



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY

Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel meeting on 10 September 2021

Community Safety Fund Allocations

Background

Prior to the creation of PCCs, local councils received funding from the Home Office and other Government departments to help deliver crime & disorder reduction work. In 2013/14, the responsibility for providing these services transferred to PCCs and the Home Office allocated circa £3m to the PCC in support of this work. This is called my Community Safety Fund.

Unlike most other PCCs in England and Wales, I continue to allocate the vast majority of this budget to the 9 upper tier Local Authorities within the Thames Valley area, in the form of grants. In 2021/22, circa 90% of my total budget, or £2.7m, is allocated to local authorities.

In 2014/15 the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner worked closely with the Police & Crime Panel to develop a fairer “needs based” formula, which considered data around population and crime related factors. Whilst this formula was approved by the PCC and endorsed by the Panel, it required a phased transition, which was never fully implemented.

Recognising the demands on CSPs

The formula has been reworked to incorporate three factors:

- Population (50% weighted)
- Crime (25% weighted)
- Non-crime demand, such as ASB and fear for welfare (25% weighted)

It is widely acknowledged that population has the most significant impact on community safety demand. My decision to include non-crime demand on top of recorded crime is intentional. Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) have always been asked to take a lead role in anti-social behaviour. However, they are increasingly being asked to support preventative work and are well placed to deliver in this area. I also acknowledge the essential contribution of CSPs in helping to move from tertiary demand (often reactive) towards primary prevention and targeted secondary interventions. Including the non-crime demand within the formula, therefore, recognises this CSP role.

In my opinion this new allocation model represents a fairer “needs based” support across the force area. The changes will, however, be implemented gradually in order to allow all local authorities time to transition to the new arrangements.

Commitments for the longer term

CSPs have a statutory duty to write three-year plans and make commitments to their communities on what they will deliver and how. Outside of their own local authority budgets, they have had to do this against the backdrop of relatively short one-year grant allocations. This can create artificial timescales for both PCCs and CSPs to respond to need and an annual process of developing, reviewing and approving spend plans.

In order to demonstrate my commitment to supporting CSPs and to allow longer term planning, I intend to commit to three years of funding for local authorities. This will allow CSPs to commit to multi-year projects that support my Police & Criminal Justice Plan. Whilst Home Office funding is currently only allocated on an annual basis, I expect to be able to maintain this level of funding over the three-year period, subject to no radical changes in overall grant from the Government. My intention is to review the funding after two years with a view to being able to renew the arrangements for a further three years.

Alongside increased commissioning and activity to be undertaken directly by my office, I intend to commit £7.72m over the next three years to Community Safety Partnerships. Local allocations will be as follows:

Local Authority	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Bracknell Forest	£134,699	£129,369	£124,039	£118,709
Buckinghamshire	£436,567	£436,567	£486,132	£537,585
Milton Keynes	£259,015	£259,015	£295,738	£333,860
Oxfordshire	£686,820	£686,820	£699,307	£712,271
Reading	£453,128	£373,411	£293,694	£213,977
Slough	£332,499	£287,641	£242,784	£197,926
West Berkshire	£154,268	£153,588	£152,908	£152,228
Windsor and Maidenhead	£147,397	£147,397	£150,992	£154,724
Wokingham	£103,138	£103,138	£126,561	£150,875
Thames Valley CSPs Total	£2,707,531	£2,576,946	£2,572,154	£2,572,154

As is currently the case, funding will be approved on the basis of spend proposals being in line with the objectives of my new Police & Criminal Justice Plan, and released on a quarterly basis subject to satisfactory reported progress. To enable CSPs to commit to longer term projects, new funding proposal forms will replace the current spend plans. I am proud of the excellent relationships we have forged with CSPs and My Head of Partnerships & Community Safety, Cath Marriott, will continue to work with and support each Community Safety Partnership going forward.

Matthew Barber

PCC for Thames Valley

31 August 2021