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REQUEST FOR DECISION – PCCML/ 000412/2018

Title of decision: Supporting Communities Grant Fund 2018/19

Executive Summary: This report proposes that the Police and Crime Commissioner continues with the Supporting Communities grant fund to allow for small one-off grants to be applied for outside of the annual grants round.

Recommendations:

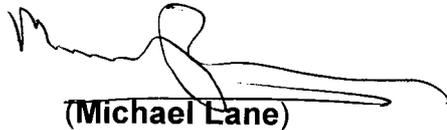
That the Supporting Communities grant fund be continued in 2018/19 for applications up to £500, to be administered in accordance with the process described within this report.

That £20,000 is made available for the Supporting Communities 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:

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

Date : 14/05/18

Subject : Supporting Communities Grant Fund 2018/19

Contact: Caroline Sargeant, Commissioning & Partnerships Officer
opcc.commissioning@hampshire.pnn.police.uk, 01962 871595

1. Summary:

This report proposes that the Police and Crime Commissioner continues with the Supporting Communities grant fund to allow for small one-off grants to be applied for outside of the annual grants round.

2. Recommendation:

That the Supporting Communities grant fund be continued in 2018/19 for applications up to £500, to be administered in accordance with the process described within this report.

That £20,000 is made available for the Supporting Communities Grants Fund in 2018/19 from the Commissioning Reserve.

3. Strategic context:

Background

The Commissioner currently supports a number of projects and initiatives through the annual Safer Communities Fund grant round. The funding for this starts at £500 and therefore, does not allow for small community groups and organisations to apply for small pots of funding.

Over the course of a financial year the Commissioning Team receive numerous requests for small amounts of money to support projects such as community projects and small conferences that are being organised. These requests come from a range of groups including local community groups, Community Safety Partnerships and police officers.

Supporting Communities Grant Fund

The Supporting Communities Fund was launched in September 2017 and received 17 applications in 2017/18. A further five applications have been received within the first two months of 2018/19.

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It is therefore proposed that a Supporting Communities grant fund be continued in 2018/19 to allow for applications up to a maximum of £500. It will allow the Commissioner to support local communities and local police officers to help keep communities safer across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton, in a quick and responsive manner, with a one-off grant payment that may be used within a twelve month period. It will also allow for the generation of quick and visible publicity opportunities for promotion the Police and Crime Plan and its priorities.

The criteria for the grants will continue to be 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 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 will be made available on the Commissioner's website to download and then returned to the Commissioning Mailbox.

Assessment and Allocation of funding

The Commissioning Team will assess applications on a monthly basis after they have been submitted, in accordance with the priorities outlined in the Police and Crime Plan. The applications will then be discussed with the Police and Crime Commissioner and then the allocations will be made. This process will allow for a quick turnaround of funding requests so that people are informed of their outcome within two months of applying.

Funding Allocated to the Supporting Communities Grant Fund

It is proposed that £20,000 is made available for the fund in 2018/19 and will be allocated from the Commissioning Budget. 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 supports services: grants and grant agreements, and procurement and contracts.

Grants are, generally, more flexible, short term, and for less money than contracts. They are a "gift" granted by the Commissioner. They are broader and less detailed in terms of specification and are therefore more appropriate for smaller voluntary organisations providing local services.

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Regular requests for small amounts of funding have been received by the Commissioning Team and the option proposed in this paper allows for an open and transparent process in allocating funding to small, worthwhile projects.

5. Financial and Resourcing Implications:

This proposal has financial implications of £20,000 for 2018/19 only. This has been allocated from the Commissioning Reserve to be used for the 2018/19 Commissioning budget. It fits within the overall Police & Crime Plan Priorities

The funding will be provided to the successful applicants for twelve months only and there will be no expectation of future funding. At the end of the twelve months any funding that has not been spent will be requested to be returned to the Commissioner.

6. Communications and Engagement Implications:

The Commissioning Team will liaise with the Communications and Engagement Team on a monthly basis to ensure that they are aware of the projects being funded. 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 awarding under the Supporting Communities grant 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 will be 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. However funding will only be made to an organisation and will not be provided to an individual's private bank account.

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9. Strategic Policing Requirement:

None, however applications made by police officers will require sign off from a superior officer.

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: None

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