
Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources

12th December 2019

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources – Councillor J Mutton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

Ward(s) affected:

Binley and Willenhall

Title:

Policy Contingency Approval – Gating Scheme

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report is seeking approval for grant funding of c£4,986 to enable a gating scheme to be put in place within the Willenhall area of the city. Any decision to progress the scheme will be subject to the Citizen housing organisation receiving legal advice that the scheme can proceed.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources is requested to approve a one-off grant of £4,986 from the Policy Contingency budget to enable provision of a gating scheme within the Willenhall area of the city subject to the consultation process and the agreement of the Citizen housing organisation.

List of Appendices included:

None.

Background papers:

None.

Other useful documents

None.

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Policy Contingency Grant – Gating Scheme

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources is responsible for approving the allocation of resources of up to £75,000 each year from an on-going Policy Contingency budget.
- 1.2 The Cabinet Member was approached by residents of Remembrance Road and Meadfoot Road in the Binley and Willenhall Ward earlier this year in relation to proposals to provide a gating scheme to improve security in the area. The area has been the subject to illegal and anti-social behaviour which local residents believe is made worse by common access to several alleys that back on to properties in the area.
- 1.3 Gating schemes have been installed across the city over a period of many years although the Council no longer has an on-going budget for such schemes due to previous reductions in Community Safety funding. Such schemes allow local residents to access to the alleys as keyholders but restrict access to non-residents. Perceptions are that such schemes help to reduce illegal and anti-social behaviour.
- 1.4 The area affected by the scheme incorporates properties managed by Citizen (the social housing provider formerly known as Whitefriars Housing Group) and alleys between houses which connect to a number of roads in the area. The gating scheme would be supported by and procured through Citizen and the scheme would be implemented with their support. The Council's role would be restricted to providing the funding.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

Option 1 - Reject the Funding Request

- 2.1 This option is not recommended. The Cabinet Member has indicated that he is minded to support the project.

Option 2 – Agree to the Funding Request

- 2.2 This is the recommended option. The Cabinet Member has already that he is minded to support the project to enable a gating scheme to be implemented subject to approval from local residents and Citizen.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member has been in direct contact with the community affected by the anti-social behaviour issues and the proposed gating scheme. In order for the gating scheme to proceed, the proposal will first have to be subject to a public consultation of the occupiers of the affected properties for which approval would be required. This would involve residents whose properties back directly onto the alleyways for which the gating scheme is proposed, including a number of even-numbered houses on Remembrance Road and Meadfoot Road. The alleys in question come out onto Meadfoot Road, Mary Slessor Street and Tarquin Close. The final proposals will also be subject to the agreement and support of Citizen.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Subject to approval of this report the Council will be in a position to make the payment as soon as the work has been completed. Otherwise the timetable is not subject to the Council's control.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1 Financial implications

The £4,986 will be funded from the 2019/20 Policy Contingency budget. No other approvals have been made within this financial year. This figure relates to a quote for the work and is assumed to be an accurate estimate of the final bill for the work undertaken.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications for the Council. Any decision to progress the scheme will be subject to the Citizen housing organisation receiving legal advice that the scheme can proceed.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

The project can be considered to be broadly aligned to the Council's priorities to make communities safer, reduce crime and reduce anti-social behaviour.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

There are no key risks associated with this funding proposal.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equality and Consultation Analysis (ECA)

Given the relatively small scale of the allocation no Equality and Consultation analysis has been undertaken. The nature of the activities undertaken give no concern that the approval is inconsistent with the Council complying with its Public Sector Equality Duty.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

No implications.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The scheme will be undertaken in partnership with Citizen Housing.

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