

Cabinet (Resources) Panel

8 March 2016

Report title	Police and Crime Commissioner Police Grant Community Fund Allocation 2016/17	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Sandra Samuels Public Health and Well Being	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, Strategic Director People Ros Jervis, Director of Public Health	
Originating service	Community Safety	
Accountable employee(s)	Karen Samuels	Head of Community Safety
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Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve delegation of the Police Grant Community Fund 2016/17 allocation from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) for the purposes of delivering against the city's Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drugs Strategy 2014-17 and the Local Policing & Crime Plan 2016-17.

1.0 Purpose

- i) To seek delegation of the Police Grant Community Fund allocation 2016/17 from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) in line with grant conditions, to aid delivery of agreed City-wide crime and community safety objectives. Allocation of the grant for 2016/17 is subject to PCC approval of a fully costed programme of delivery, the details of which are outlined in this report.
- ii) To note the revised allocation of grant from the PCC for 2016-17.
- iii) To note the outcome of reviews undertaken by the Office for Policing and Crime (OFPC) and the West Midlands Strategic Police and Crime Panel on use of the grant and revised conditions of use.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The PCC makes an annual allocation of grant to the seven Local Police & Crime Boards (LPCB) within the West Midlands metropolitan area to support delivery of their strategic plans. In Wolverhampton, SWP undertakes the role of the LPCB and approved the City's Crime, Community Safety & Drugs Strategy 2014-17 (which was also endorsed at Cabinet) early in 2014.
- 2.2 The following strategic priorities feature within the strategy:
 - Reducing Reoffending – effective management of offenders with a focus on rehabilitation to prevent a cycle of reoffending
 - Substance Misuse – provision of drug and alcohol support services recognising the link between drug and alcohol use and crime
 - Gangs/Youth Violence – strengthening the focus on prevention and targeting children and young people at risk
 - Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) – covering sexual and domestic violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation and honour-based violence
- 2.3 The Board also advocated that whilst the main focus for delivery should be centred on these priorities, a commitment towards other areas of business should be maintained; these included, Priority Areas, reducing harm and vulnerability, support for victims and Prevent. Provision has been made to monitor progress against these areas of business and draw on available partner resources in response to need.
- 2.4 Additionally, SWP has committed to continued delivery of neighbourhood priorities featured within the Local Policing and Crime Plan (LPCP) 2016-17 which are reflective of resident priorities. These are:
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Speeding and inconsiderate parking,
 - Drug dealing and use

2.5 There is an expectation that the costed programme for 2016-17 should also be aligned to PCC priorities detailed in the West Midlands Strategic Police & Crime Plan. The key features of the draft plan as they currently stand are summarised below:

- **Pride in our police** – this theme is primarily concerned with increasing public confidence in West Midlands Police
- **Stronger, safer, more prosperous communities** – this theme sets out the part West Midlands Police plays in the wider economy, community and network of partnerships
- **Protecting people from harm** – which covers how West Midlands Police will reduce the threat, risk and harm caused by criminality
- **Making better use of our people and resources** – this theme is about financial planning during austerity and preparing the workforce for future challenges
- **Creating a new era in policing** – this theme is about how the existing change programme and the WMP2020 partnership with Accenture will make West Midlands Police ready for the future, equipped with new technology and using the most effective processes
- **Playing our part in responding to national threats** – this theme covers how West Midlands Police will fulfil its obligations under the national Strategic Policing Requirement

2.6 There is sufficient alignment within the 2016/17 costed programme to fit within the PCC's strategic plan.

3.0 Funding Availability

3.1 The PCC has indicated that the community grant allocation across the 7 West Midlands Local authority areas will, for 2016-17 be subject to a 25% reduction. Wolverhampton received £493,000 during 2015-16; indicative figures have been provided by the PCC's Office for 2016-17, which are detailed in the table below. At present, this would reduce by £124,000 to £369,000. Increasingly, during the current financial year, delivery has been heavily reliant on the use of mainstream resources; it is anticipated that during 2016-17, this focus should continue and relationships strengthened between other City-wide forums to identify opportunities for joint commissioning, both across partners operating within the city and with the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) covering the 6 other areas which make up the West Midlands metropolitan area.

3.2 Police Grant Community Fund Allocations:

Police Grant Community Fund Allocations	
Area	£000s
Birmingham	1,873
Coventry	410
Dudley	297
Sandwell	398

Solihull	214
Walsall	302
Wolverhampton	369
Total	3,863

3.3 Historically, SWP has allocated a significant proportion of grant to support the criminal justice element of the Public Health commissioned drug and alcohol contract; reflecting the fact that the Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) grant was subsumed within changed grant allocations made by the Home Office in 2013. Public Health has confirmed that for the forthcoming financial years, as for 2015-16, it is not seeking a contribution towards this contract; thus releasing a significant proportion of the grant for wider use.

4.0 Reviews of Police Grant Community Fund

4.1 In Oct 2015, The OFPC announced the intention to undertake two reviews to consider the effective use of the grant. The reviews would be conducted simultaneously to inform its future use and would consider effectiveness of current programmes, joint commissioning opportunities, the distribution of resources and monitoring arrangements for spend and outcomes.

4.2 Both reviews, whilst having a similar focus, were conducted independently from each other. The first review was conducted by the West Midlands Strategic Police & Crime Panel and the second by the OFPC.

4.3 The Panel review explored whether the current approach of dividing grant allocations between the seven districts was the most efficient and most likely to secure real outcomes for people. Heads of Community Safety were invited to present evidence at a Panel hearing to inform deliberations. Questions were also posed on the grant conditions and monitoring arrangements.

4.4 The Panel's report contains five principles for the PCC to consider when making a final decision on future funding. It concluded that:

- a local funding approach is vital,
- it recommended simplified monitoring arrangements,
- consideration should be given to longer term funding,
- the decision on proposed grant cuts be revisited,
- opportunities for joint working across the districts should be explored.

4.5 A summary of findings from the latter has been circulated to SWP Board separately; the full report and the PCC's response can be accessed on the following link:

<http://westmidlandspcp.co.uk/panels-community-safety-funding-report-published-this-week/>

4.6 The second review, led by the PCC's Chief Finance Officer focused on how to improve performance monitoring systems to capture local outcomes achieved from the PCC's investment and evidence value for money. A summary of findings is outlined below:

- Local authorities should learn from each other in terms of completing returns with a continued emphasis on demonstrating outcomes. This will be through sharing best practice.
- In line with reductions in police force budgets there should be a reduction in grant to districts by 25% from April 2016.
- Through partnership meetings local authorities should be encouraged to jointly commission services. This will be through reaching an agreement of the services to be jointly commissioned and implementing those arrangements.
- Developments from devolution and the West Midlands Combined Authority need to be factored into the arrangements around the grant as more details emerge.
- The current arrangements for the seven districts completing quarterly returns for the PCC to evidence expenditure and outcomes should continue.
- The mechanism for paying local authorities allocations of grant on a quarterly basis should continue.

5.0 Anticipated Revisions to Grant Conditions

5.1 As a result of review outcomes, the PCC has indicated his expectation for Local Authority areas to develop areas of cross-boundary working to identify efficiencies; whilst the details of this are not prescribed, this is expected to be introduced as a condition of grant funding from 2017 onwards. In order to identify potential workstreams for collaborative working, a workshop has been held with Heads of Community Safety and OFPC to reach consensus on an initial short list with a view to scoping these over the coming financial year for 2017/18 delivery. The following 5 workstreams were shortlisted for further exploration:

- Domestic homicide reviews
- Trafficking
- Domestic violence (perpetrator provision)
- Female genital mutilation, honour-based violence, forced marriage
- Analytical support

5.2 The views of SWP are being sought to indicate a willingness to progress these through the coming year.

5.3 The PCC also indicated his intension to commit to a 2 year allocation of grant covering 2016/17 and 2017/18 to allow for greater contracting and commissioning flexibility.

6.0 Proposed 2016-17 Delivery Against Strategic Priorities

6.1 At its meeting on 13 February 2015, SWP Board agreed to adopt an 'invest to save' model, trialling new areas of joint working around prevention and early intervention. This involved establishing a number of new posts to co-locate within teams with a view to stemming the escalation of risk and the consequent demand for 'crisis' intervention. The approach was to be followed by an evaluation of impact to assess whether these posts

have generated cost savings and had the potential for a business case to be made for mainstreaming.

- 6.2 It was fully anticipated that initial delays with recruitment would result in significant underspend during 2015-16; on this basis, agreement was reached with the OFPC in April 2015 that a proportion of the grant could be carried forward into the subsequent financial year to allow 12 month contracts to be issued spanning two financial years.
- 6.3 As a number of these posts have only recently been recruited to, it is too early to assess impact; it is proposed, therefore, that the programme for 2016-17 consists largely of a continuation of 2015-16 commitments, (with delivery supplemented by the 2015-16 carry forward), and that a full evaluation of all SWP commissioned services is carried out in the autumn to inform key decisions on a reduced programme for 2017-18 delivery.
- 6.4 This approach will mitigate the full impact of the reductions in grant for 2016-17 and also enable SWP to reflect on its strategic priorities over the summer period to inform a revised Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drugs Strategy for 2017 onwards.
- 6.5 Using this rationale, the costed plan, detailed at **Appendix A** follows the current SWP strategic priorities of Violence Against Women and Girls, Reducing Reoffending, Substance Misuse and Gangs/Youth Violence. It also includes agreed commitments to deliver against the vulnerability agenda which makes provision for new requirements under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, which implemented the Prevent duty, and supports proposals to improve the climate for business growth as outlined in the City's Vision 2030.
- 6.6 The PCC's office has also indicated an intention to commit to 2 year grant funding, covering 2016-17 and 2017-18 which allows for a degree of flexibility around current annual contracting and identification of local joint commissioning opportunities. Early discussions are underway to explore joint commissioning opportunities with the Council's Children's Commissioning team linked to VAWG strategy outcomes; the Clinical Commissioning Group has also indicated its intention to commission new specialist services to support delivery of the new VAWG strategy.
- 6.7 As the Community Safety Team has experienced significant difficulty recruiting to its Prevent and Cohesion role, it is proposed that this post is advertised as a 2 year contract to increase the quality of applications in the recruitment process.

7.0 Financial implications

- 7.1 Implementation of the Community Safety Strategy will be largely delivered through existing mainstream partner resources. The PCC has indicated that the 2016-17 allocation for Wolverhampton will be subject to a 25% reduction in grant in line with the other West Midlands authorities; this will be subject to approval of a fully costed programme of delivery to the PCC. This would result in a grant allocation of £369,000 in 2016-17. Subject to this allocation being made, the programme proposed in **Appendix A**

would fall within the anticipated available resources. The programme has a cost of £538,000 funded from the 2016/17 allocation and carry forward from 2015/16.

- 7.2 The PCC allocation, when received, is ringfenced for Community Safety use by SWP. The grant is received by Wolverhampton City Council as accountable body for SWP, requiring delegation of the resource to be agreed by Cabinet Resources Panel. [GS/04022016/D]

8.0 Legal implications

- 8.1 Sections five and six of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 require the Council and other responsible authorities to formulate and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder in the area. Subsequent revisions to the Act (Police and Justice Act 2006) places a duty on Community Safety Partnerships to prepare strategic assessments with the purpose of informing the partnership plan revisions. [AS/03022016/B]

9.0 Equalities implications

- 9.1 The programme of delivery for 2016-17 is based on an assessment of need and contributes towards implementation of the strategic priorities in the Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drugs Strategy. This will result in crime reduction measures being implemented within some of the City's most deprived neighbourhoods and providing support to some of the City's most vulnerable residents through targeted interventions. A full equality analysis has been undertaken on the strategy; there are no negative implications from its delivery.

10.0 Environmental implications

- 10.1 Delivery of the programme detailed in this report will impact positively across all areas of the City through the implementation of crime reduction initiatives; particularly those neighbourhoods adversely affected by crime and anti-social behaviour.

11. Human resources implications

- 11.1 The City of Wolverhampton Council is the employer for five posts which are funded using contributions from the Police Grant Community Fund which are detailed within the attached costed plan; two posts within the Community Safety Team, two posts within the Youth Offending Team and a new Domestic Violence Advisor aligned to Children's Social Care. The proposals within this report will provide funding for continuation of these fixed term posts to 31 March 2017.

12.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 12.1 There are no corporate landlord implications.

13.0 Schedule of background papers

- 13.1 There are no background papers