

Target Hardening Fund - 2011 -2012

Summary

1. This report presents information on the current years Target Hardening Fund allocations (Annex 1) and proposes recommendations on ways to improve the accessibility and awareness of the fund for future years.

Background

2. Applications for money from the Target Hardening fund can be made for capital schemes to deliver physical measures to design out or combat crime and reduce the fear of crime. The fund is open to applications and makes awards on an annual basis. In order to meet the criteria of the fund applications need to have either come from the Safer York Partnership and / or be considered and approved for submission by the relevant ward committee.
3. The current practice was developed in recognition of the strategic role and intelligence from Safer York Partnership and the strategic and local knowledge of ward members. This is to ensure that any bids to the fund are robust, avoid duplication of effort and that any emerging schemes are the most effective measure to combat the highlighted issue based on the intelligence and local knowledge.
4. The fund is not currently advertised wider than the Safer York Partnership, North Yorkshire Police, through the Safer Neighbourhoods teams, and ward committees and through them key stakeholders in wards working with the ward committees.

5. The fund has been managed in this way for a number of years and whilst the process works, in line with the councils wider approach to ensuring that its processes are effective and efficient, it felt that now is a good time to review the process in order to ensure that the maximum impact was achieved through the use of the Target Hardening fund.
6. On review, it was concluded that the process of approving submissions through ward committees and working with Safer York Partnership and North Yorkshire Police is a robust process and requires no change. Options for proposed improvements/changes are therefore focused on raising the awareness and accessibility of the fund at the front end of the process.

Consultation

7. In accordance with policy the decision on the allocation of the Target Hardening Fund 2011-12 is an officer decision following consultation with both the Leader of the Council or his delegated representative, in this case the Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety.
8. No formal consultation has taken place on options/recommendation to improve the accessibility and awareness of the Target Hardening Fund; however feedback from applicants and elected members who have made / support applications has been used.

Options

9. **Option 1** - Retain the current level of promotion of the fund which is restricted to ward committees and key stakeholders working with them, Safer York Partnership and North Yorkshire Police. To ensure all of those currently receiving information/ invitation to bid to the fund get regular updates initiate a quarterly e-newsletter. In addition develop and deliver a member briefing session on ward budgets and the Target Hardening Fund as part of the existing member development programme.
10. **Option 2** - As Option 1 and in addition promote the fund internally via the council's intranet to ensure a joined up approach across the authority.

11. **Option 3** - As Option 2 and in addition promote the fund publicly so that residents and organisations active in the wards can make suggestions to the relevant ward committee for funding applications.
12. All options to be implemented alongside the ward committee local improvement scheme participatory budgeting process for the financial year 2013 – 2014 starting in June 2012.

Analysis

13. **Option 1** – The advantage of option 1 is that the suggested e-newsletter and member briefing could be implemented in the current financial year. The disadvantage of Option 1 is that the proposal does not widen the awareness of the fund beyond the existing parameters.
14. **Option 2** – The advantage of option 2 is that as well as the advantage of Option 1 greater connectivity of efforts would be encouraged across the authority.
15. **Option 3** – The advantages of Option 3 is that as well as the advantages of options 1 and 2, it provides opportunities for greater community involvement in identification of potential Target Hardening applications/schemes. This broader approach would also enhance the transparency of the process and allow a focus on specific areas of crime and fear of crime reduction alongside the ward committee local improvement scheme participatory budgeting process. This broadening of the approach may provide an opportunity for vulnerable residents or those not currently engaging through existing routes and protocols to raise concerns and suggest potential solutions. The potential disadvantage of such a broader approach is that there is only a finite funding pot and increased competition is likely to result in the scheme being oversubscribed which may result in residents' aspirations not being met.

Corporate Priorities

16. The options above all relate to the improvement of access to and awareness of the Target Hardening Fund are directly related to the Safer City section of the Corporate Strategy and in particular:
 - We want York to be a safer city with low crime rates and high opinions of the city's safety record

- We will help reduce the number of burglaries and thefts within the city, utilising all available funds such as target hardening.

Implications

17. The direct implications arising from this report are:

(a) **Financial** - None other than the allocation of the funds to individual Target Hardening schemes

(b) **Human Resources (HR)** - None

Equalities - Option 3 offers an opportunity to expand the route for suggestions for potential Target Hardening Schemes to the wider community and ensuring that access to the fund is fair and equitable and in this way improving the quality and diversity of applications to the fund.

(c) **Legal** - None

(d) **Crime and Disorder** – The positive impact of the implementation of the individual Target Hardening schemes contributing to the corporate priority for a Safe City and in particular to reduce burglary and theft.

(e) **Information Technology (IT)** - None

(f) **Property** - None

(g) **Other** – None

18. Risks

Risks have been addressed within the main body of the report; additionally the risks associated with the recommendation of this report are assessed at a net level below 16.

Recommendations

19. The Cabinet Member is asked to:

(a) Note the information on the allocation of the 2011-2012 Target Hardening Fund

Reason: For Information

- (b) Agree option 3, as outlined in Para 11 to publicise the scheme wider to residents and organisations active in the wards so that they can make suggestions to the relevant ward committee for funding applications.

Reason: To ensure that the accessibility and awareness of the target Hardening Fund is improved in a timely fashion for the financial year 2012/2013. Ensuring that access to the fund is fair and equitable and in this way improving the quality and diversity of applications to the fund.

Contact Details

Author:	Chief Officer Responsible for the report:		
Mora Scaife Neighbourhood Management Unit <i>Tel No. 1834</i>	Charlie Croft Director Communities and Neighbourhoods		
	Report Approved	√	Date 20/09/11
Specialist Implications Officer(s) <i>List information for all Implications: None</i>			
Wards Affected: <i>List wards or tick box to indicate all</i>		All	<i>tick</i>
		√	
For further information please contact the author of the report			

Background Papers:

None.

Annexes

Annex 1 Target Hardening Funding Allocations 2011 – 2012

Annex 2 Guidelines 2011-12