

## Crime and safety grants – 2023/24 and 2024/25

### Summary

This paper summarises the five grants currently funding crime and safety initiatives in the City. Two of these are ‘internal’ grant-making initiatives controlled by the Safer City Partnership and Police Authority team respectively, the other three are Home Office grants that all end – or are not confirmed beyond – 1 April 2025. Grant spend is detailed in full at *Annex 1*.

Broadly, grant funding appears to be well-aligned with the City’s main crime and safety issues but – as below – the SCP Board is asked for views on this, where we might look to invest further over 2024/25 (or beyond), and how we ensure the SCP properly captures the net impacts of this spend.

### Background on grants

- *SCP POCA* – This is funding the Safer City Partnership receives from the City of London’s Proceeds of Crime Act allocations. It previously received an automatic transfer of 10% of the overall allocation (90% being retained by the City Police), but due to an increasing unspent reserve (currently totalling c.£200k) it was decided that SCP would in future need to bid for further funding. The SCP re-commenced its grant making in 2023/24, open to internal and external bids that support all seven SCP priorities and with an emphasis on reducing serious violence, ASB, and reoffending.
- *PA team budget grants* – In 2023/24 the Police Authority began using its own budget to make grants supporting priority crime and safety issues. To date, this has largely been used to set up ‘out of court disposal’ programmes for lower-level offenders required under new national legislation, but it has also funded the ‘Touch DNA’ forensics initiative in our Serious Violence Strategy and will likely fund a joint MOPAC-City initiative to set up a victim voice panel.
- *Home Office Safer Streets Fund ‘bridge crime’ initiative* – in 2023/24 the City successfully led a multi-borough bid with Lambeth, Southwark, and Westminster councils for a range of initiatives to reduce crime on central London bridges. This funds City-specific initiatives to expand community safety patrols and CCTV coverage in buildings near bridges, increased patrols in other boroughs, and various cross-borough support and coordination for the initiative from the Safer Business Network. It ceases at the end of 2024/25.
- *Home Office Serious Violence Duty* – The Police Authority is receiving funding in 2023/24 and 2024/25 to implement the new Serious Violence Duty legislation. This can only be used for staff/admin costs and not for new initiatives.
- *Home Office ‘GRIP’ funding* – In 2024/25, the City will receive £1m Home Office funding for ‘hotspot’ initiatives targeting serious violence and anti-social behaviour. This can only be spent on a “uniformed presence” in hotspot crime areas or on certain things that facilitate these interventions, and City’s plans for the funding have already been agreed with the Home Office (see table below) and are being rolled out. Funding is uncertain beyond 2024/25.

### SCP POCA funding

The table below summarises SCP POCA allocations and the current reserve.

	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
City of London Crime Prevention Association		£26,000.00	£165,973.75
Women's safe accommodation (approved in May 2024)		£50,000	
<b>Total</b>	£301,073.75	£185,100.00	£115,973.75
<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>£115,973.75</b>		

Applications for funding are anticipated in relation to:

- Operation Luscombe: creation of a role to support the operations aim to reduce begging, and more effectively target those with vulnerabilities to direct them to City support services or to those local authorities where they have entitlement (approx. £60,000)
- ASB enforcement patrols: expand the hours and times of the current patrols (provided by parkguard) as levels of all types of ASB enforced by the City Corporation and Police have increased. The ASB strategy group is supportive of this future bid. (approx. £40,000)

### Commentary on grants

The grant funding being spent over 2023/24 and 2024/25 totals almost £2 million, although not all of this is to be spent in the City (c.£450k of 'bridge crime' funds support cross-borough work) and the majority of it (c. 80%) is constrained to very specific purposes by respective Home Office grant conditions. It will be important to understand the net effect that this spend has had on crime and safety outcomes in the City, and the SCP should play a role in bringing this analysis together.

Although the grants fund a wide range of initiatives, they predominantly address (in rough order) violent crime, ASB, neighbourhood crime, and reoffending. This aligns both with the SCP's priority areas and with the biggest issues (in terms of crime volumes) in the City. To this extent, there isn't an immediate need to 'rebalance' the allocation of funding, however it is worth discussing this at the SCP Board. Further, we should consider any remaining gaps which additional grant-making could address. These may include:

- Victims services / support – we are publishing a victim's strategy imminently, are there areas where SCP can aid this work with grants?
- Prevention – scope for 'whole system' prevention initiatives on e.g. housing, health, education, youth intervention are limited by the City's unique circumstances (very small resident population, vast majority of offenders non-resident), but these interventions can

often represent the highest value-for-money options to reduce crime. Where could we look to invest here?

- 'Facilitators' – are there areas where the SCP or PA team can improve things like data-gathering and sharing, analysis, coordination with additional grant-making?

### **Questions for SCP Board**

1. Is current grant-spending correctly aligned with the City's biggest crime and safety issues?
2. Where, as above, might SCP and/or PA team focus on further grant-making?
3. How can the SCP ensure we properly assess the net effects of current grants on crime and safety outcomes?

## Annex 1 – Detail of current crime and safety grant spending

**NB** – The below excludes ‘core’ grants received by the City Police from central government, such as the counter-terror grant, and also excludes the Late-Night Levy. Figures in the table below are rounded to the nearest £500.

Grant	Held / controlled by	£ 2023/24	£ 2024/25
<b>SCP POCA</b>	<b>Safer City Partnership</b>	<b>129,500</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<i>Safer Business Network VAWG initiative</i>		50,000	
<i>Taxi Marshalling Scheme 'Round 1'</i>		24,000	
<i>Taxi Marshalling Scheme 'Round 2'</i>		26,000	
<i>City Police Op Lewis anti-theft scheme</i>		29,500	
<b>PA team budget grants</b>	<b>Police Authority</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<i>"Offender pays" behavioural change programme</i>		2,000	
<i>Victim awareness courses for offenders</i>		4,000	<i>Likely to all be continued in 2024/25</i>
<i>Druglink substance misuse treatment programme</i>		5,500	
<i>Project PIPA domestic abuse perpetrator programme - NB PAUSED</i>		14,500	
<i>Touch DNA forensics</i>		12,000	
<b>Home Office Safer Streets Fund 'bridge crime' initiative</b>	<b>Police Authority</b>	<b>413,500</b>	<b>355,000</b>
<i>Parkguard community safety patrols</i>		79,000	158,000
<i>CCTV installation</i>		25,000	37,500
<i>Non-City initiatives - SBN analyst, patrols in other areas, data-sharing</i>		309,500	159,500
<b>Home Office Serious Violence Duty</b>	<b>Police Authority</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<i>Admin / staff costs for implementation</i>		100,000	100,000
<b>Home Office 'GRIP' SV and ASB hotspot initiatives</b>	<b>Police Authority</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>
<i>Operation Vigilant in the night-time economy</i>			246,000
<i>CCTV monitoring staff</i>			152,000
<i>Acquisitive crime team patrols</i>			138,000
<i>Cycle team patrols</i>			112,000
<i>Dedicated Ward Officer patrols</i>			36,000
<i>Taxi and private hire compliance checks</i>			31,000
<i>CoLP analytical staff</i>			104,000
<i>[Transfer to SSF 'bridge crime' initiative]</i>			<i>[180,000]</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>669,000</b>	<b>1,275,000</b>