



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

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NUMBER: 31 - 2023

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: SAFER STREETS FUND ROUND 5

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. Following an application process, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk has been allocated funding of £991,023 by the Home Office until 31 March 2025 for delivery of three proposals under the 'Safer Streets Round 5' funding.
3. The three proposals submitted address anti-social behaviour, violence against women and girls and neighbourhood crime across Suffolk.
4. The Home Office funding has been awarded on a financial year basis with the Year 1 funding period grant agreement totalling £456,023
5. Funding is conditional on partner contributions (match funding) to the total of 50% of the funding granted. Match funding of £706,649 for the total project has been generated through a cash contribution from Public Sector leaders of £150k, in-kind (resource) contributions from each local authority, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Constabulary and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
6. This report seeks approval from the PCC to accept the Year 1 grant from the Home Office and for his office to make arrangements for delivery of the proposals through awarding funding to the delivery bodies, namely the local authorities and Suffolk Constabulary.
7. The funding will enable crime and disorder reduction activity and support the delivery of Objective 2 in the Police and Crime Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC):

- 1) Accepts the grant agreement from the Home Office for £456,023 for Year 1 delivery of the Safer Streets Fund Round 5.
- 2) Awards funding to the following from the funding for delivery of the project in Year 1:
 - i. East Suffolk Council a grant of £163,000 for delivery of Proposal 1 in Lowestoft
 - ii. Ipswich Borough Council a grant of £155,000 for delivery of Proposal 2 in Ipswich
 - iii. For delivery of Proposal 3 in the West CSP area a total of £138,023 as follows:
 - West Suffolk Council £28,575;
 - Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils £65,898;
 - Funding of £28,550 for Suffolk Constabulary to deliver target hardening interventions;
 - Funding of £15,000 for Suffolk County Council to deliver training and awareness.
- 3) Supports delivery of the project through match funding resource (management and administration) from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk for the duration of the project.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out above is agreed.



Signature:

Date: 10 November 2023

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 decision paper summarises the Home Office approach to the fifth round of ‘Safer Streets’ funding and the Suffolk PCC’s application to the fund. It recommends that the PCC accepts the grant agreement offered by the Home Office and recommends that the funding is distributed to local authorities and Suffolk Constabulary in order to deliver the proposals set out in the application.
- 1.3 In July 2023 the Home Office issued the prospectus for the ‘Safer Streets Round 5 Fund; Protecting Public Spaces’ to Police and Crime Commissioners.
- 1.4 The aim of the fund is to support the Government’s strategic approach to cutting crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), reducing the number of victims of crime and making the country safer as set out in their Beating Crime Plan and ASB Action Plan.
- 1.5 This report seeks approval from the PCC to accept the grant from the Home Office, disperse the funding to delivery organisations and allocate resource from his office to manage and monitor the programme.

2. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Objective 2 in the Police and Crime Plan for the period 2022-2025 sets out the intention to provide services which support victims of crime and invest in initiatives which reduce crime.
- 2.2 Whilst this decision relates to Home Office funding in support of the Government’s strategic approach to cutting crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), it also supports the following activities within Objective 2 of the Police and Crime Plan:
- 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, anti-social behaviour and reducing crime and disorder in our towns.
- 2.3 Furthermore, the investment and activity will support Community Safety Partnership (CSP) priorities through actions to reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG) and anti-social behaviour.

3. SAFER STREET FUND ROUND 5

- 3.1 In July 2023, the Home Office announced their intention to directly award funding to each PCC for delivery of 'Safer Streets Round 5'.
- 3.2 The key objectives of the funding are to:
- Reduce neighbourhood crimes (domestic burglary, robbery, theft from person, vehicle crime).
 - Reduce ASB incidents.
 - Change perceptions, attitudes, and behaviours towards VAWG and ASB in public places, with the long-term goal of reducing VAWG crimes and disorder in public.
 - Improve feelings of safety for everyone within the community, in public spaces and the Night-Time Economy (NTE).
 - Make local areas safer and reduce demand on the police, local authorities and other agencies.
 - Increase local area trust in policing and their activities within the community.
 - Build the evidence base for what works on reducing neighbourhood crimes and ASB and for changing attitudes and behaviours in relation to VAWG in the public domain.
- 3.3 PCCs were requested to submit up to three proposals following the criteria set out in the Home Office prospectus. The funding on offer was up to £465,000 of grant funding in 2023/24 and £535,000 in 2024/25, subject to the proposals meeting the fund criteria and a 50% match funding requirement (in cash and kind).
- 3.4 Interventions in scope for funding were restricted to those where there is evidence of positive outcomes, for example situational target hardening measures like CCTV and improved streetlighting; home security, property marking; environmental improvements; targeted educational and awareness initiatives and outreach activities to young people and/or adults.
- 3.5 The criteria also outlined that proposals for funding must be within defined geographic areas where there is evidence the area is disproportionately impacted by the crime or issues being targeted and consultation with relevant local authority and/or Community Safety Partnership, organisations and the public had to be undertaken.

The Suffolk Safer Streets Fund Round 5 Application

- 3.6 The PCC's office and Suffolk County Council worked with local authority community safety leads and Suffolk Constabulary to widely consult and develop proposals within the challenging deadlines. Three proposals, each based within a CSP geographic area, were submitted by the PCC to the Home Office on 25 August 2023.

Proposal 1 East

- 3.7 The proposal focuses on areas in Lowestoft which are subject to the same anti-social behaviour from youths, street drinking and issues arising within the night time economy.
- 3.8 The funding will support two interventions:
- CCTV where the funding contributes to higher quality cameras, better supervision. Additional cameras will help prevent, detect, and positively identify issues and perpetrators leading to better crime outcomes.
 - Outreach activities working directly with young people who are perpetrating, or at risk of perpetrating, ASB and neighbourhood crime. Delivery will focus on those young people who have been excluded, or who are at risk of being excluded, from school.

Proposal 2 Ipswich

- 3.9 The proposal outlines a number of hotspot areas across the town which evidence shows are experiencing sustained anti-social behaviour. These include small residential estate shopping parades, churchyards, riverside areas with a cluster located in the town centre.
- 3.10 Interventions to be funded include: CCTV; Crimestoppers Zones and Ipswich Borough Council (IBC) led ASB awareness campaign; target hardening measures (lighting in public spaces, gating, fencing); youth and adult outreach and environmental improvements.

Proposal 3 West

- 3.11 The aim of the proposal covering the western Suffolk CSP area is to increase the feeling of safety and personal security for residents and visiting members of the public by focusing on violence against women and girls (VAWG), anti-social behaviour and acquisitive crime.
- 3.12 Using evidence and consultation the following interventions were identified for funding: CCTV improvements; educational outreach work with young people targeting behaviour and attitudes and the impact on victims; environmental improvements; training and awareness on VAWG and ASB; Target Hardening measures (property marking, home security and awareness raising).
- 3.13 The chosen interventions for each crime time will be targeted to specific geographic areas within Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Newmarket, Sudbury and Stowmarket, Mildenhall, Brandon, Cornard and Needham Market.

Award of Grants

- 3.14 Following a period of review the Home Office confirmed on 26 September 2023 that the proposals met the criteria and proposed to issue the PCC with a grant agreement for the Year 1 funding period, 1 October 2023 – 31 March 2024. This decision paper proposes that the PCC accepts the award of a grant of £456,023 from the Home Office and the terms and conditions therein.
- 3.15 The Home Office has provided reassurance that their intention still remains the same to provide funding for FY24-25 and have published information grant funding allocated across the 23/24 and 24/25 financial years: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safer-streets-fund-round-five/safer-streets-fund>
- 3.16 Due to the nature of the interventions selected, the main delivery partners in each area are the local authorities with some interventions led or supported by Suffolk Constabulary. Third party providers and suppliers will be procured by the delivery partners where necessary e.g., to deliver outreach activities.
- 3.17 Under the provision in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, it is proposed that the PCC enters into grant agreements with each delivery body to disperse the Home Office funding in 2023/24 as follows:
- i. East Suffolk Council a grant of £163,000 for delivery of Proposal 1 in Lowestoft
 - ii. Ipswich Borough Council a grant of £155,000 for delivery of Proposal 2 in Ipswich
 - iii. For delivery of Proposal 3 in the West CSP area a total of £138,023 as follows:
 - West Suffolk Council £28,575;
 - Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils £65,898;

- Funding of £28,550 for Suffolk Constabulary to deliver target hardening interventions and;
- Funding of £15,000 for Suffolk County Council to deliver training and awareness.

3.18 Following receipt of a grant agreement from the Home Office for Year 2 (1 April 2024-2025) the PCC will further grant award to each delivery body to complete the funding arrangements for Safer Streets Round 5. See also Section 5 Funding.

4. MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

4.1 Each proposal within the Safer Streets Fund outlines the detail of the interventions, crimes targeted and intended outcomes, rationale, deliverability and sustainability plans following the funding period.

4.2 Quarterly monitoring is required by the Home Office. Reporting includes:

- Narrative progress report against specified deliverables
- Risk assessment and mitigation
- Crime statistics
- Financial report including match funding

4.3 The OPCC will work with the local authorities and police to ensure successful delivery of the projects and required monitoring to the Home Office so that funding can be claimed. It is proposed that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner meets with the delivery partners on a quarterly basis to review progress and risks to delivery for the individual proposals and the overall programme.

4.4 Given the countywide delivery of the funding, contribution to shared community safety priorities and the match funding provided by partners it is suggested that the PCC supplies quarterly updates to the Safer Stronger Communities Board and an update to Public Sector Leaders on progress at the end of each financial year.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Home Office has allocated £991,023 to the PCC for delivery of the three proposals in the Suffolk application to the Safer Streets Fund, Round 5. The funding is allocated to the following proposals over two funding periods. A grant agreement has been received for Year 1 for £456,023.

CSP area	Y1	Y2	Total
	1 October 2023 – 31 March 2024	1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025	
East	163,000	170,887	333,887
Ipswich	155,000	178,300	333,300
West	138,023	185,813	323,836
TOTAL	456,023	535,000	991,023

5.2 In order to submit the bid, the Home Office criteria required a minimum 50% contribution from local partners (in kind or funding). Across the three proposals £706,649 has been found from a variety of sources to support delivery for the period 1 October 2023 – 30 September 2025.

- 5.3 This match funding includes the sum from the pooled business rates (based on the agreement in principle by Public Sector Leaders on 28 July, and approved on 29 September) and significant resources from the local authorities. Resources from Suffolk Constabulary and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have also been included, as has in kind funding from Suffolk County Council (ASB and VAWG campaigns) which will support the proposals objectives.
- 5.4 As part of this match funding contribution, the PCC is recommended to approve match funding of £16,000 for the Safer Streets Round 5 project by providing OPCC staff resource to monitor and administer the grants and manage the reporting to the Home Office.
- 5.5 The funding is for time limited delivery of activities without ongoing commitment from the PCC however each proposal has outlined sustainability plans following the funding period.

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 from the Home Office and deliverability.
- 6.2 The Home Office has provided a grant agreement to the PCC for funding in 2023/24 and set out its intention to provide the funding for the financial year 2024/25 with confirmation to follow. Given this position, this decision paper recommends that funding to delivery partners is also allocated by financial year.
- 6.3 In proposing to award grants to the delivery partners the value of the grants, 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, have been considered.
- 6.4 Should there be any risk arising the responsible delivery partner is required to notify the PCC.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC):
- 1) Accepts the grant agreement from the Home Office for £456,023 for Year 1 delivery of the Safer Streets Fund Round 5.
 - 2) Awards funding to the following from the funding for delivery of the project:
 - i. East Suffolk Council a grant of £163,000 for delivery of Proposal 1 in Lowestoft;
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 - 3) Supports delivery of the project through match funding resource (management and administration) from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk for the duration of the project.

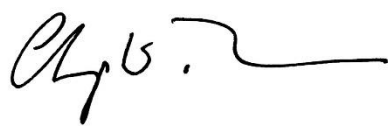
ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	NO
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	YES
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	YES
Have 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: 10 November 2023