

PCC Decision Form

Title of Request	Name of Proposer (eg Chief Executive, Chief Constable, Director of Finance)	Date of Request
Proceeds of Crime Act funding 2023/24	Chief Finance Officer, OPCC.	17.7.23.

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.	No.

Decision Requested		
<p>The PCC is requested to consider an amendment to the agreed process for distribution of POCA income for the financial year 2023/24. It is suggested that the 2023/24 POCA contribution is capped at £175k. It is recommended that the arrangements for 2024/25 are looked at separately as part of the strategic and financial planning process.</p>		
Executive Summary of Request	Supporting Report attached?	No. Previous decision paper attached for information.
<p>On August 23rd 2019, a proposal to re-instate the police and Crime Commissioner's proceeds of crime community grants scheme was agreed. Under this scheme, money returned by the Home Office from cash seizures, forfeitures, or confiscations under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) would be split three ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/3 for supporting an uplift to the capability and capacity of SYP's Financial Investigation resource • 1/3 to be provided to the PCC to fund his community grants scheme (with publicity making the link between cash seized from criminals and community projects and initiatives) • 1/3 to District Commanders as part of a SYP 'incentivisation scheme' which requires funds to be spent on operational activity that is aligned to the Police and Crime Plan priorities. <p>At the end of 2022/23 POCA income significantly exceeded that which was anticipated in year and was significantly higher than in previous years. In order to smooth year on year finances, reserves were set up for both the Force and PCC amounting to £305k and £252k respectively.</p> <p>The intention of the PCC's reserve was that it could be utilised as a 'top up' should there be sufficient high quality bids submitted that fitted the community grant criteria and objectives. To some extent this has already happened, with £133k being spent to date in 2023/24, and a second grant round being open currently.</p>		

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In February 2023, when the budget was set, the PCC's share of POCA funding was estimated to be £106k. This figure was based on historical averages, not the 2022/23 figure, which overachieved significantly and could have been a 'one off'. Additional PCC funding was also allocated. Making the total funds available £164k.

Current Force estimates are that POCA income will reach approximately £1m in 2023/24, with around £330k to be allocated to the PCC. This will be a significant increase on previous averages.

Given the current financial outlook however, and the significant savings required to balance budgets in the medium term, discussions have been taken about the most efficient and effective use of this money. It is suggested that the PCC's allocation from POCA be capped at £175k in 2023/24 in order that any additional funding can be used on an 'invest to save' basis by the Force. This will be a 'one off' for 2023/24, with the agreed process being re-visited during the 2024/25 strategic and financial planning round, in order that it aligns better to the longer-term strategic plans and objectives of both organisations.

The PCC will still be left with sufficient grant round funding for 2023/24, with potential funding of £233k as a base, plus the ability to draw from the PCC's POCA reserve if required. The amounts for future years will depend on the outcome of the strategic planning discussions.

Approval by proposer (SLG lead / OPCC SMG lead) and confirmation request is ready for PCC consideration

Submitted by the Chief Finance Officer for approval. There is sufficient funding to cover the amount required in 2023/24.

Signed:		Date:	17.7.23.
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Considerations	Evidence of information or advice gathered or discussion / consultation conducted	How has all this evidence impacted on overall proposal?
Public and / or Partners	Liaison with South Yorkshire Police.	
Impact on Service	There is no direct input as funding is still available.	
Financial	There will be sufficient funds available in 2023/24.	
Legal	n/a	
HR	There are no direct HR implications.	
T/Unions / Staff Assoc.	There are no Union implications.	
Equality & Diversity (Public Sector Equality Duty)	The grant round is available to any organisation. Guidance on bids is published on the website and available to all.	
Risks / Opportunities	The PCC will still be supporting the community bid scheme, but there is	

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	an opportunity to utilise funds in excess of the budget separately on an 'invest to save' basis.	
Sustainability	n/a	
Other (specify)	n/a	

Views of PCC's Chief Finance & Commissioning Officer

Signature:		Date:	
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Views of PCC's Chief Executive & Solicitor

The CFO has briefed me on this and I recommend PCC approval.

Signature:		Date:	31/07/23
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PCC's Decision and Rationale

Happy to approve.

Signature:		Date:	31/07/23
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OPCC GATEKEEPER (Information Officer)

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