will be advised of the funding process agreed by the Joint Committee and invited to access this funding.

**Contact Officer:**

Gordon Falconer, Community Safety Manager

**Consulted:**

Surrey's local committee chairmen and local committee members.

**Annexes: None**

**Background papers: None**

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