



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

**Date:** 19 December 2013

### **Crime and Disorder Reduction Grants**

#### **1. Purpose**

1.1 This paper is to update BCB on the 2013/14 on the crime and disorder reduction grants process and to advise on the proposed process for 2014/15.

#### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 To note the contents of the paper in particular the process for defining the crime and disorder reduction grants for 2014/15.

#### **3. Background**

3.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ("the Act") gave Commissioners the power to make crime and disorder reduction grants. The Act provides that such a grant *'in the opinion of the elected local policing body, will secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in the body's area'*. The Act also enables such a grant to be made *'subject to any conditions (including conditions as to repayment) which the body thinks appropriate'*.

3.2 Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner received £928k for crime and disorder reduction grant funding for 2013/14.

3.3 For 2014/15 the crime and disorder reduction grants will be amalgamated into the main police grant as opposed to being ring-fenced as in previous years. Therefore, the PCC will be free to decide on the use of the totality of these grants going forward.

3.4 The indicative grant provisions made for 2014/15 take into account the anticipated 3.3% reduction that has been arrived at for grant funding. This is an improved outcome given that earlier indications were for a 4.75% reduction. However the

final grant funding figure for the 2014/15 will not be known until late December 2013 or early January 2014.

#### **4. 2013/14 Funding**

- 4.1 Grants given for 2013/14 were based upon those that had been historically awarded from the Community Safety Fund. Although, the Commissioner continued funding those during 2013/14, this was with the proviso that this was not a commitment for future years funding.
- 4.2 Grant recipients were held accountable by the Commissioner through a 'Star Chamber' forum. Recipients presented information to demonstrate benefits realisation and outcomes for their projects. This provided the Commissioner with evidence that projects were delivering against the legislative requirement under the Act (as given in paragraph 3.1 above) and in line with the Police and Crime Plan objectives. The forum also enabled a forward look on the projection of future funding and projects.
- 4.3 Further accountability is achieved by recipients returning an annual monitoring report at the end of the 2013/14 financial year.

#### **5. 2014/15 Funding**

- 5.1 Although the grant is no longer specifically for crime reduction and lies within the police main grant, it is the view of the Commissioner and the Chief Constable that a key function of policing is the reduction of crime. With this in mind along with the information from Star Chambers, plus the reduction in funding, there have been some changes in emphasis in various elements of the grants for 2014/15.
- 5.2 A table is given at Appendix A which gives indicative funding details for 2014/15.
- 5.3 In addition, a modest fund within the grants budget will be available for approval by the Commissioner in-year relating to projects in hand in relation to community-based activities. These will especially relate to areas of increasing participation in Neighbourhood Watch and developing youth activities where the potential for voluntary effort can be bolstered by relatively modest grants. However, these are not yet developed to the point where costed requirements are available.
- 5.4 The Commissioner has asked the Constabulary to bring forward their proposed grants that would historically have been paid but not displayed within the grants budget. They are incorporated for the first time this year. In future years the combined budget will be considered as one. This will maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the use of the future reduced budgets within the context of the emerging multi-agency Victims Strategy and Offender Strategy.
- 5.5 The Commissioner recognises the importance of supporting effectiveness and efficiency across community safety, e.g. communication and sharing of knowledge between the various agencies. Therefore, funding for Empowering Communities Neighbourhood Management and Inclusion System (ECINS) will be centralised in order to prioritise its funding in the future. We will expect all agencies to continue to use and further develop the utility of this tool within their organisations.

5.6 During the evaluation process it became apparent that we needed to shift the emphasis towards services aimed at reducing current and future criminality amongst our young people. This is reflected in the proposed grants; grants to Youth Offending Services will remain at 2013/14 levels. In addition, a modest figure will be available for community-based projects developing youth activities.

5.7 Changes in drugs testing and assessment in police custody units have provided an opportunity to significantly reconfigure these services which in turn has provided an opportunity for cash savings. We expect these changes to move away from simple drugs testing toward maximising the effectiveness of assessments which in turn should provide increased success in out-turns for those recruited to the limited number of places on the treatment programmes. In the context of the effective management of drug users who came into contact with the police we welcome the decision of the Chief Constable to fund a grant of £80,000 over the next three years from proceeds of the Drug Forfeiture Fund in order to civilianise the advisory post currently provided by a warranted officer who can now be returned to front-line duties.

## **6. 2014/15 Grant Process**

6.1 Once indicative funding is known, grant award letters will be sent out to recipients. It is anticipated that this will be either during December 2013 or January 2014.

6.2 Grant agreements will be largely based on the format used for the 2013/14 but with additional requirements placed upon grant recipients to further the accountability of the project spend and delivery. These additional requirements are outlined below:

- The statutory requirement under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 '*to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children*' will be included where this is applicable to the funded project.
- The condition for Community Safety Partnerships to work with ECINS, where appropriate.
- In order to capture the measures of success of the funded projects and to promote their outcomes and success, a reporting form will be introduced. Reporting will be on the basis of how projects are delivering against the Police and Crime Plan objectives and the Commissioner's pledges. This will enable 'good news stories' to be captured for use to demonstrate the value for money of funding and could feasibly be used within the Commissioner's Annual Report and external consultation responses.
- In addition, recipients will now be required to provide a financial report on a six monthly basis.

6.3 Through their reporting returns, recipients will also be encouraged to highlight any innovative and sustainable ideas they may have for future funding projects which align with the objectives and pledges within the Police and Crime Plan. Such information will facilitate a forward look for future projects.

6.4 It is recommended that a 'Star Chambers' event should be held in September 2014 to compliment the accountability reporting and provide a further opportunity to highlight potential projects.

**7. Recommendation**

7.1 To note the contents of the paper which will in due course will inform the update of the Police and Crime Plan.