

Safer City Partnership

Expression of interest for POCA Funding

For initial consideration by [please indicate Y/N]

Serious violence and VAWG: N
Anti-social behaviour: N
Reoffending: N
Safer City Partnership Strategy Board: Y

Date of consideration: 29/01/2024

Community Patrolling (mitigating Home Office cut)			
	23/24	24/25	25/26
Cost (£)	0	£78,000	0
<p>Description</p> <p>This funding is sought to fill an unexpected cut made by the Home Office to the grant funding for a cross-borough ‘bridge crime’ initiative. Next year, this grant would have funded expanded community safety patrolling (from existing provider Parkguard Ltd) on and around the City’s bridges to reduce violence, low-level crime, and anti-social behaviour in support of the wider initiative.</p> <p>This £78,000 would help deliver 10-hour patrols 5 days a week by 2 Parkguard officers. The original ‘bridge crime’ initiative that this funding would help deliver had the full support of both the City and Metropolitan Police, and is considered additional to rather than duplicative of existing police patrols on and near the City’s bridges.</p> <p>Note that we are pursuing other mitigations with the Home Office which, if successful, would mean that this funding is not needed from POCA. This bid is submitted as a contingency if those discussions are unsuccessful.</p>			
<p>Impact and need</p> <p>Wards neighbouring the City’s bridges have among the highest volumes of serious violence in the City (Tower = 2nd, Castle Baynard = 3rd, Bridge = 6th), see high and concentrated footfall during the day and at night, and are hotspots for certain types of anti-social behaviour and lower level crime – notably illegal street trading, pickpocketing, and graffiti and lower-level criminal damage.</p> <p>Estimates have not been made on the specific additional impact of community safety patrols on the bridges but, in line with the successful bid, we hope to see reductions in both serious violence, lower level crime, and ASB as a result. The patrols also enable closer partnership working with neighbouring London boroughs and are (alongside police and civil officers) the ‘on the ground’ element of the problem-solving group also set up as part of the ‘bridge crime’ initiative.</p>			
<p>Alignment with Safer City Partnership priorities</p> <p>As above, this aligns with SCP priorities on serious violence and ASB.</p>			

Wider benefits – The City’s bridges are frequently used by people attempting suicide, so we expect additional patrols will contribute to suicide prevention. They should also help deepen our partnership working with neighbouring boroughs and their services on and near City bridges, as well as the private sector (who are involved in the bridge crime initiative via the Safer Business Network)

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