

**025/2016**

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Title: **Active Citizens Fund Allocations**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**DECISION**

That the approval of the release of funds from the Active Citizens Fund shall be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer.

**West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner**

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime. Any interests are indicated below.

Signature.....

Date.....04.07.16.



## **NON - CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

1. The Active Citizens Fund was established in 2016 to combine three previous streams of funding (Proceeds of Crime Act, Police Property Act, and Community Initiatives Fund). The Fund is part of the Active Citizens work underway to help ensure that West Midlands Police will be better placed to engage with the public and encourage 'active citizenship'. This means that communities in the West Midlands will be actively involved in projects that will make a positive difference to themselves.
2. As part of the Fund, Local Policing Units (LPUs) have an annual budget to help fund community projects that reflect the priorities of WMP and its partners. The decision as to whether an application is successful will be subject agreement by the LPU Commander after working with local citizens, and will then be passed to OPCC for the formal decision to release funds.
3. Two types of applications will be considered for funding: Community Projects and Small Grants.
  - Community Projects will usually require larger amounts of funding and will be supported at partnership level with engagement from other agencies. There is no upper or lower limit on the amount of funding that could be available, but these funds are designed to support projects rather than one-off expenses or events. There is an expectation that these projects will be sustainable beyond the period for which funding is provided, and may take a number of years to show benefits.
  - Small Grants may be used to help the community to purchase equipment or may be used to support a one-off community event or initiative. These grants will usually be smaller amounts, although there is no upper or lower limit.
4. The LPU Commander will assess and agree applications for funding, using various means of engaging local communities in this decision making process. Once the funding has been agreed, the administration of the funding will be passed to OPCC. The decision to release the funds is delegated from the Commissioner to the Chief Executive, acting in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer.
5. Initial agreement of funding requires extensive discussions between officers and staff at the LPU and their local community groups

### **Funding Process**

6. There are a number of criteria in place in order to help LPUs and their community networks in their decision making:
  - Groups/organisations must be properly constituted and have a bank or building society account with at least two signatories where we can pay the funds.
  - A group/organisation does not need to be based in the community where the project is run, but the project must be of direct benefit to the residents of that area.
  - We do not fund individuals.
  - You may include revenue items where this is essential to the running of a time-limited project (e.g. for hiring additional, temporary project staff - but these must not be employed either temporarily or permanently by West Midlands Police).
  - Match funding is not a requirement, but we will look favourably on projects which contribute additional funds. This can include in-kind contributions such as volunteer time or items/materials donated to the project.

7. Once funding has been agreed, the project is required to submit regular financial and performance monitoring reports to OPCC.

### **Financial Implications**

8. The total budget for Active Citizens Fund in 2016-17 is £840,000.

### **Legal Implications**

9. Schedule 9 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides Commissioners with the powers to award crime and disorder grants to any Organisations and projects they consider will help them achieve their crime prevention and wider priorities.

### **Schedule of Background Papers**

None

Public Access to Information

Information contained in this decision is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. This decision will be made available on the Commissioner's website.