



Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
PO Box 688
PE29 9LA
Tel: 0300 333 3456
Email: Cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk
Twitter: @PCCCambs

Edward Leigh
Chair
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel
c/o Jane Webb
Peterborough City Council

Email: Jane.Webb@peterborough.gov.uk

26th February 2021

Dear Edward

I refer to the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel's report entitled 'Police and Crime Panel – Actions – 3rd February 2021'. I am aware that the Acting Commissioner has formally responded in respect of the precept recommendation (his letter dated 8th February 2021).

At the last Panel meeting, and as referenced in the actions given in the document referred to above, I committed to sending further information to Cllr Lynn regarding Crime and Disorder grants. You asked that I circulated this information to all Panel members but it would be appreciated if the Panel's Secretariat could forward this letter on my behalf to all Panel members.

Firstly, I appreciate this is a complex and sensitive topic. I would also add that the landscape we are operating in is one that is continuously changing. The OPCC approach will remain pragmatic, balancing the need for consistency with the need for flexibility in response to changing demand. The approach we have taken is developed in conversation with partners and is always set in the context of the strategic objectives in the Police and Crime Plan.

Background

- **The Commissioner is clear that the value of crime and disorder grants are far outweighed by the value of the mainstream resources that partners are able to co-ordinate and deploy locally.**
- The grants awarded to CSPs are funded from the core police budget – there is no ringfenced money from central government.
- Prior to April 2019 many CSPs were funding non-sustainable project type work. The Commissioner at the time was keen to drive a more industrialised approach, coordinating activity on key countywide themes to ensure effective and efficient working.
- Partners were involved, through the Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board (CCSSB), in developing and endorsing a new approach through which each CSP would

drive system transformation (for all) rather than plug gaps in the system. These would be aligned with the Police and Crime Plan.

- The Commissioner agreed to award two-years of funding to CSPs adopting this approach from April 2019. All CSPs were invited to develop bids.
- This funding was not linked to individual posts, or small unsustainable project work. However, within the remit of system leadership, transformation and prevention the Commissioner took a pragmatic and flexible approach to awarding grants, recognising the CSPs may want to join together, or focus on their place-based priorities. For this reason the Commissioner made some exceptions where business cases were made. These decisions reflected the landscape at the time.

Current situation

- The current agreed two-year award, of a maximum of £24k a year, ends 31st March 2021.
- Four out of six CSPs have requested an extension to the grant period of six months due to the impact of the pandemic. Some CSPs have had to divert staffing resources to Covid-19 response, while others have found efficiencies by moving activities online. One CSP did not bid for funding, while one CSP reported spending in line with the original grant period.
- The Acting Commissioner agreed extensions in the grant period where requested to ensure communities receive maximum benefit from agreed grants. No additional funding has been awarded.
- During the funding period the landscape changed significantly. There was a drive towards more holistic place-based working, of which CSPs took on to varying degrees. This has had an impact on delivery and progress towards wider systems change.
- The OPCC took a paper to the CCSSB in October 2020 setting considerations for the approach to grants in 2021/22. This recognised that:
 - A new Commissioner would have a right to set the direction of travel
 - There is a need to link outcomes to the (new) Police and Crime Plan
 - Grants processes and outcomes should reflect the impact of Covid-19 related demands
 - Any grants would be dependent on the police grant settlement expected in late December 2020
- Following the police grant settlement, the OPCC took a further paper to the Business Coordination Board meeting on the 20th January 2021, which is [publicly available on the OPCC website](#).
- This confirmed the continued Acting Commissioner's commitment to providing funding for the purpose of driving system-wide transformation in line with the strategic outcomes set in a new Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan. However, no new funding requests by CSPs would be considered until a new Commissioner was in post.
- **To be clear, the funding will be still available for the purposes of crime and disorder reduction.**

Moving forward

- The Acting Commissioner remains committed to funding system wide transformation in the community safety landscape in line with the strategic outcomes set in the Police and Crime Plan.
- **There is a need to understand how this funding can be leveraged to support an effective, coordinated and sustainable approach to community safety issues identified by CSPs.**
- The ongoing impact of the Covid response and recovery effort is still evolving and will have a major impact on the work of CSPs. In itself it will also drive system change and link into background work on place-based working.
- As set out at the October 2020 CCSSB a new Commissioner has the right to direct this funding within their first year of office to deliver against their public mandate and a new police and crime plan. The OPCC will support them to establish a longer-term resilient grants approach that considers the Covid-19 recovery landscape, emerging co-commissioning opportunities and key partnership strategies.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Jim Haylett
Acting Chief Executive

This page is intentionally left blank