

<b>Committee:</b> <b>Policy and Resources</b>	<b>Dated:</b> 6 July 2023
<b>Subject:</b> Allocating Safer City Partnership Proceeds of Crime Act funding	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1; 12
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author: Simon Cribbens, Assistant Director – Commissioning and Partnerships</b>	

### Summary

The City of London Police provide funds derived from recovered Proceeds of Crime Act monies to support the work of the Safer City Partnership. The City Corporation receives and administers these monies in its capacity as one of the “responsible authorities” who collectively make up the Safer City Partnership. This report seeks Member endorsement of the arrangements proposed to enable the dispersal of such funds as an interim measure whilst updates are pursued to the formal Officer Scheme of Delegations due to come forward in the autumn.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Endorse the Safer City Partnership’s decision to utilise the Central Grants Unit to administer and manage Safer City Partnership Proceeds of Crime Act grants including making grant recommendations to the Safer City Partnership
- Approve the proposed delegation to the Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services (or other chief officer nominated by the Town Clerk) to formally authorise the payment of POCA grants approved by the Safer City Partnership.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The Safer City Partnership (the SCP) is the City of London Corporations name for its community safety partnership. It is not a typical committee of the City Corporation as Policy & Resources Committee is. Instead, it fulfils the relevant duties of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for certain key public sector bodies to

work as a “partnership” to make places safer. The partnership is the collective term for those public bodies – the “responsible authorities” – required to work together to formulate and implement strategies for the reduction of crime in their area.

2. The responsible authorities include the City Corporation, the Commissioner of the City of London Police, the NHS North East London Integrated Care Board (ICB), the London Fire Commissioner and London Probation Service. The responsible authorities are required to appoint a Strategy Board which has responsibilities (some of which are statutory) relating to the responsible authorities’ performance of their statutory community safety partnership obligations. The Chair of the SCP Strategy Board is Commander Umer Khan of the City of London Police, and the Deputy Chair is Gavin Stedman, Port Health and Public Protection Director from the City Corporation.
3. The work of the SCP is co-ordinated by the Corporation’s Community Safety Team, which sits within the Department of Community and Children’s Services. The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee holds the SCP and its partners to account for the delivery of its strategy.
4. A component of funding to support projects that deliver the SCP’s strategy comes from the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS) which funds derive from monies recovered under Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA). This legislation grants the police and other public bodies the power to confiscate assets and cash from individuals who are convicted of offences or have benefitted from their illegal activities. The majority of POCA money goes to the police to reinvest in asset recovery and crime prevention under the ARIS and this is overseen by the City of London Police Authority Board.
5. Until the financial year 2021/22, the SCP received a 10% share of the City of London Police’s ARIS allocation. The impact of the covid pandemic, and a period of review of the SCP, meant that this allocation was not spent, and the arrangement was ceased. However, the SCP has a £300,000 reserve from prior allocations.
6. The allocation of POCA funding had been managed by the Corporation’s Community Safety Team. However, in order to improve due diligence and strengthen the allocation process, the SCP agreed revised criteria for the assessment of bids for such funding, and further agreed that the Corporation’s Central Grants Unit (CGU) should administer and manage its POCA grants.
7. These decisions also support the fulfilment of relevant regulatory requirements to have in place arrangements governing the review of the expenditure of partnership monies (Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007).
8. It is intended that the Central Grants Unit will manage the funding relationships with successful applicants and ensure projects are monitored and evaluated.

## **Current Position**

9. The City Corporation holds POCA funding – and may receive further funding - on behalf of the SCP. It is intended that this arrangement continue.
10. A strategic review of the SCP, and renewal of its strategy, paused funding allocation. With both a renewed SCP and new SCP strategy in place, Members are now being asked to endorse the arrangements which will enable the SCP to disperse funding – via the Corporation’s CGU - in order to deliver to its priorities.
11. The use of such funding is determined by the priorities of the SCP, as set out in the renewed Safer City Partnership Strategy (2022-2025). The SCP has agreed that the CGU administer a grant application process for bids delivering to the criteria set or revised by the SCP. Parties – including partners of the SCP and community and voluntary sector groups - will be invited to apply for grants between £5,000 - £50,000.
12. For the 10% share of the POCA which is assigned to the SCP, there is no assigned Committee responsible and, as such, proposals are being brought forward to your Policy & Resources Committee which, under its terms of reference, is responsible for any matters not provided for with other committees’.

## **Proposals**

13. Members are asked to endorse the role of the CGU to manage and administer the SCP’s POCA grants, including to receive bids, assess them against the SCP’s agreed criteria and present them to the SCP for decision.
14. As the SCP is not a structure or committee of the City Corporation, it is proposed that the authority to approve the release of funds in line with the decisions of the SCP is delegated to a chief officer nominated by the Town Clerk. It is suggested that this is the Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services.
15. Long term, this will be secured through an amendment to the Corporation’s Scheme of Delegation to Officers – currently subject to wider review. However, to ensure this process does not prevent the dispersal of funding in the interim, it is proposed that Members approve the proposed delegation in the interim.
16. The CGU will monitor and report the use of grant funding and report this to the SCP. Member oversight of the use of these resources will be through reporting to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

### Financial implications

17. In 2021, the CGU’s costs for delivering their service are projected to be no more than 5-10% of the value of the SCP’s annual grant spend.

### Resource implications

18. None.

#### Legal implications

19. These are referenced in the body of the report.

#### Risk implications

20. None.

#### Equalities implications

21. None.

#### Climate implications

22. None.

#### Security implications

23. The ability to disperse grant funding to projects and initiatives delivering to the Safer City Partnership Strategy will contribute to a safer more secure city.

#### **Conclusion**

24. The City of London Corporation is in receipt of POCA funding but currently has no agreed way to administer this in a strategic fashion. This report provides a proposal for an officer-level governance framework, supported by the SCP, that will enable the funds to be distribute the monies in an efficient and beneficial manner.

#### **Appendices**

- None

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