

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

6th February 2008

Present:

The Mayor Stuart Drummond

Councillor Victor Tumilty

Officers: Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
Brian Neale, Acting Crime and Disorder Coordinator
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

21. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted from Councillor Robbie Payne.

22. Appointment of Chair

In the absence of the Chair Councillor Tumilty was appointed to chair this meeting.

23. Declarations of interest by members

None

24. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2007

Received

25. Community Safety Capital Grants Allocations (*Head of Community Safety and Prevention*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To advise Members of applications to the Community Safety Capital Fund

and seek approval for recommended grant awards.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Council decided that its capital budget for 2007/08 would include an allocation £150,000 to implement community safety projects, which are associated with and contribute to Safer Hartlepool Partnership's strategy covering crime, disorder and drugs. Following an underspend of £3,542 in 2006/07 and a further contribution of £12,175 from Hartlepool Borough Council this had been increased to £165,717.

Three applications for grant were reported to Members.

Domestic Fencing – Riverside Close

For many years residents had experienced anti-social behaviour to the rear of their properties in Riverston Close. In response the Council had agreed to transfer some land to residents to remove congregation and access points. A new resident had moved into one property and been asked to take ownership of some lane which his neighbour did not want. However the new owner was not co-operating with the fencing costs placing arrangements in jeopardy. The Council was insisting the land be fenced within one month of the transfer at a cost to the resident. The proposal was to build a 6ft high fence to the rear of the property concerned.

The total cost would be £3,240. A contribution of £740 has been agreed from the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum leaving a shortfall of £2,500 to be approved by the Committee.

Members were concerned that approval of this funding would set a precedent and lead to residents refusing to contribute to this type of land transfer and associated works in the future. However The Head of Community Safety and Prevention advised that the resident had only recently purchased the property and had been unaware at the time of purchase that these costs would be requested. Officers were of the opinion that if this contribution was not made the entire scheme may have to be abandoned.

Headland Town Square Toilet Block – CCTV Scheme

Residents had raised concerns about anti-social behaviour and criminal damage relating to the new toilet block at the Headland Town Square. In the year since the toilet block had opened there had been incidents of toilets broken, nappy changing facilities broken and cans and bottles stuffed into toilets causing back flush. The Headland Neighbourhood Action Plan Residents' Forum had requested information from the Community Safety Manager regarding the possibility of having CCTV inside the entrance of the toilet block and immediate external area not covered by existing CCTV cameras. Cabling was already fitted to accommodate these. Consultation had been carried out on these proposals via the Residents' Forum, Community Safety Team and local Community Police Officer.

The total cost would be £7,000. A contribution of £3,500 had been agreed by the Headland NAP Residents Forum leaving a shortfall of £3,500 to be approved by the Committee.

Members questioned whether it was expedient to provide CCTV cameras at this particular site when a town-wide review of CCTV provision in Hartlepool was imminent. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention advised that this provision was not linked to the town-wide system.

NDC Commercial Areas Business Security Grant

The Business Security Grant Scheme had been running for a number of years and had been successful in assisting small businesses vulnerable to crime to secure their premises. The project involved the provision of grant assistance to retail businesses undertaking security improvements to their premises. Businesses would be able to apply for up to 75% of the cost of security installations to a maximum of £2,000. The total minimum value of the project would be £5,330 inclusive of Private sector contribution of 25% per application. Members were asked to approve a grant of £4,000 to the project.

Decision

- I. That a grant award of £2,500 toward domestic fencing on Riverston Close be approved
- II. That a grant award of £3,500 toward a CCTV scheme at the Headland Town Square Toilet Block be approved
- III. That a grant award of £4,000 toward the NDC Commercial Areas Business Security Grant scheme be approved.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 12th February 2008