

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Decision Meeting - Cabinet Member for Community Safety	
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	
<b>Subject:</b>	Building Safer Communities (aka Community Crime Reduction Fund) - Phase 2	
<b>Report by:</b>	Lisa Wills, Partnership Support Manager, Strategy Unit	
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All wards	
<b>Key decision:</b>		No
<b>Full Council decision:</b>		No

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## 1. Purpose of report

This report concerns the Building Safer Communities Fund which was previously discussed at informal Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> December. Following phase 1 of the project which consulted with residents about what would make their local neighbourhood's safer, this report sets out recommendations for phase two, i.e. the allocation of the £90,000 fund established in February 2019 from the Community Safety Portfolio Reserve. This will be known as the Building Safer Communities (BSC) Scheme.

## 2. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Community Safety

- I Notes the findings from the community consultation in six areas of the city and acknowledges the top five issues city wide:
  - a) Activities for children/young people
  - b) Policing/community wardens
  - c) Community cohesion
  - d) Road safety
  - e) Public transport
- II Delegates responsibility to the Strategy and Partnership Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, and the City Solicitor to draw up a strategic grant agreement with HIVE Portsmouth to facilitate the delivery of a range of community crime reduction projects, linked to these findings, in each of the six areas.
- III As our strategic partner, HIVE will distribute the full £90,000 on behalf of the Council to projects as described in 6.2. Funds will be transferred in two tranches of £45,000, the first tranche to be paid by September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

- III Agrees the criteria set out in 6.2 in relation to shaping these projects
- IV Receives regular progress reports from HIVE Portsmouth.

### **3. Background**

3.1 The purpose of the BSC fund is to provide an opportunity for residents to get involved in crime reduction initiatives in their area of the city. Parafin Ltd were commissioned to provide independent facilitation of a number of community workshops, across the city, prior to and during March 2020 in line with member's recommendations in December 2019. The findings from the workshops are discussed below.

### **5. Community Workshops - Consultation Outcomes**

5.1 The original plan for the consultations was to provide background information on current community safety priorities and ask residents how they would tackle these issues. However, it became clear during the process that residents simply wanted to tell us what they thought would make Portsmouth safer. Appendix 1 sets out the findings from community consultation identifying three top priorities in each area. Further analysis of over 400 individual contributions in total, found the main themes emerging at a city level were: (not in order of importance)

- A. Activities for children and young people - the message was clear; we need to consult with young people themselves to understand what they need. There was also support for activities to bridge the generation gap.
- B. Policing - residents expressed their strong support for community policing and community wardens
- C. Community cohesion - the community is ready to get involved to make things happen
- D. Road Safety - particularly the need for more effective traffic calming measures, safer cycling routes and protection for pedestrians from cyclists
- E. Public transport - in particular the need for an affordable and regular bus services

### **6. Next steps**

6.1 It is proposed that phase two of the scheme is led by HIVE Portsmouth under a new, innovative 'strategic grant agreement', whereby HIVE will facilitate the development of crime reduction projects by the community for the community in line, with the original aims of the scheme  
(<https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=348&MIId=4217&Ver=4>)

6.2 HIVE Portsmouth have already evidenced their strong connections with the community during the pandemic lockdown, and have established 18 volunteers known as 'locality leads' across the city. They will work with the six community groups we have already consulted to develop crime reduction projects based on the key themes in each area (see appendix 1 for details). The following set of criteria is suggested in order to help shape the projects:

- Projects must not incur on-going financial commitment by the council

- Projects should address one or more of the main themes in their area
- Residents must provide evidence of collaboration between resident groups and/or other local organisations/businesses
- An Integrated Impact Assessment must be completed in order to demonstrate potential a positive impact in the neighbourhood

6.3 Projects will be developed over the next six months and assessed by a panel of local residents (supported by HIVE Portsmouth) and the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (supported by officers) as an agenda item at a future executive meeting (date to be confirmed). Projects could be presented in person, by video, or in writing. It is suggested that the panel should include young people if possible.

6.4 As projects are developed regular meetings between locality leads and ward Councillors will ensure elected members are kept informed of progress and a more formal progress report will be presented at each following Community Safety Executive meeting.

## **7. Attracting matched funding including Community Infrastructure Levy**

7.1 The BSC scheme will also be used to attract additional funding from other sources. HIVE Portsmouth have experience of working in this way and will aim to facilitate match funding and potential new sources of funding making sure residents get the best value for money.

7.2 Funding may also be used to support community groups to establish themselves as sustainable charities or community interest groups. Previous examples of successful work include: Portsmouth Counselling who received £50,000 from the Council's Capacity & Transition (CT) fund and have subsequently been awarded £334,000 from the National Lottery; Dadz Club who received £70,000 CT fund and went on to secure £269,000 also from the National Lottery.

7.3 We will also offer the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner the opportunity to match the level of council investment into the new scheme or provide alternative financial support, possibly extend particular projects where appropriate.

## **8. Funding arrangements**

8.1 Funding decisions will be taken by the Portfolio holder and resident panel as suggested above and in order to maintain momentum and trust with the six community groups we will work with initially, it will be important that funding is made available on the ground as soon as possible. It is recommended therefore that the £90,000 is transferred to HIVE Portsmouth who will allocate the whole £90,000 in line with decisions made by the Portfolio Holder, and monitor spend on behalf of the council.

8.3 A strategic grant agreement will be drawn up between PCC and HIVE Portsmouth confirming these arrangements with a separate Statement of Purpose (or other suitable form of agreement depending on the scale of each project and the funding required) for each project between the relevant community lead and HIVE Portsmouth including budget monitoring and reporting arrangements.

## **8. Timeline**

8.1 Whilst it is important to maintain momentum, projects should be developed at a pace acceptable to residents.

8.2 There is no deadline by which the £90,000 must be spent, and some community groups will work more quickly than others to realise their crime reduction projects. However, it is expected spending plans for the fund will be in place within six months.

## **9. Reasons for recommendations**

9.1 HIVE Portsmouth is incorporated as a registered charity. A strategic partnership agreement between PCC and the Hive was approved by cabinet in March this year<sup>1</sup>. This work fits well with the aims of the organisation and its strategic vision<sup>2</sup> and will also serve as a pilot scheme to test the methodology and disseminate the learning across the council.

9.2 In order to make best use of the fund, it is important that a set of criteria is agreed and that the council acts on what residents have told us swiftly but effectively to deliver the best positive outcomes for the city.

4.3 HIVE Portsmouth are committed to co-produce with others, especially those with lived experience, families and representative organisations, in designing and delivering the new projects and services.

## **9. Integrated impact assessment**

An initial Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed (attached at appendix 3). A full integrated impact assessment (or similar) will be required for each project funded.

## **10. Legal implications**

10.1 The legal and policy basis for the setting up of the BSC scheme is set out in the previous report dated 28 February 2019 to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety.

10.2 Building Safer Communities grant to HIVE Portsmouth is considered as a 'strategic grant' with the purpose of delivering the crime reduction projects in the specific areas, as detailed within the main body of this report. Appropriate approvals must be sought for the award of this grant to ensure there's a clear policy basis for it.

10.3 Although the Council's 'Grantway' process that must be followed in making awards of grants does not provide for 'strategic grants', considering the value of the grant, it would be advisable to follow the principles of the 'Grantway' process relating to general grants. In any event, the Council must still ensure that the award of a

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<sup>1</sup> <https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=126&MID=4490#AI12981>

<sup>2</sup> See appendix 2

'strategic grant' is made 'on merit', following the principles of decision-making contained the Council's constitution, including fairness and equity and openness and transparency. If there is a reasonable justification for not following the 'Grantway' process on this occasion, a waiver should be completed.

- 10.3 The report suggests that the proposed partnership arrangement between the Council and HIVE Portsmouth will be purely on a grant agreement basis. This will allow the Council to make the transfer of grant funds and to specify the purpose for which the BSC Fund monies must be used.
- 10.4 However, there may a need for the Council to place specific obligations on HIVE Portsmouth to facilitate and support the BSC scheme in a certain way. This could likely turn the proposed grant agreement into a public services contract, subject to public procurement rules. Although the value of the grant is below threshold for Public Contracts Regulations 2015 to apply, an award of public services contract without competition would be contrary to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. If such were the case, it should be considered whether a waiver / departure from the Rules would be justified in the circumstances. The grant agreement should be carefully drafted in order to avoid it becoming a service contract in substance.
- 10.5 The terms of the proposed grant agreement should be aligned with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (governing the strategic partnership arrangements) between the Council and HIVE Portsmouth, and should also be drafted in such a way that allows for proper management of the Council's funds spent on the individual projects under the BSC scheme. Clear division of responsibilities as to the way individual projects will be managed and assessed should be set out in the grant agreement; including the form of Statement of Purpose / grant agreement to be used with the recipients of the project funds.

## **11. Director of Finance's comments**

11.1 The £90,000 has been made available from the Environment and Community Safety Reserve as a one off payment. As the transfer of this money to HIVE Portsmouth is the first under a strategic grant arrangement, it is important that comprehensive and regular financial reporting is in place.

11.2 The fund could be used for both revenue and capital initiatives however as part of the application process if there is an ongoing revenue implication the application must set out how these will be met before an application can be approved for support.

ENDS

**Appendices:**

**Appendix 1 - Building Safer Communities - Community Workshop - consultation outcomes**

**Appendix 2 - HIVE Portsmouth Organisational Purpose and Strategic Objectives**

**Appendix 3 - Initial Integrated Impact Assessment**

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/  
rejected by ..... on .....

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Signed by: