

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 151-22

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: Safer Streets Round 4 Outcome and Allocation

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Braintree, Epping Forest, and Colchester

Report by: Danielle Lawrence (Commissioning Officer)

Chief Officer: Greg Myddelton (Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery)

Date of report: 26 September 2022

Enquiries to: Danielle.Lawrence@essex.police.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report proposes accepting Home Office funding and allocating that funding to local areas for the delivery of Safer Streets projects in four areas across Essex.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. This report recommends that:

1. The PFCC confirms acceptance of the total allocation of £1,182,795 of Home Office Safer Streets funding
2. The PFCC agrees to allocate this funding to the four areas referenced in the Essex bids. This will enable us to meet our requirements as a recipient of funding and support the commencement of grant management activity with delivery partners.

3. Background to the Proposal

3.1. The PFCC submitted four applications to Round 4 of the Home Office's Safer Streets in May 2022, in partnership with Local Community Safety Partnerships:

- Primary Bid: Epping Forest - £338,000
- Secondary Bid: Colchester (Greenstead) - £264,043
- Tertiary Bid: Braintree - £297,202
- Quaternary Bid: Colchester (Central) - £283,550

Total: £1,182,795

3.2. All four bids were successful, meaning £1,182,795 of funding has been awarded from 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2024. The PFCC's Chief Financial Officer signed the four grant agreements with the Home Office, on 7 September 2022.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

4.1. Safer Streets funding aims to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG) and to improve the safety of physical spaces.

4.2. This funding will increase the following types of resources in the above areas: CCTV coverage, signage, lighting, staff posts such as Neighbourhood Wardens, Street Wardens, project staff related to preventative work on VAWG, burglary prevention technology engagement activities, and community events.

4.3. The bids were written and supported by the PFCC and delivery partners in the areas based on strong evidence of local needs, and in consultation with local stakeholders.

5. Options Analysis

5.1. We have already committed to accept this funding, and we have returned the quarter 2 monitoring returns to the Home Office. This decision report is being submitted to record our acceptance and allow for the process of grant set up to begin with our delivery partners in Braintree, Colchester, and Epping Forest.

5.2. An alternative decision would impact upon our existing agreement with the Home Office to be a recipient.

6. Consultation and Engagement

6.1. Securing this funding was the result of a significant team effort between the PFCC's office, local CSPs and stakeholders in the relevant local communities, and colleagues working within the thematic areas. Funding was awarded

based on the strong level of consultation and engagement that was carried out prior to and during the application process.

- 6.2. There was a mandatory requirement for bidders to have consulted local stakeholders prior to submission. This may have included partners within the CSP or specialist groups working to tackle violence against women and girls.

7. Strategic Links

- 7.1. This funding aligns very strongly with multiple priorities in the Police and Crime Plan, most notably investing in crime prevention and reducing violence against women and girls. The funding will increase capacity to support these priorities.
- 7.2. This funding and related activity also align with national police and government strategies on violence against women and girls.

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1. There is no anticipated direct impact of this decision on operational policing.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1. The PFCC will receive total funding of £1,182,795 from the Home Office. This will be drawn down quarterly as appropriate, for each grant agreement.
- 9.2. The PFCC will release funds totalling £1,182,795 to each of the successful authorities as broken down in section 3.1 of this report.
- 9.3. Management of the funding should be as per normal PFCC grant arrangements. Each individual bid clearly sets out anticipated costs, timescales and methodology for each area, and financial reporting templates are within the grant agreement also.

10. Legal implications

- 10.1. The PFCC agrees to the terms of the Home Office grant agreement and will enter into standard PFCC grant agreements with each individual delivery partner.

11. Staffing implications

- 11.1. There was significant PFCC staff resource input during the research and application stage of this funding. Now that this stage has been completed and funding awarded, the activity will progress against the planned resources set out by the delivery partners.
- 11.2. A replacement Commissioning Officer is now in post internally to support the grant management and monitoring requirements of the grant.

12. Equality, diversity, and inclusion Implications

- 12.1. The areas chosen for Safer Streets Round 4 funding fit the criteria of the fund and were selected using evidence including Essex Police data supplemented by an environmental survey. The areas selected are geographically based (rather than a defined cohort) and the work undertaken as part of these projects should contribute to enhanced community safety in physical spaces, which will benefit all users of those areas.
- 12.2. Our delivery partners are bound by the Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty and are expected to minimise any anticipated negative EDI outcomes. Given the diversity of the four areas successful in this round of funding, we have not identified any obvious negative implications, but as part of our monitoring of the grants we will work with delivery partners to understand and mitigate any issues if they arise.

13. Risks and Mitigations

- 13.1. During the application process, potential risks have been identified across all the bids, relating to activities, delivery partners, match funding and in-kind resources. Management and mitigation of these risks are factored into each bid and will be monitored through grant management between the PFCC and the delivery partners. Regular project meetings and quarterly reporting will ensure emerging risks are identified as early as possible and appropriate actions taken.
- 13.2. There is a risk in delaying grant set-up and releasing payments any further. The grant funding period has only 18 months remaining and some of the activities require staff to be recruited. There are capital projects that will have timescales and costings that are time limited, and the potential impact of the grant will reduce in scale the shorter the delivery period.

14. Governance Boards

- 14.1. The submission of the PFCC's Safer Streets Round 4 bids was presented and discussed at various PFCC Management Team meetings, including on 5 May 2022.
- 14.2. The availability of Safer Streets funding was communicated to partners via Safer Essex and other partnership forums.

15. Links to Future Plans

- 15.1. This project supports the delivery of the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan as well as the Essex Crime Prevention Strategy.

16. Background Papers and Appendices

16.1. Applications to Home Office Safer Streets Fund Round 4



SSFR4 Essex PFCC
Primary Bid.pdf



SSFR4 Essex PFCC
Secondary Bid.pdf



SSFR4 Essex PFCC
Tertiary Bid.pdf



SSFR4 Essex PFCC
Quaternary Bid.pdf

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

N/A

Date redaction carried out:

Chief Finance Officer / 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 / Chief Finance Officer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:



Sign:

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 26 October 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print: