

PCC Decision Form

| Title of Request | Name of Proposer (e.g. Chief Executive, Chief Constable, Director of Finance) | Date of Request |
|---|---|-----------------|
| POCA Community Grant Scheme 2022/23 - Panel recommendations June 2022 | Partnerships and Commissioning Manager | |

| Private / Exemption - Yes / No If Yes Reason Why (eg Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, Freedom of Information Act 2000) | Urgent (if Yes, Why and by When?) |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| No | |

| Decision Requested | | |
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| The Police and Crime Commissioner ("The Commissioner") is recommended to approve recommendations made by the Commissioning & Partnerships Team. | | |
| Executive Summary of Request | Supporting Report attached? | No |
| <p>The Commissioner's Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) Community Grant Scheme for 2022/23 enables non-profit organisations to apply for funding to deliver activities to address one or more of the Commissioner's strategic priorities as set out in the Police & Crime Plan.</p> <p>The scheme has currently undergone a review and refresh. It is anticipated the changes made will result in the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme attracting more applications from a wider pool of applicants. • The funding can be allocated more evenly across the county with historical funding imbalances reduced as far as reasonably possible. • An improved application process which supports applicants with clear guidance and information on how to apply and manage an award if successful. • A revised payment structure that is supportive and responsive to the financial constraints of third sector organisations. <p>Changes are taking place in relation to the coordination of the scheme, the amount applicants can receive and the application process. The most significant changes are as follows:</p> | | |
| PROPOSED CHANGE | RATIONALE | |
| To increase the grant maximum value from up to £7,500 to up to £10,000. | <p>This should hopefully attract more applicants and encourage more creativity and innovation.</p> <p>It also factors in the increased cost of living and energy crisis which will be impacting charitable organisations and their</p> | |

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| | beneficiaries. |
| To reduce the number of funding panels per annum from 4 (3 usually take place due to the annual VR Fund) to 3 with more intensive promotional activity and clear funding windows. | In the 2021-22 funding year, the Community Grants Scheme received 63 applications. The VR Fund Young People's Strand received 96 funding applications. We need to try to replicate that same level of interest. |
| Improve/enhance due diligence process to include applicant confirmation of safeguarding policy – policy checks will be completed checked via SYP PVP governance and applicant confirmation of adequate insurances in place. Continued checks will be made with SYP and local community safety leads in the relevant local authority. | To provides greater assurance as to the suitability of organisations to be funded, reduces risk to potentially vulnerable individuals and reduces risk to the PCC |
| Changes to the application process including re-developed and improved guidance notes and FAQs, changes to the application form and assessment process. | Discussion with a number of previous applicants indicated that the scheme would benefit from additional guidance. Several areas for development were identified including a scoring matrix for assessing grants against, updates to the application form that will hopefully address recurring issues and changes to the assessment criteria |
| Approval by proposer (SLG lead / OPCC SMG lead) and confirmation request is ready for PCC consideration | |
| <p>The Community Grants Scheme budget for 2021/22 was £150,000. There was an over-achievement of POCA income this, in combination with reduced expenditure because of the VR Fund grant rounds, means I feel that there is sufficient budget to cover the recommended changes.</p> <p>Submitted for approval by the Partnerships and Commissioning Manager.</p> | |
| Signed: | Date: 26/09/22 |

| Considerations | Evidence of information or advice gathered or discussion / consultation conducted | How has all this evidence impacted on overall proposal? |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Public and / or Partners | Input from relevant SYP officers/relevant partners is sought. VRU team member of the grants panel | |

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| Impact on Service | Improve the ability of grant applicants to understand the process and submit applications | |
| Financial | Forms part of the Partnerships and Commissioning budget and is funded through POCA funding underwritten by PCC funding to ensure sufficient funding is available | |
| Legal | A new grant document has been developed this year which strengthens the approach. The grant terms and conditions are reviewed each year, the Chief and Deputy Chief Finance Officers are consulted and the PCC's Chief Executive and Solicitor has final approval. | |
| HR | n/a | |
| T/Unions / Staff Assoc. | n/a | |
| Equality & Diversity (Public Sector Equality Duty) | Applications are accepted from all community groups/not for profit organisations. One of the areas of focus of the grants its reducing disproportionality in the criminal justice system. | |
| Risks / Opportunities | Opportunity to empower community groups to affect change in the local community. | |
| Sustainability | Grants are offered for a twelve-month period following notice of award this avoids shortened time for grant funded activity for those applications received towards the end of the year. It is hoped that the benefits of the projects will continue in the community after the funding period ends. | |
| Other (specify) | n/a | |

Views of PCC's Deputy Chief Finance Officer

I can support this bid as POCA income has overachieved recently and with the VRU now having its own grants round, please put it forward for consideration.

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| Signature: | | Date: | 20/10/22 |
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Views of PCC's Chief Executive & Solicitor

I recommend PCC approval.

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| Signature: | | Date: | 21/10/22 |
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PCC's Decision and Rationale

Approved

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| Signature: | | Date: | 21/10/22 |
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OPCC GATEKEEPER (Information Officer)

| Decision Ref. No | PAB Minute No: (where applicable) | Date Proposer notified of Decision | Date Published |
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