

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 101-23

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: PFCC Safer Streets Fund Round 2 2023-24

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Greg Myddelton (Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery)

Date of report: 26 May 2023

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to launch the PFCC's Safer Streets Fund Round 2 2023-24.
- 1.2. It also outlines the intention to recruit a PFCC Safer Streets Officer to support the coordination and monitoring of national and local Safer Streets projects in Essex.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The PFCC is recommended to:
 - 2.1.1. Launch round 2 of the local PFCC Safer Streets Fund (SSF) 2023-24 with the indicative allocation of up to £3,953,923 from the Safer Streets reserve following a competitive process.
 - 2.1.2. Endorse the proposed criteria for the PFCC SSF Round 2 attached as Appendix 1.
 - 2.1.3. Approve the application process detailed in the proposed application form attached at Appendix 2.
 - 2.1.4. Approve the recruitment of a dedicated Essex Safer Streets Officer to coordinate local and national SSF activity in Essex.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. The PFCC approved the creation of the local Safer Streets Fund through decision report 132-22. Round 1 of the PFCC SSF was allocated via decision report 32-23. Round 2 will see further funding made available to local areas in line with the attached criteria.
- 3.2. The PFCC will ensure alignment with previous Home Office SSF rounds as well as future national funding rounds including the forthcoming SSF Round 5.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1. The PFCC's local Safer Streets Fund (Round 2) will build on the success of national SSF funding which has seen investment of almost £3.2m in six areas of Essex: Waltham Abbey, Witham, Chelmsford, Grays, Colchester (city centre) and Colchester (Greenstead). The PFCC also invested just under £400k funding from Round 1 of the PFCC Safer Streets Fund in Harlow and Clacton. Round 2 will make further funding available, particularly targeting areas that have not yet accessed SSF grants.
- 4.2. Independent evaluation of Round 1 of the Home Office Safer Streets programme suggests that the activities have improved the perception of crime and safety in those areas that were invested in.
- 4.3. The intent of the Safer Streets Fund is to address the issues of crime, ASB and feelings of safety by focusing on physical and environmental protective factors in hyper local (LSOA-level) areas.
- 4.4. A dedicated Safer Streets Officer will support the effective and efficient coordination and monitoring of all Safer Streets activity, including that funded via Round 2 of the PFCC's fund.
- 4.5. The PFCC will also use a portion of this funding to commission a suitable delivery partner to undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the PFCC's Safer Streets projects to support the development of an evidence base of what works and to inform future funding and commissioning plans.

5. Options Analysis

- 5.1. The PFCC is encouraged to follow through on the commitment made through decision report 132-22 to utilise the earmarked reserves as intended.
- 5.2. The PFCC could choose to not progress with this proposal. However, this would go against decision 132-22, negatively impact on Safer Streets Fund's priorities, and deny investment that was previously deemed as required in those areas. The use of earmarked reserves would also need to be reviewed again.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1. The PFCC reviewed and agreed in principle the proposed Safer Streets criteria at their Senior Management Team meeting on 15th March 2023.
- 6.2. CSP Chairs and Managers were notified of the PFCC's intention to launch this fund in March 2023.

7. Strategic Links

- 7.1. The PFCC's Safer Streets Fund aligns strongly to the Police and Crime Plan through investment in crime prevention, reducing violence against women and girls and reducing drug-driven violence.
- 7.2. The PFCC's Police and Crime Plan also commits to "Apply to the government's Safer Streets fund to improve lighting, CCTV and safety in town centres and key hotspots...so that no woman or girl feels unsafe in her community or in public".
- 7.3. The allocation of Safer Streets Funding also sits alongside other funding routes such as Grip funding, the PFCC's Minerva Fund, ASB hotspots and the Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF).

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1. There are no direct operational implications on policing. Delivery of the projects is expected to enhance community safety in the respective areas.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1. £3,953,923 is indicatively allocated from the PFCC's earmarked reserves.
- 9.2. There is recurrent funding for Safer Streets £1.1m. Part of that recurrent funding (up to £45,000 per annum) will be allocated for the recruitment of a Safer Streets Officer to the PFCC's office.
- 9.3. The PFCC would also utilise a portion of the PFCC SSF Round 2 funding for an independent evaluation of successful schemes as well as those already in place. £30,000 will be allocated for this purpose.

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 arrangements we require on the progress of the bids.

11. Staffing implications

11.1. The PFCC will recruit to a permanent role a Safer Streets Officer to support the coordination and monitoring of the Safer Streets programme. This will be subject to an open recruitment process and will require a new role profile to be created and evaluated by HR.

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, Diversity and Inclusion Policy. As part of the fund criteria, we propose to ask Community Safety Partnerships to engage with partners, including voluntary and community sector groups, to help understand need in their local area. This includes seeking the views of under-represented groups.

13. Risks and Mitigations

13.1. There is a risk that CSPs will be unable to generate the required match-funding to support applications. This has been considered in the development of the fund criteria.

14. Governance Boards

14.1. The PFCC considered and approved this approach in principle during their Senior Management Team meeting on 15th March 2023.

14.2. The PFCC approved the creation of the local Safer Streets Fund via decision report 132-22.

15. Links to Future Plans

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

16. Background Papers and Appendices

16.1. SSF criteria



20230526 SSF
round 2 23-4 Criteria

16.2. SSF application form



20230525 SSF
Round 2 23-4 Applic

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: 6 June 2023

Chief Finance Officer Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 7 June 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:

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.

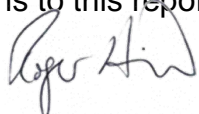
Sign:

Print:

Chief Executive / Chief Finance Officer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC

Date signed: 09/06/2023

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: