
Meeting of Executive Members for City Strategy and Advisory Panel

11 December 2006

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

Target Hardening Budget Allocation

Summary

1. This report sets out recommendations for the distribution of the Target Hardening budget through the Safer York Partnership (SYP) delivery structure. Members are asked to approve the use of SYP task groups as the delivery mechanism for the remainder of the 2006/07 target hardening budget with immediate effect and for this arrangement to continue subject to review at the end of each financial year.

Background

2. The Target Hardening budget was created in the last quarter of 2003/04 for the purpose of funding 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 a base revenue budget of £50k is available. The budget holder is the Head of Neighbourhood Pride, 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 through the funding of crime prevention equipment.
5. Previously the Building Safer Communities Steering Group (BSCSG) of 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, set around an agenda to tackle crime reducing and minimising risk , alongside tackling the fear of crime.
6. The SYP delivery structure has been reviewed in recent months. This resulted in the dissolving of the BSCSG. A number of multi-agency thematic task groups have been established, to reflect the Partnerships strategic objectives. The 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 contributing

to continuing reductions in key crime types. The membership of the groups is 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 groups is monitored by the SYP Executive.

Consultation

7. Officers of SYP, who are joint authors of this report, have been consulted regarding the options below.

Option

8. The option for Members to consider is for the Target Hardening budget to be administered and distributed by SYP via the task groups, as described in paragraph 6 above. The budget responsibility would remain with the Head of Neighbourhood Pride and Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods), within the Neighbourhood Pride Unit, , who would approve or decline, funding. A funding application template is currently in existence for use by the task groups for the purpose of accessing the SSCF. This has been adapted for use with the Target Hardening budget and is enclosed within Annex 1. The Funding and Communications Manager, SYP will provide quarterly updates on expenditure and project delivery to the SYP Executive and the Head of Neighbourhood Pride for inclusion in CYC revenue monitoring reports.

Analysis

9. Given that all SYP task groups are police National Intelligence Model (NIM) compliant, the administration of Target Hardening budget via the groups would help to ensure that 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 approval to incur expenditure being controlled by the Head of Neighbourhood Pride and Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods). This would be straight forward to manage and administer.

Corporate Priorities

10. The administration of the Target Hardening budget through the SYP task groups and approved by the Head of Neighbourhood Pride, would ensure maximisation of the crime reduction benefits for the available budget. This would lead of 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.

Implications

11.

- **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

12. There are no known risks.

Recommendations

13. That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Members to approve the proposal in paragraph 8 above, with the Director of Neighbourhood Services being given the delegated authority to administer the Target Hardening budget via the SYP Task Groups. Members are also asked to note that monitoring of the budget will continue to be reported by the Neighbourhood Pride Unit as part of quarterly revenue budget monitoring.

Reason: To progress work in this area.

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Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex One Target Hardening budget funding application form