

**DERWENT NEW DEAL FOR COMMUNITIES/DERBY BURGLARY
REDUCTION PROJECT
PROPOSAL TO INSTALL SECURITY GRILLES – RADNOR STREET**

Report of the Director of Derby Homes

SUMMARY OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of a proposal received from the Derby Burglary Reduction Project to provide residents of Radnor Street Chaddesden with free decorative security grilles for all downstairs windows and doors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Committee consider this proposal and agree further action in consultation with the Derby Burglary Reduction Project to consider further proposals to reduce burglary and the fear of burglary in the Derwent Area.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The Burglary Reduction Project is funded by Derwent New Deal for Communities.
- 3.2 The proposal is based on a similar scheme undertaken in Leeds where it is claimed that the initiative has shown great effectiveness in reducing incidents of burglary, repeat victimisation and the fear of crime. Derby Homes have yet to validate these claims due to the late notification of the proposal. The brochure attached at Appendix 1 gives further detail.
- 3.3 Similar grilles were fitted at 81 Radnor Street during the summer of 2002. The issue was discussed at the Derby Persistent Offender/Burglary Reduction Strategy Group Meeting on 31 July 2002, the proposal was deferred for further work after concern was raised about four key aspects:
 - Big project, needed to be within a strategic framework
 - Visual impact on neighbourhood. Community and Planning, Neighbourhood Team consultation required
 - Accurate targeting of premises required to ensure best value achieved
 - More cross-cutting than just burglary target hardening.

Derby Homes have also raised the additional concern relating to fire safety and that routes of escape in the case of a fire are severely restricted , proposed measures to address appear flawed and onerous on the part of

the landlord. A copy of a letter received from the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service is attached at Appendix 2.

- 3.4 Derwent New Deal for Communities have already undertaken consultation with residents, around 40 residents have expressed support for the scheme. Notwithstanding this, I do think that other means of tackling crime and reducing the fear of crime should be considered and discussed with residents prior to progressing further. This includes the option of only fitting grilles selectively to windows.

Other options could include:

- installation of burglar alarms where not already fitted
- provision of improved street lighting
- installation of high security composite front and back doors
- improved fencing to rear gardens.

CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

4. Any further consultation with residents should be carried out jointly by Derby Homes and Derwent New Deal for Communities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5 None resulting directly from this report.

LEGAL AND CONFIDENTIALITY IMPLICATIONS

6. Initial legal advice taken in relation to the installation of security grilles in City Council property indicates that further consultation should be undertaken with the City Council's insurers prior to commencing any works of this nature.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7. None resulting directly from this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8. None resulting directly from this report.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9. None resulting directly from this report.

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