

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE**

**SUBMISSION FOR:
DECISION**

DR 25/2022

OPEN

Title: Creation of the PCC's Community Safety Fund

Date: 19 May 2022

1. Executive Summary

This report sets out a proposal to create a new Humber-wide Community Safety Fund to invest in projects that support crime reduction and improve community safety.

Following consideration of previously-funded projects and schemes operating elsewhere, and options for delivering the scheme locally, a scheme has been developed for management by the OPCC that seeks to optimise efficiency, accountability, impact and public awareness.

This proposal contributes to the Police and Crime Plan commitment to develop a Delivery Fund “to support innovation, community resilience and reduce local crime”.

2. Recommendation(s)

To establish the PCC's Community Safety Fund, offering grants to community organisations for crime reduction and community safety, as set out in Option 3.

3. Background

Previous Humberside PCCs, in common with many other PCCs, have allocated funding for crime reduction grants to voluntary and community sector organisations in their budgets.

Most recently, the Humberside scheme – known as the Crime Reduction Fund – was devolved to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), who were responsible for allocating the funds at local level. Whilst a number of good projects were supported, the profile of the scheme was low, it was administratively burdensome for the CSPs, and the PCC had limited oversight of what was being funded.

In discussion with the CSPs it was agreed that it would be more efficient to revert to managing the funding at the Humber level. This would also improve accountability and provide greater opportunity for the OPCC to raise awareness of the fund.

The design of the replacement scheme, and options for delivering it, have been considered carefully over recent months and the proposed way forward is now presented for decision.

4. Options

Option 1: Do not replace the Crime Reduction Fund

The PCC has the power to make grants but is under no obligation to offer a scheme of this kind. It could therefore be withdrawn and the budget reallocated.

However, this would withdraw a valuable source of support for community and voluntary sector organisations. It may lead to a reduction in the availability of activities which divert people from crime and antisocial behaviour, having an adverse impact.

Option 2: Commission an external organisation to manage a new scheme

An external organisation could be commissioned to manage a new grants scheme on behalf of the PCC, including promoting the scheme and taking on the application, decision-making and grant management processes.

A number of specialist grant-making organisations exist, and some were previously commissioned by some of the CSPs to run the CRF on their behalf. One of the main benefits of commissioning out the scheme in this way would be using a grant-giving organisation's established links with community organisations to raise awareness of the opportunity. However, there are limited options for organisations with a Humber-wide footprint and exploratory discussions were not fruitful.

Because the PCC has been clear that the new scheme should have greater accountability, transparency and awareness, commissioning out the scheme would necessitate close oversight and involvement from the OPCC. OPCC capacity would likely need to be increased to provide this, in addition to the administrative capacity to be provided by the commissioned organisation. This would likely make this approach more expensive and less efficient overall.

Option 3: Develop and manage a new scheme in the OPCC (recommended option)

Under this option the scheme would be administered by new roles in the OPCC, which would also support wider work on attracting and managing external funding (in accordance with the target set in the Police and Crime Plan).

The scheme would be known as the **PCC's Community Safety Fund**, and would form part of the Delivery Fund committed to in the Police and Crime Plan.

Consideration of the projects funded in the past by the CSPs and the PCC, and schemes in operation elsewhere, has led to the following scheme design:

- Initial funding allocations and minimum/maximum grant sizes as follows:

	Small Grants	Medium Grants
2022/23	£120,000	£250,000
2023/24	£120,000	£250,000
2024/25	£120,000	£250,000
Total	£360,000	£750,000
Maximum grant	£5,000	£20,000
Minimum grant	£500	£5,001

- Minimum match-funding requirement of 10% (cash or in-kind), except in exceptional circumstances
- Charities, community organisations and town and parish councils eligible to apply
- Projects must contribute to crime reduction or community safety and the outcomes of the Police and Crime Plan

Full details are set out in the draft application guidance (see Appendix 1).

To maximise administrative efficiency, an online applications portal has been developed to capture the required information from applicants, issue grant offers and manage the reporting process.

To be successful, applications must meet the scheme eligibility criteria. A scoring methodology will be developed to ensure decisions are robust.

To facilitate efficient decision-making on what could potentially be a high volume of applications, it is proposed to delegate decisions on applications in the small category (£500 to £5,000) to OPCC officers in line with the Code of Corporate Governance, with the PCC consulted as appropriate. Decisions on grants above £5,000 will be made by the PCC. Opportunities will be explored for partner consultation as part of the decision-making process.

A list of all organisations and projects funded will be published on the OPCC website.

5. Risks

Grant-making carries an inherent risk that projects or organisations could be funded that later transpire to be unsuitable or do not deliver what was expected of them. Good schemes mitigate these risks as far as possible through the design and implementation of their processes; however, it is also important to be proportionate to the size of grants and organisations funded. For example, the extent of due diligence and contractual protections for a multi-million pound grant to a business would be different to those for a £500 grant to a small charity.

Some of the risk mitigations for this scheme include:

- So decisions are well-informed and appropriate (e.g. projects are aligned with the Police and Crime Plan and offer value for money), the application form captures the relevant information and this will be considered through eligibility checks and appraisal.
- It will be a competitive process so there will be a choice of projects and a comparison for quality purposes.
- To keep people safe, organisations are required to have a safeguarding policy (if they are working with children or vulnerable people) and appropriate insurance.
- To protect public funds, only constituted organisations with their own bank account and trustees/equivalent (which must be unrelated) are eligible to apply. Funds cannot be paid into individual bank accounts.
- The grant agreement will set out the restrictions associated with the funds (including what they can and cannot be used for, and provision for clawback of funds) and must be signed before funding can be released. These restrictions are also made clear in the application guidance.
- The OPCC team will carry out proportionate monitoring of projects to ensure they are delivering what they said they would deliver.
- Ideally funding would only be paid in arrears against evidenced delivery, but it would not be possible for many small community organisations to cash-flow their projects. This will therefore be considered on a case by case basis, and stage payments will be used as appropriate for larger grants.

6. Driver for Change/Contribution to Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan

The Police and Crime Plan sets out the PCC's commitment to develop a Delivery Fund "to support innovation, community resilience and reduce local crime". The creation of the Community Safety Fund, to be managed by the OPCC, will form part of the Delivery Fund.

7. Financial Implications

Provision has been made for the scheme within the current budget.

8. Legal Implications

The PCC has the power to issue grants under Section 143 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Legal advice will be sought on the grant agreement to be used for the scheme.

9. Equalities Implications

The scheme application form includes a question to capture any equalities implications for individual projects. These will be considered as part of the decision-making process.

At the scheme level, application and appraisal processes will be designed to be fair to all. The use of the funds will be monitored so it can be considered in due course whether any additional action is required, e.g. to increase applications from under-represented communities.

The scheme requires applications to be submitted online through an applications portal that has been purchased from an external provider. This has been designed to meet current accessibility requirements, but the guidance advises any individuals unable to use the portal to contact the OPCC for assistance.

10. Consultation

The following have been consulted during the development of the approach and are supportive of the preferred option:

- Chief Executive
- Data Protection Officer (who has confirmed the grants application portal meets legal requirements)
- Other OPCC officers with past involvement in grant-making

11. Communication Issues

The scheme will require publicising to source a broad range of applications, particularly at launch and in advance of application deadlines. There will also be regular opportunities to announce successful projects and publicise their impact.

12. Background documents

Appendix 1 – Draft scheme guidance

13. Publication

The report is open.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND APPEND THE FOLLOWING TABLE TO ALL REPORTS THAT REQUIRE A DECISION FROM THE COMMISSIONER

This matrix provides a simple check list for the things you need to have considered within your report. If there are no implications please state

I have informed and sought advice from HR, Legal, Finance, OPCC officer(s) etc prior to submitting this report for official comments	Yes
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Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget?	No
Value for money considerations have been accounted for within the report	Yes
The report is approved by the relevant Chief Officer	Yes
I have included any procurement/commercial issues/implications within the report	Yes
I have liaised with Corporate Communications on any communications issues	Yes
I have completed an Equalities Impact Assessment and the outcomes are included within the report	Yes
I have included any equalities, diversity and or human rights implications within the report	Yes
Any Health and Safety implications are included within the report	Yes
I have included information about how this report contributes to the delivery of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan	Yes

Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct.

Any such interests are recorded below.

The above decision has my approval.

Signature



Date 20/05/2022