

Committee: Safer City Partnership Strategy Board - For decision	Dated: 29 January 2024
Subject: Safer City Partnership POCA funding	Public
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director for Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report author: Simon Cribbens, Assistant Director – Commissioning and Partnerships, Department of Community and Children's Services	

Summary

This report provides an update on funding held by the Safer City Partnership (SCP) from monies recovered under Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, and that is available to the SCP to allocate to support delivery of its strategic aims. Since the revision of the eligibility and allocation process, five grants – totalling £109k – have been awarded. Funds of £192k remain.

The report includes an Expression of Interest for £78k to support delivery of community patrolling to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour associated with the City's bridge and night time economy.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.
- Approve:
 - a SCP POCA grant of £78,000 in support of community patrolling to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
 - an exceptional allocation in excess of the guidance maximum of £50,000

Main Report

Background

1. Delivery of SCP's strategic aims is supported by the work of its partners, and from monies recovered under Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA). This funding provides an opportunity to grant fund projects that can demonstrate how they will deliver to the SCP priorities and secure the impact sought by its Delivery Groups.
2. The process and criteria underpinning the application for, and decision making to award, funding has been revised to ensure greater transparency, accountability and linkage to strategic aims. This includes drawing on the expertise and

resource of the City Corporation's Central Grants Unit to bring the SCP's approach in line with that of other funding streams.

3. The allocation of SCP POCA is decided upon through the SCP Strategy Board meetings. However, it is only the constituent five 'Responsible Authorities' of the SCP (local authority, police, fire, health and probation) that can make the decision on grant funding.

Current Position

4. The SCP POCA fund had reserves of £301k at the beginning of the 2023/24 financial year. Four grant awards have been approved by the SCP. The table below summarises:

	Opening Balance	Allocations	Running Balance
Balance Sheet			
		23/24	
	£	£	£
Safe City Partnership	£301,073.75		£301,073.75
CoLP - Operation Lewis		£29,495.00	£271,578.75
Safer Business Network		£50,000.00	£221,578.75
City of London Crime Prevention Association		£24,000.00	£197,578.75
NYE Stewarding		£5,605.00	£191,973.75
Total	£301,073.75	£109,100.00	£191,973.75
Current Balance	£191,973.75		

5. The allocations have supported activity to raise awareness of and support to those at risk of or victims of violence against women and girls; tackling nuisance cycling; taxi marshalling to prevent ASB in the night time economy; and stewarding at New Year's Eve to prevent ASB and secure a safe environment.
6. There remains £192k of available funding. SCP members have noted the importance of ensuring the allocation of this, and any subsequent resources, remains tightly focused on securing impact related to SCP priorities.

Proposals

7. The Police Authority Board submitted a bid to the Home Office Safer Streets initiative to respond to issues of crimes and anti-social behaviour on the City's bridges. Although successful, the Home Office has reduced the allocation awarded creating a shortfall and impacting on the planned scope and scale of the community patrolling service it sought to resource.

8. An Expression of Interest (EOI) is appended (Appendix 1) that seeks SCP POCA funding of £78k to address the shortfall in funding. If approved, this element of funding will allow delivery at the scale envisaged but will also create greater flexibility in the deployment of the service. As such the community patrolling secured can be deployed beyond the focus of the City's bridges, to tackle crime and ASB associated with the night time and day time leisure economy in response to intelligence.
9. The proposed delivery is aligned to the SCP's strategy priority to address "neighbourhood Crime and anti-social behaviour including those linked to the night-time economy."
10. The responsible authorities of the SCP are asked to consider this EOI and decide upon the request for funding.
11. The amount requested is in excess of the funding criteria guidance (appendix 2) of grants in the range of £5,000 - £50,000. If the responsible authorities of the SCP are supportive of the grant application, they are asked to approve an exceptional award in excess of the agreed criteria.

Conclusion

12. The SCP POCA funding provides a valuable resource to support initiatives to further the strategic priorities of the SCP Strategy.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – EOI Community Patrolling
- Appendix 2 – SCP POCA Funding Guidance

Background Papers

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