



Report of the Police and Crime Panel

Report title:	<u>Partnerships Fund - Formally known as Community Safety Fund</u>
Date:	15 th March 2024
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Purpose of the report:	At the request of the PCP
Recommendations:	For noting only

1. Executive Summary

The Partnerships Fund (formally known as the Community Safety Fund) is a direct grant from the PCC to Local Authorities to support some of the local priorities of the Community Safety Partnerships. This current round of funding totalling £7,721,256 has been administered as a three-year commitment, with Year 1 funding starting in 2022/23 and Year 3 concluding at the close of 2024/25. Grant allocation is based on an agreed formula based on population and crime statistics. Local Authorities access their respective grant allocations through their CSP's by submission of bid proposals into the OPCC.

2. Partnership Fund allocations

The allocation of funds to each Local Authority is a planned process that takes into account various factors, including population demographics and crime statistics. This ensures that resources are distributed equitably, reflecting the diverse needs and challenges faced by different areas within Thames Valley.

By basing the allocation on population and crime statistics, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) demonstrates a commitment to data-driven decision-making and evidence-based policymaking. This approach not only promotes transparency but also enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of resource allocation, allowing for targeted interventions where they are most needed.

Furthermore, the allocation strategy of the Partnerships Fund underscores the PCC's broader strategic objectives in promoting community safety and well-being. By providing financial support to Local Authorities, the PCC empowers them to address local priorities and implement initiatives that directly impact the safety and quality of life of residents.

The flexibility inherent in the fund's use over a three-year period is another key feature that enhances its effectiveness. This flexibility allows Local Authorities to adapt their spending plans in response to changing circumstances and emerging priorities, ensuring that the Partnerships Fund remains responsive to the evolving needs of communities across Thames Valley.



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The following table provides a breakdown of fund allocations to each Local Authority across the three financial years:

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Bracknell Forest	£129,369	£124,039	£118,709
Buckinghamshire	£436,567	£486,132	£537,585
Milton Keynes	£259,015	£295,738	£333,860
Oxfordshire	£686,820	£699,307	£712,271
Reading	£373,411	£293,694	£213,977
Slough	£287,641	£242,784	£197,926
West Berkshire	£153,588	£152,908	£152,228
RBWM	£147,397	£150,992	£154,724
Wokingham	£103,138	£126,561	£150,875
Total	£2,576,946	£2,572,155	£2,572,155

3. Governance and Administration of Partnerships Fund

Effective governance and administration are essential for the success of the Partnerships Fund. Thames Valley Police's Joint Internal Audit Committee (JIAC) plays a pivotal role in ensuring the robustness of the fund's governance and administration. The recent audit conducted by JIAC underlines the commitment to transparency and accountability, providing valuable insights into areas for improvement and enhancement.

Addressing the recommendations stemming from the JIAC audit is a priority for the Partnerships and Community Safety team, along with the Finance team at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). By implementing these recommendations, the aim is to strengthen the governance framework surrounding the Partnerships Fund, thereby enhancing operational efficiency and mitigating risks.

Moreover, the scheduled consultation with Community Safety Partnership (CSP) representatives further exemplifies the commitment to stakeholder engagement and collaboration. This consultation presents an invaluable opportunity to solicit feedback and insights from key stakeholders, including CSPs, local authorities, and community organisations.

By actively involving stakeholders in the decision-making process, the Partnerships Fund fosters a culture of inclusivity and partnership working. This collaborative approach ensures that the fund remains responsive to the needs and priorities of local communities, thereby maximising its impact in promoting community safety and well-being.

4. Conclusion/Next Steps

In conclusion, the Partnerships Fund, formerly the Community Safety Fund, is vital for addressing local safety concerns in Thames Valley. With £7,721,256 allocated based on population and crime statistics, the fund reflects a strategic commitment to enhancing community safety.



Matthew Barber

Police & Crime Commissioner
for Thames Valley

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Flexibility over a three-year period enables efficient resource utilisation to address evolving priorities, demonstrating responsiveness to dynamic community needs.

Improvements following recommendations from Thames Valley Police's Joint Internal Audit Committee aim to enhance governance and administration, ensuring operational efficiency and accountability.

The scheduled consultation with Community Safety Partnership representatives in May 2024 provides an opportunity to gather stakeholder feedback, shaping the fund's future to better align with community needs.

As Thames Valley evolves, the Partnerships Fund remains dedicated to promoting safety and well-being, anticipating fresh funding commitments in 2025/26 to continue driving collaborative initiatives.