



Rochford District
Council

REPORT TITLE:	Sweyne Park Bridle Lighting
REPORT OF:	Executive Lead Member for Communities and Health, Cllr Lisa Newport

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks the Executive's agreement to allocate funds of up to £30,000 from the Community Safety Fund for the installation of lighting at Sweyne Park Bridle. Rayleigh Town Council have advised that they are willing to contribute funds of £15,000 to the overall cost as set out in 2.6 of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1 -** That the Executive agree to allocate up to £30,000 from the Community Safety Fund for the installation of lighting at Sweyne Park Bridle subject to final detailed design and costings.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To utilise the capital funding set aside in the Community Safety Fund to enhance the safety of the bridle for the benefit of residents and visitors.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In the setting of the 2021/22 budget, Rochford District Council (RDC) announced the creation of the £100,000 Community Safety Fund (CSF). This was intended to be used in two ways; firstly, small grants of up to £2500 which parish councils were invited to apply for to fund community safety initiatives and, secondly, to fund up to 75% of the capital costs of installing CCTV in the towns of Rayleigh and Rochford.

- 2.2 During the 2023/24 budget setting it was confirmed that the entire unspent CSF would be rolled over into the general fund reserve, with an additional £20,000 to be added for inflation. The Leader of the Council at the time, explained the intention to alter the CCTV funding element of the CSF which would enable RDC to take responsibility for installing the CCTV system. RDC would cover 100% of the installation costs and RTC would remain liable for the maintenance and monitoring costs as per the original grant proposal.
- 2.3 At the Executive Meeting on the 21st September 2023 it was resolved that Option 2, Rochford DC to install and monitor CCTV in Rayleigh High Street), was agreed. (Min.182 refers).
- 2.4 Following that decision the Lead Member for Communities and Health has been reviewing options for allocating the reminder of the CSF for the benefits of residents in the district. One of these options is to install lighting at Sweyne Park Bridle.
- 2.5 The benefits of the installation of the lights are to improve Community safety and promote sustainable transport and safe walking routes for the benefit of residents and visitors.
- 2.6 The Lead Member has contacted Rayleigh Town Council for a contribution to funding the implementation of the lighting. The Town Council have considered this request and advised as follows:

After the Council's meeting on 12th February 2024, Rayleigh Town Council have the following response :-

"Rayleigh Town Council agree in principle to the contribution of 1/3 of the installation costs of LED lighting for part of the Sweyne Park Bridlepath to a maximum of £15,000. This being a joint venture with Rochford District Council, subject to final design, timing and terms and conditions of the project being agreeable with Rayleigh Town Council, and on the basis that Rochford District Council are responsible for the ongoing maintenance costs."

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The other option is to not install any lighting at Sweyne Park Bridle.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 The primary risk is that the lighting is not installed and as a result the CSF is not used as it was original intended – to improve community safety. This risk can be mitigated by RDC taking direct responsibility for the installation.

5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 5.1 No consultation has been undertaken at this stage.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The estimated costs for the installation of lights at Sewyne Park Bridle is £45,000.
- 6.2 Any revenue costs would need to be absorbed within existing budgets.

7.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications at this stage.

8.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:
- a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
 - b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 8.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).
- 8.3 The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic.

9.0 ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no environmental or climate implications directly related to this decision. The Council may want to consider including energy efficiency as part of the specification for the lighting.

10.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no direct economic implications at this stage.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council – Budget	21 February 2023