



POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE

DECISION: 2021-07	DATE: 22ND JUNE 2021
TITLE: SAFER STREETS FUND ROUND 3 (21/22)	
REPORT BY:	STEFF HULL STEVE FREEMAN

Executive Summary

The Home Office announced a third round of the Safer Streets Fund (SSF) for the 2021/22 financial year with the deadline for submissions at midnight on Thursday 15th July 2021.

Police and Crime Commissioner's and Local Authorities are able to submit bids however, the Home Office will only accept three bids per PCC area and they have specified that the Police and Crime Commissioner must support and prioritise bids (primary/secondary/tertiary) prior to submission.

As the Home Office stated PCCs must approve and prioritise bids the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner contacted all Local Authorities for expressions of interest to be submitted by Monday 14th June 2021 to indicate their interest in submitting a bid.

A total of 5 expressions of interest were received from district councils.

Recommendations

The Commissioner is recommended to note and approve the priority order of the three expressions of interest as follows:

1. Blackpool
2. Lancaster
3. Pennine Lancashire
(covering Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Burnley, and Rossendale)

Signature

Police and Crime Commissioner
Date: 25th June 2021

PART I

1. Background and Advice

The Home Office announced there will be a third £25m round of the Safer Streets Fund for the 21/22 financial year.

The third round of the Safer Streets Fund has a targeted focus on ensuring the safety of public places for all, and a particular emphasis on improving the safety of public spaces for woman and girls following the tragic killing of Sarah Everard.

This third pilot round of the Fund seeks to expand the evidence base on the prevention of VAWG crimes, aiming to prevent these crimes before they can occur, whilst simultaneously increasing feelings and perceptions of public safety in problem areas.

Rounds One and Two of the Safer Streets Fund were designed to prevent neighbourhood crimes such as burglary, robbery and theft. Interventions included improved street lighting, reinforces home security, alley gating and increased CCTV coverage. Whilst these interventions are proven to prevent and reduce neighbourhood crimes, the evidence regarding their effectiveness against VAWG crimes is less explored. This third round of funding seeks to build this evidence base to inform future policy and funding decisions. Through encouraging innovative approaches from those seeking to make use of this funding, this third round of funding also seeks to improve the evidence base of what works to prevent these crimes outside of traditional Safer Streets Fund interventions.

The OPCC wrote to Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and the 12 district councils asking them if they wish to express an interest in the Safer Streets Fund along with information on the area(s) they would like to target and suggested interventions.

The OPCC received five expressions of interest from: Blackpool, Wyre, Lancaster, Lancashire County Council and Pennine Lancashire (covering Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Burnley and Rossendale).

The OPCC met with representatives from the Constabulary to review, evaluate and assess the expressions of interest in order to ensure the potential bids met the conditions set out in the Home Office prospectus together with which bids have the opportunity to make the greatest impact.

As a consequence of the discussion which focused on crime data, community impact and advice from Chief Superintendent (Neighbourhood Policing) and Chief Superintendent (Corporate Development) it was agreed the OPCC should formally support the expressions of interest as follows:

1. Primary Bid – Blackpool

Blackpool's application will target Promenade, Lytham Road, Talbot Road, Dickson Road, Queen Street, Central Drive, Waterloo Road, Bank Hey Street, Whitegate Drive and Cherry Tree Road. Blackpool were clearly able to demonstrate the areas are disproportionately affected by VAWG crimes through Lancashire Constabulary crime data

which focused on violence against the person and sexual offences involving women and girls.

Blackpool aim to improve the safety of public spaces for all in particularly women and girls through CCTV, street lighting along with innovative approaches looking at a Safer Taxi Scheme, Safe Haven Bus, educational campaigns, bystander programme along with expanding their new 'It Stops Here' campaign which is a multi-agency partnership plan to make Blackpool's streets safer.

Secondary Bid – Lancaster

Lancaster's application will focus on the 2.5 mile section dual cycle / footpath that connects Lancaster and Morecambe, an area well known to Lancashire Police and to the public as a 'no-go' area.

Lancaster aim to improve the area through CCTV, street lighting, improving the green space area (tree over-growth, graffiti removal) along with developing an educational awareness package to be delivered in schools, colleges, and the universities.

Tertiary Bid – Pennine Lancashire

The third application will focus on the town centre areas of Blackburn, Darwen, Burnley, Accrington and Haslingden. Data provided by a Lancashire Constabulary Analyst showed the town centre areas are disproportionately affected by VAWG crimes through violence against a person offences and sexual offences which affected women and girls.

Their application will focus on CCTV, street lighting, trialling town centre based 'guardians', awareness campaigns and educational materials.

Each Local Authority will submit their own application directly to the Home Office.

2. Links to the Police and Crime Plan

The Safer Streets Fund supports all four of the Commissioner's priorities:

- Tackling Crime and Reoffending
- Supporting Victims and Vulnerable People
- Developing Safe and Confident Communities.

3. Consultation

The OPCC wrote to Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and all district councils.

The OPCC met with Lancashire Constabulary to review expressions of interest.

4. Implications

a. Legal

None to consider.

b. Financial

None to consider.

c. Equality considerations

None to consider.

5. Background Papers

None.

6. Public access to information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation.

Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC website within 3 working days of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form.

Officer declaration	Date
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	 25.06.2021
EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS – As above	
CONSULTATION – As above	
<p>Director to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Monitoring Officer) I have been informed about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire.</p> <p>Signature:  Date: 25th June 2021</p>	