

Committee: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee	Dated: 14/11/2024
Subject: Allocating Safer City Partnership Proceeds of Crime Act funding	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1; 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Jack Joslin, Head of the Central Funding and Charity Management Team	

Summary

The City of London Police provide funds derived from recovered Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 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. The Central Funding and Charity Management Team, formerly the Central Grants Unit, assess and manage all grants awarded to external bodies. This report presents members of the Crime Disorder Scrutiny Committee with an update on the allocation of POCA funds.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- To note the report on the distribution of POCA funds

Main Report

Background

1. The Safer City Partnership (the SCP) is the City of London's name for its community safety partnership. It is not a body or committee of the City Corporation.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The allocation of POCA funding for external organisations is managed by Corporation’s Central Funding and Charity Management Team (CFCMT). The team assess applications for funding, do due diligence and manage the funding relationships with successful applicants and ensure projects are monitored and evaluated.

Current Position

7. The current position of the POCA fund is outlined in the table below. The allocation of £30,000 in September 2024 to further support the taxi marshalling scheme reduces the current POCA reserve to £87,788
8. Allocations are well-aligned with the City’s main crime and safety issues and the priorities of the SCP Board. Allocation is supported by a process that ensures adequate due diligence and assessment of proposals alignment to strategic priorities (a summary of the process is appended).
9. Allocations are summarised below:

	Opening Balance	Allocations	Running Balance
Balance Sheet			
Safe City Partnership	£301,074		£301,074
CoLP - Operation Lewis		£29,495	£271,579
Safer Business Network		£50,000	£221,579
Taxi Marshalling - CoL Crime Prevention Association		£24,000	£197,579
NYE Stewarding		£5,387	£192,192
Taxi Marshalling - CoL Crime Prevention Association		£26,000	£166,192
CoL - DA Accommodation		£48,404	£117,788
Taxi Marshalling - CoL Crime Prevention Association		£30,000	£87,788
Total	£301,074	£213,286	£87,788
Current Balance	£87,788		

10. The Safer City Partnership POCA funding seeks to reduce serious violence, ASB, and reoffending.

11. A range of Home Office grant funding to the Police Authority further supports the delivery of initiatives to address crime and safety issues in the Square Mile, including enhanced community patrolling on the City's bridge and in the nighttime economy.

12. The SCP receives regular monitoring information on how funds have been spent which is managed by the CFCMT. The criteria for the Fund can be found at **Appendix 1** and the decision making framework for the Fund at **Appendix 2**.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Financial implications

13. The CFCMT's costs for delivering this service were projected to be no more than 5% of the value of the SCP's annual grant spend. Time spent on application assessment and management is kept to a minimum.

Resource implications

14. None.

Legal implications

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

Risk implications

16. None.

Equalities implications

17. None.

Climate implications

18. None.

Security implications

19. 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

20. This report presents members with an update on POCA, an overview of current funding and recommendations for consideration.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – POCA Funding Criteria
- Appendix 2 – POCA Application Process

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