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REQUEST FOR DECISION – PCCML/ 000411/2018

Title of decision: Community Safety Partnerships Grants Fund 2018/19

Executive Summary: This report proposes that the Police and Crime Commissioner continues to support a Community Safety Partnerships grants fund and process to allow for Community Safety Partnerships to apply for small one-off grants to be requested outside of the annual grants round.

Recommendations:

That the Community Safety Partnerships grants fund be continued in 2018/19 to allow for applications up to £3,000, to be administered in accordance with the process described in this report.

That £50,000 is made available for the Community Safety Partnership Grants Fund in 2018/19 from the Commissioning Reserve.

Police and Crime Commissioner

I hereby approve/~~reject~~ the recommendation above.


Signature


(Michael Lane)

Date

23/5/2018

Comments on the decision taken:

It is important to sustain the ability to support impactful small projects to support CSPs where there is a short-term time opportunity for significant lasting impact. 

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Report of : Alan Hagger, Head of Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships

Date : 04/05/18

Subject : Community Safety Partnerships Grants Fund 2018/19

Contact: Caroline Sargeant, Commissioning & Partnerships Officer
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1. Summary:

This report proposes that the Police and Crime Commissioner continues to support a Community Safety Partnerships grants fund and process to allow for Community Safety Partnerships to apply for small one-off grants to be requested outside of the annual grants round.

2. Recommendations:

That the Community Safety Partnerships grants fund be continued in 2018/19 to allow for applications up to £3,000, to be administered in accordance with the process described in this report.

That £50,000 is made available for the Community Safety Partnership Grants Fund in 2018/19 from the Commissioning Reserve.

3. Strategic context:

Background

Community Safety Partnerships can apply for funding to support projects and initiatives through the annual Safer Communities Fund grant round. However, this does not allow for them to respond to time critical local issues, outside of the annual Safer Communities Fund grant round. At a Community Safety Alliance meeting in April 2017 a discussion was held regarding this issue. The Commissioner was supportive of the idea of setting up a small fund for Community Safety Partnerships and introduced this in 2017. Although no applications were made to this grants fund in 2017/18 it is important to keep the funding available, and a mechanism for the Community Safety Partnerships to apply under, in order for them to address time critical local emerging issues.

Community Safety Partnerships Grants Fund

It is therefore proposed that a Community Safety Partnerships grants fund be continued to allow for applications of up to a maximum of £3,000. The criteria for the grants is less rigorous than the Safer Communities Fund due to the level of funding. The applications form is a two page document asking for an outline

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of the project, a breakdown of the costs and how the proposal meets the Police and Crime Plan priorities to make communities safer. The application form is available on request to the Commissioning Mailbox.

Assessment and Allocation of funding

Applications will be assessed as and when they are received by the Commissioning Team. They will then make recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner to agree and sign off the allocation of funding. The Commissioner will also be briefed on a quarterly basis regarding the funding allocated.

Funding Allocated to the Community Safety Partnerships Fund

There are 12 Community Safety Partnerships covering 14 districts, boroughs and unitary areas. It is therefore proposed that £50,000 is made available for the fund in 2018/19. This will allow for every area to make at least one application up to the maximum amount of £3,000.

The funding requested should be for tackling time critical local issues and should only be requested as and when it is needed. It is also proposed that each Community Safety Partnership is limited to two applications per financial year to ensure that the funding is not utilised by one or two areas.

An evaluation will take place at the end of 2018/19 to establish if the fund is meeting the priorities and if the correct level of funding is allocated.

Performance Monitoring

Due to the low levels of funding involved for each grant it is suggested that an end of project report is requested detailing the project and any relevant case studies that could be used. A small breakdown of how the funding was spent will also be requested.

4. Options Appraisal:

There are two ways in which the Commissioner could support Community Safety Partnerships in tackling time critical local issues. The first is to allocate a set amount of money to each area using the funding allocation formula agreed with the Community Safety Managers in 2013. This is not a favourable option as there is little transparency in this process and some areas might end up with a very small amount of money which would make very little impact.

The second is the proposed and preferred option where Community Safety Partnerships would apply for the funding on an individual basis and be assessed by the Commissioning Team to ensure that it meets the Police and Crime Plan priorities. This would allow for an open and transparent process.

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5. Financial and Resourcing Implications:

This proposal has financial implications of £50,000 for 2018/19 only. This can be contained within the current budget allocation for Commissioning grants and fits within the overall Police & Crime Plan Priorities.

It is recommended that £50,000 be allocated for the Community Safety Partnerships Grants Fund in 2018/19 from the Commissioning Reserve. Any funding not utilised within the fund would be returned to the Commissioning Reserve at the end of the year.

6. Communications and Engagement Implications:

The Communications and engagement Team will work with the Commissioning Team to ensure that a press release is sent out regarding each successful application as they are approved. There will also be the opportunity to publicise each grant on the website and through our social media channels. We would also expect the successful applicant to share our social media posts and post their own, where appropriate to help to raise awareness of the beyond policing work of the Commissioner.

It will also be requested that, where appropriate, the Police and Crime Commissioner's branding is used in connection to the projects that have been funded. This may require an instruction pack as to how the applicant can use the branding.

7. Legal Implications:

Under S.143 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Commissioner may provide or arrange for the provision of services to secure or contribute to securing crime and disorder reduction, or which help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and antisocial behaviour. These arrangements may include the making of grants subject to such conditions as the Commissioner thinks appropriate.

Funding awarded under the Community Safety Partnerships grants fund will be subject to a short written agreement setting out the terms and conditions on which payment is made.

8. Risks and Mitigation:

The process used to assess the applications has been transparent and fully in accordance with guidance from Internal Audit. Due to the lower level of funding being awarded the scrutiny of each application is lower than that of the larger Safer Communities Fund. Funding will only be made to the organisation applying for the funding and will not be provided to an individual's private bank account.

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9. Strategic Policing Requirement:

None.

10. Equalities:

Each application will contain a section for assurances that the project / initiative will contribute towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination, the advancement of equality of opportunity for everyone, including those having a protected characteristic and the fostering of good relations between all including those having a protected characteristic.

11. Publication status:

This report is suitable for publication.

Persons consulted:

Name	Tick as appropriate
Chief Executive	√
Chief Finance Officer	√
Estate Strategy and Delivery Director	√
Head of Communications and Engagement	√
Head of Strategic Commissioning	√
Head of Performance and Delivery	√
Executive Advisor	√
Legal Advisor	√
<i>[insert others as appropriate]</i>	

Annexes:

Background Papers:

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