

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – NEIGHBOURHOODS
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	ALLOCATION OF SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES GRANTS
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	19 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010

**REPORT OF:** LINDA HAITANA

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#### **STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

N/A

#### **SUMMARY**

To consider and approve the allocation of Safer and Stronger Communities Grants for 2010/11 as agreed at the Special Safe City Partnership Executive Group on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) To consider and approve the allocation of grant funding of £210,000 for 2010/11.
- (ii) To agree to allocate £10,000 directly to the Partnership for joint public reassurance and communications activities. This funding would be managed through the Public Reassurance sub-group.
- (iii) To approve the recommended organisations receive funding as detailed in appendix 1 or make amendments as considered appropriate.

#### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Government allocated Safer and Stronger Communities Funds (as part of the Area Based Grant) to the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership on an annual basis. In Southampton the CDRP is the Safe City Partnership (SCP). The SCP has undertaken a fair and transparent grants process following closely advice from Legal Services and determined exactly how funds should be allocated and to whom. As the accountable body, SCC is required to formally approve the financial allocation. To that end this report seeks approval.

#### **CONSULTATION**

2. The allocation of grants was determined in consultation with members of the Safe City Partnership including senior representatives of the 6 'Responsible Authorities', Police, Police Authority, Southampton City Council, SCPCT, Probation, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

N/A

### DETAIL

3. **Background:** The Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) is Government funding and forms part of the Area Based Grant. It is an annual revenue fund. It is the responsibility of the Safe City Partnership to determine the allocation of funding each year.
4. The SSCF must be used to contribute towards the objectives and targets of the Safe City Partnership (SCP). It is open to statutory partners or third sector organisations. In the past, the SSCF was awarded without a grant application process and this led to some criticism for lack of openness. In 2008, the SCP Performance Management Group considered in some detail the option of subjecting the SSCF to a commissioning process, but following legal advice, in view of the size and uncertainty of the Government allocation and the fact that even if the Partnership is given funding to allocate it is limited to an annual award, it was deemed that a grant process was more appropriate and practical. However, in the interests of equality and transparency a more open application process was introduced this year (with organisations across the city invited to apply) and a clearer criteria for funding. Existing recipients of SSCF funding were given due notice of the changes in the process that could affect their funding in February 2009.
5. The government has declared provisional budgets for 2010/11 for SSCF and for the BCU (Police only) funds. However within this, there is some ring-fenced funding prescribed by Government and this year the Police have identified some BCU funding to contribute to the SSCF allocation. Taking all this into account, the bottom line figure to allocate as SSCF funding is £210,000 for 2010/11.
6. **Criteria:** The grant criteria set out in the application forms is that projects or initiatives seeking funding **MUST** show they help to meet one or more of the SCP Top Priorities:
  - Reduce crime and disorder
  - Reduce Violent Crime or Criminal Damage, Anti-Social Behaviour and/or Arson
  - Reduce the fear of crime

In addition projects also need to show positive outcomes in one or more of the 3 cross-cutting priorities of the SCP:

- Improving safety in neighbourhoods
- Tackling alcohol-related harm
- Improving safety of children and young people

It was noted in the guidance to applicants that bids need to focus on 'value for money' and evidence delivery of outcomes that meet the SCP priorities.

7. **Applications Process:** A small grants panel comprising of the Safer Communities manager, Chief Inspector for Partnerships (Police), SCC grants officer (independent of the Safe City Partnership) initially considered the applications and made recommendations based on the criteria for funding.

The Performance Management Group and the nominated representative for the Children's Trust (due to illness he was not able to attend the panel meetings) has been consulted on the proposals.

The Executive Group was asked to consider the subsequent recommendations.

8. **Recommended Allocation:** 27 applications were received and a total of £731,490 was requested. The applications were all of a very high standard and all were able to cite links to at least one of the SCP priorities – many were able to demonstrate contributions to more than one of the priorities.

The scale and variety of applications demonstrated a real commitment by a diverse range of groups to crime reduction activities in the city and is positive evidence of how many partners can and do contribute to the goals of the Partnership. The bids particularly represented a fairly even spread across the priority areas of violent crime, ASB / Arson as well as Children and Young People, work in neighbourhoods and alcohol related crime.

There was a mix of applications from different sectors and covering a breadth of issues. The majority of bids sought funding for all or part of additional posts.

9. Of the 27 applications – 8 are recommended for funding. Those organisations recommended for funding were able to demonstrate most clearly a direct contribution to SCP top priorities and evidence the link between the proposed actions (for funding) and measured outcomes. Conversely many of those that failed to secure funding had more tenuous links to outcomes that will help to meet SCP targets. In addition, the groups recommended for funding also positively showed value for money or 'added value' – either through leverage such as a high element of volunteering or clear match funding.

In order to meet the limited budget a few of the awards are less than that requested – these are noted in the table. In these cases it was possible to identify alternative funds to assist meet the gap.

10. Appendix 1 shows the applications recommended for funding. In summary these are:-

- Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service – Fire Setters Post
- Society of St James – Bridge to Volunteering
- Rape Crisis – Independent Sexual Violence Advocate
- Victim Support – Victims Champion (ASB) Project
- No Limits – Anger Management Programme
- Southampton Street Pastors
- SCC – Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
- Southampton Domestic Violence Forum – Access to Justice Fund

11. 8 bids are recommended for funding:

- 2 more awards than last year
- Of the 6 organisations awarded funding last year, 4 re-applied; 2 are recommended for funding this year and 2 are not.
- Most of the awards are for on-going initiatives where providers are desperate for funding having lost short-term funding or where funding is at an end – however there is 1 new project and 1 operating less than 12 months.
- 2 of the 8 are public sector providers the remainder are Third Sector.
- All of the proposed awards meet the SCP priorities.
- 8 out of 8 proposed awards have direct outcomes to support either SCP Stretch Targets or a Designated Indicator.

All of the proposed awards will contribute to ‘front-line’ delivery.

12. In taking account of how the SSCF funding will ‘make the most difference’ the awards collectively evidenced impact on the following areas:

- Reducing re-offending
- Victim support and improving safety of victims
- Targeted action to reduce Arson, ASB and Criminal Damage in neighbourhoods
- Increasing prosecutions and supporting successful action through the criminal justice system
- Domestic Violence – Highest Risk cases
- Alcohol-related violent crime and ASB in the Night Time Economy
- Increasing public confidence in reporting and the criminal justice system

In considering ‘value for money’ the funding allocation collectively will support at least 117 volunteers recruited specifically in relation to the SCP objectives, providing approx 8,600 volunteering hours in 12 months. This does not take account of the core volunteering element of some of the organisations e.g. Victim Support.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital**

13. N/A

### **Revenue**

14. Allocation of SSCF of £210k to 8 organisations for 2010 funding.

### **Property**

15. N/A

### **Other**

16. N/A

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

17. This decision is made in accordance with S2 of the Local Government Act

2000 which allows a local authority to do anything necessary to contribute to the economic, social or environmental well being of an area, subject to any statutory prohibition.

**Other Legal Implications:**

18. The Council is the accountable body and therefore has the responsibility for approving the allocation of funding as recommended by the Safe City Partnership.

**POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

19. The Community Strategy and the Southampton Safe City Partnership Plan are both Policy Framework documents and the allocation of this fund is therefore linked to delivery of the objectives as set out in both documents.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line**

**Appendices**

1.	Proposed successful Grant Applications 2010/11
2.	Proposed unsuccessful Grant Applications 2010/11

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

**Background Documents**

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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**Background documents available for inspection at:**

**KEY DECISION?**                      Officer Key Decision

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
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