

## PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

<b>Report reference number:</b> 122-21
<b>Classification:</b> Not protectively marked
<b>Title of report:</b> Safer Streets Fund – Grays
<b>Area of county / stakeholders affected:</b> Thurrock
<b>Report by:</b> Kirsty Smith <b>Date of report:</b> 11 August 2021 <b>Enquiries to:</b> <a href="mailto:kirsty.smith@essex.police.uk">kirsty.smith@essex.police.uk</a>
<b>Reviewed by SMT member:</b> Janet Perry

### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval to distribute the funding awarded from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund following a successful bid of £432,000 for Grays, Thurrock.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the distribution of the awarded Home Office Safer Streets funding of £432,000 to the organisations identified within the successful application and set out in section four.

### 3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. Safer Streets funding will be used on preventative measures to reduce crime. Projects are to be completed before 31 March 2022 and this decision will allow for the timely distribution of funding so projects can start.

### 4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. The Safer Streets Fund is a £20m national fund set up to design and deliver local crime prevention plans in hotspot areas to reduce neighbourhood crimes through situational prevention activity. Essex PFCC was able to submit bids of up to £432,000, for three defined local areas within Essex that are persistently and disproportionately affected by neighbourhood crime.

- 4.2.** Essex PFCC submitted three bids which had to include a primary secondary and tertiary bid. Essex PFCC and Essex Police Chief Officer Group (COG) determined that Grays was the primary bid, Clacton the secondary bid, and Southend the tertiary.
- 4.3.** The Home Office announced the outcome of the Safer Streets Fund on 3 June 2021. The Grays Safer Streets bid was successful and was awarded the full amount requested of £432,000. Figure 1 shows the summary of the application and how the funding will be allocated. The Home Office have advised the PFCC that our secondary bid was of high quality however, due to the limited funds available they were not able to fund it. The Home Office did not consider any of the tertiary bids.

Figure 1 - Grays funding summary

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Cost £</b>	<b>Evidence/rationale</b>
<b>Installation of 14 CCTV Cameras</b>	89,629	Hotspot locations have been identified using crime hot spot areas for robbery, vehicle crime and burglary. CCTV is recognised as a strong crime prevention tool to prevent crime. To enhance the existing camera network an additional 14 Cameras with tannoy ability are being proposed.
<b>Increased lighting – high street</b>	56,000	Grays high street has a number of vulnerable locations with little to no street lighting. Some of the identified locations have seen a variety of crimes recorded from street robbery to thefts. These locations are also utilised by criminals to evade police. This funding will mean another eight lighting columns can be installed to improve lighting and deter crime.
<b>Increased lighting 50 lights</b>	101,749	The area covers a large park. Lighting in this area is poor and is a regular concern for residents. This funding will mean Solar lighting will be installed within these spaces. Solar lights have been piloted in another area of Thurrock successfully and provide enough light but also there is no ongoing utility costs for the local authority, so no ongoing pressure on budgets. Each solar light can be placed 40m apart and are on 8m poles. Some will also have 4G camera added. The cost per light is circa £2,500.
<b>Community Engagement Officers</b>	86,122	Data shows that robbery was mainly initiated through assaults and the main items stolen were mobile phones and wallets/purses/ cash. Theft from a person was mainly committed by 'means unknown', so the item was removed without the victim's awareness. The predominant item stolen was a purse /wallet. Robbery occurred predominantly on the street whereas theft from a person occurred more in shops. In order to improve this situation it was recognised that individuals and businesses need to be provided with information

		<p>on crime prevention, how to become more aware and be safer. In order to achieve this we need to improve community engagement therefore this funding will fund two community engagement officers who will sit within an existing community safety team in Thurrock. The purpose of this role is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase public and business confidence in the local authority and Police</li> <li>• Promote Community Safety by liaising with business owners and local residents to educate on crime prevention, gather Intel and information in support of Crime and ASB investigations and in support of CBO applications</li> <li>• Act as a visible deterrent to Crime and ASB such as Robbery, shop lifting and theft</li> <li>• Reduce the perception of crime in hot spot areas</li> </ul> <p>In order for these two roles to be sustainable post after 21/22 it is expected that the community engagement officer will have started to build up income using their delegated authority to issue Fixed Penalty Notices linked to Environmental Crime related Offences. Due to the nature of where the officers will be placed it is expected that secondary crimes such as ASB and environmental crime offences will be naturally captured and therefore it is deemed financially efficient to ensure the sustainability of these roles to provide this delegated responsibility. The local authority will provide written commitment to these roles after 21/22.</p>
<b>Business Watch</b>	2,000	<p>Thurrock currently do not have an active business watch that engages businesses to work together to create a safer community. Funding will be utilised to support the development of a business watch scheme including signage and the creation of information leaflets.</p>
<b>Crime prevention e-learning training package</b>	40,000	<p>As part of the assessment of understanding the problem, discussions were held with Essex Police (including volunteer network), Community Safety Partnership, Neighbourhood watch and representatives from the voluntary sector. It was recognised that in Thurrock there is a strong network of community groups who support various groups however there was no training available to upskill them in basic crime prevention. This funding will be used to create an e-learning package that will provide crime prevention advice to keep individuals, residential properties, and vehicles safe.</p> <p>Having an e-learning package will allow for this to sustainably used post the funding period and it can be extended to the wide landscape of community groups</p>

		<p>and volunteers that are in Thurrock. It is also expected that the e-learning package will also support business crime and retailers with crime prevention advice. There will be an additional advantage that this can be used across the rest of Essex.</p>
<p><b>Community Safety days of action</b></p>	<p>40,000</p>	<p>This funding will be used to deliver a minimum of four days of action using acquisitive crime data to target specific areas within the area. There will also be a focus on young people (who make up a large group of the population within the area). The community safety days of action bring together a group of partners that includes, Community Safety Team, Housing, Police, Fire, Neighbourhood Watch and third sector organisations who take to the streets to raise awareness of pressing local community safety issues and conduct practical needs assessments to ensure support is given to those in the community that require it. Funding will be put aside to support these days of action in order for them to have a larger impact. Funding will be assigned to the Community Safety Partnership and the funding will be used on items such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property marking packs</li> <li>• Leaflets and comms packs</li> <li>• Signage</li> <li>• Faraday bags</li> <li>• Steering wheel locks</li> <li>• Bike locks</li> <li>• Crime Stoppers Ad van and social media (£6,000 over 4 days of action)</li> <li>• Door locks</li> <li>• Purse springs</li> </ul> <p>Funding will also be utilised for dedicated officer time to engage with local shop keepers, young people, and the wider community to offer crime prevention advice and engagement around public issues. (25 p/h, 8 x officers working 8hrs over 9 deployments – i.e. One deployment per month at a cost of £1600 per deployment)</p> <p>An assessment will take place prior to the days of action and in which will determine the requirement for how the funding will be used for example within the area there are specific areas that have high levels of deprivation. For these days funding will be utilised to conduct crime prevention surveys and provide property marking packs and door locks. Where the day of action may target vehicle theft, they will provide steering locks and faraday bags. Alongside the crime prevention advice the other partners that support the days of</p>

		<p>action will also be providing support to individuals e.g. Fire and rescue service can provide hoarding and fire safety advice, housing officers will be available to support housing queries which may result in improvements to be logged and neighbourhood watch also provide community support.</p> <p>It is important that this funding is flexible to meet the need following the individual assessment. Recognising the impact of COVID will mean that when restrictions lift the area is expected to have an increase in footfall particularly as this area has a well-used train station with people commuting to London. This can increase the risk of crime particularly robbery. During these times days of action can be created in order to target these areas which will then require funding for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal crime prevention safety</li> <li>- Crime Stoppers ad van that is deployable to locations</li> </ul>
<b>Essex Fire Safe and Well visits</b>	1,500	In the Thurrock Essex County Fire and Rescue Service delivered 375 Safe and well visits. Safe and Well visits are conducted by community builder officers who provide fire safety, crime prevention and give support to the county's most vulnerable residents. Funding will be used to enhance this interaction and purchase crime prevention packs that include faraday bags, property marking packs, door locks and secure mail delivery.
<b>Project officer (admin costs)</b>	15,000	Project officer to provide support, oversight, and monitoring in order to deliver the Safer Streets funding employed through the PFCC
<b>Total</b>	432,000	

## 5. Alternative options considered and rejected

5.1. Following analysis by Essex Police of the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) across Essex three LSOAs were identified as the best match to the Safer Streets criteria for bidding. This approach was shared with both the PFCCs SMT and Essex Police COG. It was agreed that Grays would be our primary bid followed by Clacton as our secondary bid, with Southend as a tertiary bid. The Home Office have only funded our primary bid, although have acknowledge the high quality of our secondary bid and have stated they were not able to consider any tertiary bids due to the limited funding available. It would have been possible to choose a different area in include or to provide the three areas in a different order however, following feedback from Essex Police and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner the three options were chosen and priorities based on level of relevant criminal activity and the strength of possible bids.

## 6. Police and Crime Plan

6.1. The Safer Streets funding proposals are focused on preventative measures to reduce crime. Prevention is a building block of success within the Police and Crime Plan. Improving the wellbeing of people across Essex, making sure that crime and anti-social behaviour do not happen in the first place and that children and vulnerable people are kept safe from harm.

**7. Police operational implications**

7.1. Essex Police have been engaged with the development of this application. As stated in section 5.1 COG approved the bids. The activity has been developed in partnership with Essex Police and they have confirmed that it is anticipated to have a positive impact on operational policing.

**8. Financial implications**

8.1. The Home Office will be allocating £432,000 of funding that will be distributed to the following organisations in order to deliver the interventions outlined in section 4.3.

To be distributed to	Value £
Thurrock District Council	373,500
Essex Police	2,000
Essex Fire and Rescue Service	1,500
<b>Total to be distributed</b>	<b>377,000</b>
To be retained by Essex PFCC	55,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>432,000</b>

8.2. In addition, Essex PFCC, Thurrock District Council, Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service are committed to match funding at least £108,000 of activity. All of the match funding in our bid relates to existing costs and resource in-kind, with the exception of Essex PFCC who are committed to £5,000 of additional cost match funding to contribute to the recruitment of the project officer. This funding will be allocated from the 2021-22 Community Safety Fund.

**9. Legal implications**

9.1. The distribution of the grant to organisations in 8.1 will be subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.

**10. Staffing implications**

10.1. Essex PFCC are committed to recruit a temporary project officer in order to support the delivery of the Grays Safer Street project for a period of six months. HR will be engaged in the recruitment process.

**11. Equality and Diversity implications**

11.1. An equality and diversity impact assessment has been completed



**12. Risks**

- 12.1. The misuse of funds allocated is a risk that has been identified. Any organisation will be subject to the PFCC standard grant agreement. Regular monitoring returns will be required from all key partners to ensure funding is being used appropriately in order to deliver the project.
- 12.2. There is an additional risk that we do not distribute this funding expediently we will not meet the Home Office funding criteria to spend the resources by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

**13. Governance Boards**

- 13.1. The PFCC Senior Management Team (SMT) and Essex Police COG endorsed the submission and are aware of the outcome of the bidding process.
- 13.2. A working group was convened that involved all key partners including Thurrock Council colleagues and Essex Police in order to develop the initial bid for the Safer Streets Funding and will continue to implement the project.

**14. Background papers**

**Report Approval**

The report will be signed off by the OPFCC Chief Executive and Treasurer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.


Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign: .....  .....

Print: Darren Horsman - Deputy MO .....

Date: 26.8.2021 .....

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: .....  .....

Print: Julia Berry .....

Date: 3 September 2021 .....

**Publication**

Is the report for publication?

YES

X
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NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)

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If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

**Redaction**

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet?	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Of Appendix?	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

.....  
.....

Date redaction carried out: .....

**Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only**

If redaction is required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign: .....

Print: .....

**Chief Executive/Treasurer**

Date signed: .....

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

**PFCC**

Date signed: 1 October 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:



[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]