



## CAERPHILLY HOMES TASK GROUP – 23RD JANUARY 2014

**SUBJECT: WHQS - COMMUNITY SAFETY FUND**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The report seeks approval to commit expenditure from the 2013/14 budget created to support to Community Safety initiatives and interventions.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Following the ballot in February 2012, the Council agreed that it would deliver the promises made in its Offer Document to tenants and deliver the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) by 2019/2020. It also gave a commitment to delivering numerous additional benefits which were also outlined in the Offer Document, which would add value to the WHQS programme and help deliver the Council's ambition of using the £210 million WHQS investment as a catalyst to Transform Homes, Lives and Communities.
- 2.2 These additional benefits include the creation of a fund to support community safety initiatives and interventions that would directly and indirectly benefit Council tenants. It will fund projects that directly contribute towards the Council's aim of Transforming Homes, Lives and Communities and to one or more of the following Communities First priorities; developing prosperous communities, learning communities and healthier communities.
- 2.3 A maximum of £50,000 is available annually to support community safety projects.
- 2.4 Officers and partners from agencies and organisations involved in addressing community safety will be involved in determining how the fund should be distributed in order to achieve the maximum impact and benefit for tenants and communities.
- 2.5 Final decisions relating to the use of the fund be dependant on recommendations from the Caerphilly Homes Task Group (CHTG) to the Cabinet Sub Committee.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The WHQS is intended to ensure that all local authority and housing association homes are improved and maintained to achieve specified standards.
- 3.2 The WHQS Programme is coterminous with the Caerphilly Single Plan priority of creating 'Prosperous Communities' (P2).
- 3.3 The Council is committed to ensuring that the WHQS investment transforms not only homes but also lives and communities.

- 3.4 The Council's Local Housing Strategy "People, Property, and Places" has the following aim:  
"To provide good quality, well managed houses in communities where people want to live, and offer people housing choices which meet their needs and aspirations."

#### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 The Caerphilly Community Safety Team in partnership with the Council's regeneration and tenancy enforcement teams have recently trialled two new 3G mobile cameras at events including the Big Cheese and locations including Pen Y Dre in Rhymney and Ty Sign, Risca.
- 4.2 The cameras have been used to provide reassurance to visitors to the Big Cheese and also to tenants residing in the respective areas.
- 4.3 RCT Homes are successfully using the cameras to address community safety issues in residential areas.
- 4.4 The cameras are small enough to be mounted on 8 metre lighting columns and utilise 3G wireless functionality to transfer images to the Community Safety Team based at Tir Y Berth Depot.
- 4.5 The cameras have been tested for image and transfer quality by CCBC's Community Safety Team.
- 4.6 Images from the cameras will be transferred directly to the Council's CCTV monitoring centre at Tir Y Berth.
- 4.7 The Community Safety Team are purchasing two mobile cameras for use to tackle anti social and criminal behaviour in hotspots throughout the county borough in order to obtain evidence for use in criminal investigations.
- 4.8 It is proposed that Caerphilly Homes purchase two additional mobile cameras for use in residential areas to monitor incidences of anti social behaviour, obtain evidence to support tenancy enforcement cases and ensure that the environment within communities is safe and secure.
- 4.9 Members of the CHTG are asked to consider supporting the use of the monies ringfenced to support community safety initiatives to purchase two mobile cameras and to finance a one off 'infrastructure' payment. On going costs will be paid via the tenancy enforcement budget.

#### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 An EqIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance and no potential for unlawful discrimination and for low level or minor negative impact have been identified, therefore a full EqIA has not been carried out.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The capital purchase costs are £6,000 per camera.
- 6.2 A one off infrastructure payment of £9,000 is payable. It is proposed that half of the infrastructure cost will be financed from within the WHQS community safety budget. The remaining half will be financed via the corporate community safety budget.

- 6.3 The supplier (Wireless CCTV) has proposed a three year arrangement which includes maintenance for three years and four camera moves. The annual cost for the first three years after purchase has been estimated by the Tenancy Enforcement Manager to be circa £700.00. After the expiration of the three year arrangement it is estimated that annual revenue costs will amount to circa £1800.00.
- 6.4 The Council's Tenancy Enforcement Manager has confirmed that on-going revenue costs associated with the use of the cameras will be borne from within the tenancy enforcement budget.
- 6.5 The one off cost incurred by the Community Safety Fund 2013/14 will amount to £16,500.00.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications arising from the report.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 Comments from consultees have been included in the report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 The CHTG recommend to the Cabinet Sub Committee to approve the purchase of two mobile cameras and half of the associated infrastructure costs.

## **10. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To deliver and meet the aims and objectives of the WHQS Programme.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Housing Acts and Local Government Acts. This is a Cabinet Sub Committee function.

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Consultees: Cllr. Gerald Jones, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Housing  
Cllr. Keith Reynolds, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services  
Cllr Ken James, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning & Sustainable Development  
Phil Davy, Head of Programmes  
Shaun Couzens, Chief Housing Officer  
Dan Perkins, Head of Legal Services  
Nicole Scammel, Acting Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer  
Tina McMahon, Community Regeneration Manager  
Gail Williams, Monitoring Officer  
Kathryn Peters, Community Safety Manager  
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