
Meeting of Executive Members for City Strategy and Advisory Panel

26th March 2007

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

Target Hardening Budget Allocation

Summary

1. This report sets out a recommended framework for the prioritisation and allocation of the Target Hardening budget. Members are asked to approve this framework as the delivery mechanism.

Background

2. The purpose of the target hardening budget is to fund community safety projects, with a view to reducing or minimising the risk of crime or tackling the fear of crime.
3. City of York Council introduced a non-recurring budget of £50k for target hardening late in 2003/04. For 2006/07 and subsequent financial years this sum is included in the base revenue budget. The budget is held by the Neighbourhood Pride Unit within the Directorate of Neighbourhood Services.
4. To date a number of projects have been funded from Target Hardening including alleygating, CCTV, security fencing and support to York Community Watch by the funding of crime prevention equipment.
5. Previously the Building Safer Communities Steering Group (BSCSG) of Safer York Partnership (SYP) discussed project proposals for funding and approved successful bids. This multi-agency steering group consisted of members from the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Rescue, and CYC.
6. The SYP delivery structure has been reviewed. This resulted in the dissolving of the BSCSG. In its place a number of multi-agency thematic task groups have been established, to better reflect the Partnerships strategic objectives. The groups are multi-agency with representatives from a number of key organisations such as the police, Fire and Rescue and the Council. All the groups work to annual Action Plans and have access to the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) for the purpose of funding interventions. Performance of the group is monitored by the SYP Executive.
7. These task groups have been operational since January 2006 and include: Burglary, Vehicle Crime, Cycle Theft, Criminal Damager, Nightsafe (Violent

Crime and Night Time Economy), Anti-social behaviour and Road Safety. All task groups meet on a monthly basis. This approach has proved successful in bringing a number of key agencies together and contributing in a much more joined up way to continuing the current reductions in key crime types.

Consultation

8. Officers of SYP, who are joint authors of this report, have been consulted regarding the proposed framework for allocating and prioritising the Target Hardening Budget.

The Framework

9. The Target Hardening budget will be accessed by ward committees which require assistance in developing and implementing target hardening initiatives in their area. Responsibility for managing the budget would remain with the Neighbourhood Pride Unit administered by the Head of Neighbourhood Pride and / or Assistant Director (Neighbourhood & Community Safety).
10. In principle, the Target Hardening budget will be used to support physical improvements to reduce crime therefore this will not be used to support revenue based activities. Schemes that attract revenue funding will stand an improved chance of being successful.
11. If the task groups wish for funding for a particular project that is local or ward based, then that should first be discussed at the ward committee meeting or joint action group. A funding application should then be submitted to the Head of Neighbourhood Pride Unit/Assistant Director (Neighbourhood & Community Safety). A funding application template is enclosed at Annex 1.
12. The authorisation of the allocation of funds will then be determined after consultation with the Leader of the Council (who has portfolio responsibility for Safer York activities), or in his absence, the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services. The Neighbourhood Services Finance Manager will provide quarterly updates on expenditure and project delivery to the SYP Executive and the CYC in the quarterly and annual revenue monitoring reports.

Options

13. There are no other relevant options to consider.

Analysis

14. Given that all the SYP task groups are police National Intelligence Model (NIM) compliant, the bids for funding from the groups would ensure that applications for funding would be prioritised to those target hardening interventions which would be most likely to contribute towards achievement of crime reduction targets for the city. The multi-agency make up of the task groups would also mean that resources and efforts in priority areas, identified by the task groups in their Action Plans, could be coordinated with the ward committees and joint

action groups. Expenditure would be controlled by the Head of Neighbourhood Pride/Assistant Director (Neighbourhood & Community Safety).

15. The allocation of the Target Hardening budget would ensure maximisation of the crime reduction benefits for the available budget. This would lead to the creation of a safer city through transparent partnership working with other agencies and the local community by reducing the actual and perceived impact of violent and aggressive nuisance behaviour. It would also assist with York Pride by making it a clean and safe environment.

Corporate Priorities

16. The purpose of the target hardening budget is to fund community safety projects, with a view to reducing or minimising the risk of crime or tackling the fear of crime. It therefore supports and contributes towards council priorities as outlined in the Corporate Strategy 2006/09, and in particular the two priorities below:
 - To reduce the actual and perceived impact of violence, aggressive and nuisance behaviour on people in York.
 - To improve the actual and perceived condition and appearance of city's streets, housing estates and publicly accessible private land.

Implications

17.
 - **Financial** – No additional implications
 - **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no human resources implications
 - **Equalities** -There are no equalities implications.
 - **Legal** - There are no legal implications
 - **Crime and Disorder** – No additional implications other than those mentioned in the report
 - **Information Technology (IT)** – None
 - **Property** - None
 - **Other** - None

Risk Management

18. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

19. That the Advisory Panel advises the Executive Leader to approve the proposed framework for prioritisation and allocation of funding in paragraphs 9 to 12 above. The Director of Neighbourhood Services would exercise his delegated authority to commit expenditure following consultation with the leader of the Council or Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services and monitoring of the budget will continue to be reported by the Neighbourhood Pride Unit to the City Strategy EMAP as part of quarterly and annual revenue budget monitoring.
20. **Reason:** To ensure that the budget is effectively utilised to fund community safety projects in the wards, with a view to reducing or minimising the risk of crime or tackling the fear of crime.

Contact Details

Author:

Author's name: Zoe Burns

Title: Head of Neighbourhood Pride

Dept Name: Neighbourhood Pride Unit

Tel No. 551817

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Chief Officer's name: Andy Hudson

Title: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods & Community Safety)

Report Approved

Date 5th March 2007

Co-Author's Name Tanya Lyon

Title: Crime Reduction Manager

Dept Name: Safer York Partnership

Tel No.

Specialist Implications Officers: None

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex One : Target Hardening budget funding application form

ANNEX 1

Target Hardening Budget application form

Date:

Title of bid
1.Task Group responsible for application:
Name : Telephone: E-mail contact details:
2. Brief Outline of Proposal including outcome of consultation with ward committees and / or joint action groups and the project delivery timeframe
4. Outcomes expected from the successful implementation of the bid
5. Funding request details: Total cost of scheme: Total budget requested:

Title of bid

Total Matched funding:

Breakdown of budget by item or scheme:

6. Details of how the bid fulfils the Task Group Priorities / Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005 –2008 and the Mandatory British Crime Survey PI's./ ward level action plans.

7. Details of how the bid fulfils the CYC corporate objectives and Improvement statements. In particular Corporate Aim 4 – Create a safe city through transparent partnership working with other agencies and the local community and Improvement statement 4 – Reduce the actual and perceived impact of violent and aggressive and nuisance behaviour on people in York.

8. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting information. (Applicants should note that on a quarterly basis reporting information, on the budget and scheme delivery, should be submitted to the Head of Neighbourhood Pride)

Title of bid

9. Approval information

Signature of the Chair of the Task Group:

Signature of Ward Committee / Joint Action Group members

Date

**Signature of the Head of Neighbourhood Management /Assistant Director
(Neighbourhoods & Community Safety):**

Date: