



**STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD
11 June 2013**

DECISION

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER – COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND
PROCESS**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. For members of the Board to consider the process to determine the award of grants made by the Commissioner using his Community Initiative Fund. For 2013-14 this fund stands at £25,000.

BACKGROUND

2. The Commissioner has included in the budget for the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime the sum of £25,000 for use within a Communities Initiative Fund (the Fund). The objectives for the Fund are that any grants awarded must achieve improvements in community safety and increase reassurance within the community thereby contributing to the Commissioner's own Police and Crime Plan. The Fund provides small-scale financial assistance, up to £750, to community based initiatives in the West Midlands.
3. The increased profile of the Commissioner and increased marketing of the availability of the Fund has resulted in the receipt of a significant number of applications for a grant. Applications to the fund are expected to demonstrate that:
 - the project will help to improve community safety and increase reassurance
 - it is a response to an issue affecting the community
 - effective management structures are in place
 - it has as an appropriate clear plan and justification.
4. The Commissioner wishes to review the process for allocation to ensure that his decisions are made on criteria of fairness and equity ensuring a geographical spread of awards across the West Midlands.

PROCESS FOR 2013-14

5. It is proposed that the process for CIF is as follows:

- There will be three meetings each year of a Community Initiative Fund Panel comprising the Deputy and Assistant Police and Crime Commissioners (APCCs). Meetings will be held in June, October and January.
- The Deputy Commissioner and APCCs assess the applications and make an initial recommendation using the criteria and outcomes set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 above. These initial recommendations will be passed to the Commissioner.
- The Commissioner will make the final decision on allocation of funding after considering the recommendations from the Panel.
- As with all formal decisions of the Commissioner, the decisions will be posted on the website.
- Those awarded grants will be expected to provide evidence of their use of the grant in accordance with their application. The Panel will undertake reviews of grants awarded on a regular basis.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The Community Initiative Fund is £25,000 annually. It is intended to award this sum in grants with a value up to £750 per annum.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 Schedule 1, Section 1 14 (1) provides that a Police and Crime Commissioner may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of commissioner. Section 9 of the Act gives the power to the Commissioner to make a crime and disorder reduction grant to any person. Such grants may be subject to any conditions which the body thinks appropriate.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8. The Panel will have regard to equalities issues when considering whether grants should be awarded seeking to ensure that the outcomes sought in any grant award are fair and equitable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. Board members are asked to comment on the process proposed for the award of grants making use of the Commissioner's Community Initiatives Fund. The Commissioner will have regard to these comments when making his decision on the award process to be followed.

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