

## PFCC Decision Report

**Report reference number:** 032-23

**Classification:** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** PFCC Safer Streets Awards 2022-23

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:** Harlow and Tendring Districts

**Report by:** Danielle Lawrence (Commissioning Officer)

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

**Date of report:** 24/02/2023

**Enquiries to:** danielle.lawrence@essex.police.uk

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report provides detail around applications from Tendring and Harlow Local Authorities to the PFCC's Safer Streets Fund and proposes awarding £399,856 funding from the PFCC's Safer Streets Fund and Community Safety Fund to Harlow District Council and Tendring District Council.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the PFCC acknowledges the outcome of the application assessment of the 2022/23 PFCC Safer Streets Fund and awards funds of £83,161 to Harlow District Council to support the application attached at Appendix 1 and £316,695 to Tendring District Council to support the application attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.2. £379,856 will be allocated from the PFCC's Safer Streets Fund (2022/23 budget £1.128m and 2021/22 carry forward £1.755m, totals £2.883m) after this allocation there will be £2.503m Safer Streets budget remaining. A further £20,000 will be funded from the PFCC's 2022/23 Community Safety Fund.

### 3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. This decision report follows DR 132-22: *Proposed Allocation of the PFCC Safer Streets Earmarked Reserve*.
- 3.2. The PFCC, in conjunction with local Community Safety Partnerships, has previously submitted 10 applications to the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund in Rounds 2, 3 and 4. Six of these bids have been successful. Four were unsuccessful. Bids from Tendring (relating to Clacton) and Southend were unsuccessful in Round 2 and bids from Colchester and Harlow were unsuccessful in Round 3. Colchester's round 3 bid was subsequently successful in Round 4.
- 3.3. The unsuccessful bids were reviewed by the PFCC and were considered credible bids evidencing required investment in those areas.
- 3.4. Decision report 132-22 details the launch and criteria for the PFCC's own 2022-23 Safer Streets Fund. In accordance with the criteria, Harlow, Tendring and Southend Councils were invited to apply again for their projects under this funding stream. Harlow and Tendring submitted the bids attached at Appendices 1, 2 and 3.
- 3.5. Southend has not yet submitted a bid to this round of funding, though the PFCC is advised that this is imminent.

#### **4. Proposal and Associated Benefits**

- 4.1. In Harlow, the application focuses on a proactive approach to identifying and tackling neighbourhood crime, Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and anti-social behaviour (ASB). The costs mainly relate to supplying equipment such as drones, CCTV, body-worn video and electric bicycles to support police and community safety teams. The funding will also resource multi-agency community days of action, outreach work with those with substance misuse issues, support to the Knife Angle project (including knife crime awareness campaigns) and the hosting of a conference focused on serious violence and VAWG. The bid allows the target areas for activity to change as new risks, threats and trends are identified. Match funding of £46,348 has been sourced to support this project.
- 4.2. The PFCC's Safer Streets Fund has a match funding requirement of 50%, in line with the requirement for Round 4 of the Home Office scheme. Recognising that some unsuccessful applicants applied under earlier rounds, when the match funding requirement was lower, when inviting them to bid to the local scheme, the PFCC asked applicants to flag if this would pose difficulties to them, so that a suitable way forward could be considered. Tendring District Council found itself in this position, so was invited to submit two bids – one which would meet the requirement of 50% match funding (attached at Appendix 3) and another demonstrating what they could deliver in the local area if the PFCC could be flexible about the match funding requirement (attached at Appendix 2).

- 4.3. Both bids focused on enhancing the CCTV network and local street lighting, as well as carrying out crime prevention surveys of local businesses, days of action and safe and well visits. The funding would also support e-learning for professional, along with promoting the Ask for Angela and Pubwatch schemes. The main difference between the two bids was the number of CCTV cameras that would be supported (12 in the smaller bid, compared with 28 in the larger bid). The larger bid also proposed to relocate the district's Community Safety Hub into the CCTV Hub in order to improve the flow of communication between the two.
- 4.4. At the PFCC's Senior Management Team meeting on 20 December 2022, it was agreed in principle to fund the larger of the two bids, but with the relocation of the Community Safety Hub being funded through the PFCC's Community Safety Fund rather than the Safer Streets Fund.
- 4.5. The successful bid includes match funding of just under 26% (£81,765).

## **5. Options Analysis**

- 5.1. The PFCC could agree with the recommendations set out in this report, which utilise the earmarked reserves as they were intended and support delivery of the Police and Crime Plan as per the applications' intended outcomes and impact.
- 5.2. The PFCC could chose to support the smaller bid from Tendring District Council, however this would limit its utility in enhancing the local CCTV network and aligning this more closely with the work of the wider Community Safety Partnership.
- 5.3. The PFCC could choose to not progress with this proposal at all, which would go against Decision 132-22, negatively impact on the Safer Streets Fund's priorities, and deny investment that was previously deemed as required in those areas. The use of this earmarked reserve would then need to be reviewed.

## **6. Consultation and Engagement**

- 6.1. The PFCC, Essex Police, Community Safety Partnerships and wider communities were involved in scoping and developing the individual bids to the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund. The updated bids to the PFCC's Safer Streets Fund have been developed in consultation with the Local Policing Command.

## **7. Strategic Links**

- 7.1. Both applications are strongly aligned with the Police and Crime Plan through investment in crime prevention, reducing violence against women and girls and reducing drug-driven violence.

- 7.2. The Harlow bid also responds to concerns reported by local communities, and echoed by the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel, around the use of e-scooters.

## **8. Police operational implications**

- 8.1. There are no operational implications of this decision on Essex Police. However, delivery of the projects is expected to enhance community safety in the respective areas, and the equipment purchased for use in Harlow will also be made available for use by partners, including Essex Police.

## **9. Financial implications**

- 9.1. £379,856 will be allocated from the PFCC's Safer Streets Fund (2022/23 budget £1.128m and 2021/22 carry forward £1.755m, totals £2.883m) after this allocation there will be £2.503m Safer Streets budget remaining. A further £20,000 will be funded from the PFCC's 2022/23 Community Safety Fund, which will leave £13,000 in the 2022/23 Community Safety Fund.
- 9.2. Harlow's proposal is to spend £58,593 in financial year 2022/23 and £24,567 in 2023/24.
- 9.3. In Tendring, £81,765 is planned to be spent in financial year 2022/23 and £234,930 in 2023/24
- 9.4. This will result in a Safer Streets Budget underspend in 2022/23 of £2.762m, which will be carried forward to 2023/24 of which £259,497 is allocated to to these two schemes in 2023/24, leaving £2,503m unallocated.

## **10. Legal implications**

- 10.1. The award of the grant will be subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement with the addition of the data monitoring the PFCC requires on the progress of the bids.

## **11. Staffing implications**

- 11.1. PFCC staff resources will be required to set up and manage the grants, including progress monitoring tasks and conducting post implementation reviews.
- 11.2. Harlow and Tendring District Councils will each have a named contact within their council who will be managing the delivery of the funding on a day to day basis.

## **12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications**

- 12.1. The PFCC has a responsibility to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty as laid out in our equality and diversity policy. The partners we are working with also recognise this equality duty within their policies.

12.2. The PFCC's standard grant agreement requires the recipient to ensure that the grant supports the PFCC's duties in this regard and delivers against the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty, and to demonstrate this in their monitoring reports

### **13. Risks and Mitigations**

13.1. There is a risk that the categories of expenditure within the bids have risen in cost by substantially more than CPI, meaning the bids are no longer affordable within the bid value. There are still funds in the earmarked reserve that could be considered for allocation in this scenario.

### **14. Governance Boards**

14.1. The original bids to the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund were presented to the Essex Police Chief Officers Group (COG) and the PFCC's Senior Management Team (SMT).

14.2. The PFCC's SMT meeting of 1 August 2022 later agreed in principle decision 132-22 that invited previously unfunded bidders to the Home Office programme to apply to the local fund.

14.3. Harlow and Tendring District Councils submitted their updated bids in Quarter 3 of 2022-23 and their applications were assessed and recommendations made at the PFCC's SMT meeting on 20 December 2022.

### **15. Links to Future Plans**

15.1. This funding will support delivery of the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan.

15.2. The proposed criteria for future rounds of bidding to the PFCC's Safer Streets Fund are currently being prepared for presentation to the PFCC's Senior Management Team.

### **16. Background Papers and Appendices**

Background papers:




132-22 Safer Streets  
Earmarked Reserve.p

**Appendices:**

[Redacted content]

**Report Approval**

The report will be signed off by the PFCC's Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O. Sign: 

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 3 March 2023

Chief Financial Officer Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 07 March 2023

**Publication**

Is the report for publication? YES  NO

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

None

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  NO  2. Of Appendix? YES  NO


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

Appendices 1-3 are classified as Official-Sensitive, so are not for publication.

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: Janet Perry.....

~~Chief Executive~~ / Chief Finance Officer

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

**PFCC**

**Date signed:** 14th March 2023

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

.....  
.....  
.....

Sign:

Print:

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**