



Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

Making Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NUMBER: 21 - 2022

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: AWARD OF CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION GRANT – IPSWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL ‘SAFER STREETS’

SUMMARY:

1. In accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 the Police and Crime Commissioner can commission services that:
 - a) secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk;
 - b) are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.
2. This report seeks approval to award a Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant to Ipswich Borough Council for £30,000 to contribute to delivering ‘Safer Streets’ type activities in central Ipswich for the period 1 April to 30 September 2022.
3. The project will address violence against women and girls, antisocial behaviour, violence in public places and criminal damage. Preventative actions will promote the safety and personal security of everyone within the Town Centre; upskill those working in the night time economy; create safe spaces; and challenge unacceptable behaviour.
4. The funding will enable crime and disorder reduction activity and support the delivery of Objective 2 in the Police and Crime Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards grant funding of up to £30,000 to Ipswich Borough Council for the period 1 April to 30 September 2022.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out above is agreed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Parmore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'P'.

Signature:

Date: 29 June 2022

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) can commission services that:

- a) secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk;
- b) are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.

This is in accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. In applying this provision, the PCC will ensure that the services commissioned are also consistent with the Suffolk Police and Crime Plan.

1.2 This report seeks approval from the PCC to award a grant of up to £30,000 to support the delivery of 'Safer Streets' activities by Ipswich Borough Council for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022.

2. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

2.1 In February 2022, a new Police and Crime Plan for the period 2022-2025 was published. Objective 2 sets out the intention to provide services which support victims of crime and invest in initiatives which reduce crime.

2.2 The proposed grant to Ipswich Borough Council will contribute to the following activity within Objective 2:

- Ensure quality service provision to support all victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence including ensuring there are routes in to support for those who do not wish to report to the police.
- Support problem solving in local communities by investing in solutions which reduce reoffending, prevent crime and disorder or improve community safety.
- Consider with the Constabulary areas where investment might reduce non-crime demand on the police.
- Consider match-funding opportunities with Community Safety Partners where the initiatives meet shared priorities.
- Reducing re-offending and preventing crime.
- Consider initiatives which reduce the demand on the police in particular policing the night-time economy, ASB and reducing crime and disorder in our towns.

3. PROPOSED ACTIVITY

3.1 Violence and Sexual Offences are the most prominent type of crime in Central Ipswich, comprising 53.5% of the top-three crimes followed by Anti-Social Behaviour (31%) and Public Order related (15.5%).

3.2 The area is associated with Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) predominantly due to perception and general feelings of unsafety. There has been an increased focus on sexual harassment in public places nationally and locally. The Office for National Statistics data for sexual offences for year ending 31 Dec 2021 in England and Wales shows the national average for England is 3.1 but is 3.4 crimes per 1,000 population in Suffolk. Data from Ipswich Hospital details the majority of ambulances called for female assault are to postcodes within the proposed project area.

- 3.3 The PCC recently met with the Chair of the Ipswich Community Safety Partnership and agreed to support a number of activities that had been scoped as part of recent 'Safer Streets' bids to the Home Office. All partners involved in the process were keen to address the underlying issues and the PCC and Ipswich Borough Council agreed to consider funding to take activities forward in a timely manner outside of any potential Home Office funding that may be awarded in due course.
- 3.4 The proposed activity will address issues such as violence against women and girls and antisocial behaviour but also violence in public places and criminal damage.
- 3.5 The funding will promote the safety and personal security of everyone within the Town Centre through: upskilling those working in the night time economy creating capable guardians; creating safe spaces for anyone feeling vulnerable; changing attitudes and challenging unacceptable behaviour. The proposed interventions will support existing measures such as CCTV and the work of police, Street Rangers and Town Pastors in Ipswich.
- 3.6 The location of the activity is Ipswich Town Centre and Waterfront covering mainly retail and hospitality businesses. This area is the centre of the night-time economy, drawing people in from outside the town. The wards covered include: Alexandra, Holywells, Bridge, Westgate and Gipping.
- 3.7 The areas agreed for delivery using the recommended funding are:
- Safety Marshals (SIA registered) as a visible presence in the evening and at night;
 - WAVE (welfare and vulnerable engagement) training in NTE venues;
 - Ask Angela (expansion to increase awareness of the scheme particularly in NTE premises);
 - Personal Safety Alarms and Drink spiking prevention;
 - Safer at Night marketing campaign changing attitudes and behaviours towards violence against women and girls in public places and to increase reporting of VAWG crimes;
 - Taxi driver refresher training;
 - Taxi marshals (extension to Waterfront) to increase safety, perceptions of safety and safe routes home;
 - Personal safety and confidence classes;
 - A dedicated Project Officer to oversee delivery.

4. MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

- 4.1 Monitoring will be undertaken through quarterly meetings between the PCC and Ipswich Borough Council and a final report setting out activity, outcomes and financial expenditure will be submitted to the PCC by 31 October 2022.
- 4.2 Outputs and outcomes include:
- Assessment of successful implementation of each activity;
 - Numbers delivered on programmes and qualitative feedback from participants;
 - Feedback from NTE employees and businesses;
 - Monitoring data in the proposed location for crimes including violence against women and girls, anti-social behaviour and violence in public places and criminal damage;
 - Monitoring ambulance requests to the area and Ipswich Borough Council ASB data to show changes following interventions;
 - Changes in attitudes and opinions using survey data;
 - Feelings of safety and improvements in quality of life in the area;
 - Partner opinion on impact.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The PCC is recommended to support the activity with funding of up to £30,000. This will be matched by an equal contribution from Ipswich Borough Council.
- 5.2 The funding is for time limited delivery of activities without ongoing commitment from the PCC. The funding will initiate activities in anticipation that further funding from central government through the Safer Streets Fund round 4 will take the activities forward (alongside other interventions), if the bid is successful.
- 5.3 It is proposed that the funding is allocated from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Crime and Disorder Reduction reserve.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 6.1 An assessment of risk in delivery of the service has been undertaken. This assessment has considered the value of the grant sought, the duration of delivery and the grant recipient's history of delivery and ability to deliver on similar projects, not least the Home Office Safer Streets funding in recent years.
- 6.2 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, Ipswich Borough Council are required to notify the PCC.
- 6.3 The progress of the Ipswich 'Safer Streets' bid to the Home Office will be monitored for any implications on the proposed delivery and funding.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards grant funding of up to £30,000 to Ipswich Borough Council 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022.

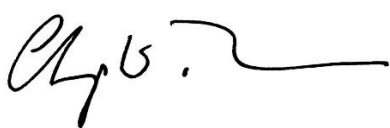
ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	NO
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	NO
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	YES
Have human resource implications been considered?	YES
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	YES
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	YES
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	YES
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	YES

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.



Signature:

Date: 29 June 2022