

DMPC Decision – PCD 1367

Title: Home Office Grant Funding – Science, Technology, Analysis and Research (STAR)

Executive Summary:

This paper seeks approval to accept Home Office grant funding of upto £5,200,000 for 2022/23 in respect of the National Policing Chiefs Council (NPCC) Science, Technology, Analysis and, Research (STAR) function; to approve the granting of funds to successful STAR projects in police forces £2,517,581, and to approve the acceptance by MPS of STAR funding £514,818 for their successful STAR projects. There is no financial exposure to MOPAC.

Recommendation:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to:

1. Approve MOPAC entering into a Grant Agreement with the Home Office (HO), on behalf of the NPCC, to receive the STAR Fund of up to £5,200,000 in 2022/23.
2. Approve MOPAC providing grants from the 2022/23 STAR Fund to successful STAR Fund Projects.
3. Approve MOPAC accepting 2022/23 STAR Fund awards to support successful MPS-led STAR Projects.

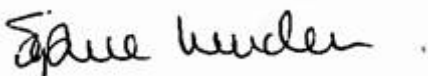
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Date 28/02/2023



PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The Home Office awarded £5.2m through the 2022/23 Police Settlement, to fund Science, Technology, Analysis and Research (STAR) across the policing sector.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. The grant funding is for the 2022/23 financial year only. It will be used to fund the role of the Police Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA), his private office and specific STAR projects approved through the Police STAR Board. NPCC assure that the Police STAR Fund projects were assessed through an open and transparent process, using UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) criteria, and overseen by the Police STAR Board, comprising of senior, Director-level leads across Policing including the APCC, Government and Academia.
- 2.2. The delay in seeking this approval is due to awaiting Home Office finalisation of the grant.
- 2.3. The approved STAR fund projects to other law enforcement forces/agencies for 2022/23 total £2,517,581, which includes £514,818 of projects relating to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1. The NPCC have assured that there will be compliant spend of this funding by the 31 March 2022, and that the estimated costs of the team will be fully funded from the HO grant. If there are any additional costs these will be met by the Home Office or NPCC. There is no financial exposure for MOPAC.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1. The HO grant will be paid to the MOPAC, as the host organisation for the NPCC, in exercise of the power conferred upon the Secretary of State for the Home Department under Section 57 of the Police Act 1996.
- 4.2. The acceptance and provision of Grant Agreements to support this function are legal under Schedule 3, Paragraph 7 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 which provides that:
 - “7(1) The Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of the Office.
 - (2) That includes— entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not);”

- 4.3. Under paragraph 4.8 of the MOPAC Scheme of Consent and Delegation the DMPC has delegated authority to approve “Bids for grant funding made and all offers made of grant funding; and/or where appropriate a strategy for grant giving”.
- 4.4. The grant agreement will be published under the Elected Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011

5. GDPR and Data Privacy

- 5.1. MOPAC will adhere to the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and ensure that any organisations who are commissioned to do work with or on behalf of MOPAC are fully compliant with the policy and understand their GDPR responsibilities.
- 5.2. The NPCC assure that the receipt of HO funding and the award and receipt by MPS of grant funding does not involve the use of personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no GDPR issues to be considered

6. Equality Comments

- 6.1. MOPAC is required to comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. This requires MOPAC to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by reference to people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.2. The NPCC assure that there are no equality implications arising from the acceptance of Home Office funding, or from the award of funding to other forces, or receipt by MPS of the proposed grant funding.

7. Background/supporting papers

- Appendix 1 NPCC report - Acceptance of Police STAR Fund Grant Agreement 22/23

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and will be made available on the MOPAC website following approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered as likely to be exempt from disclosure under the FOIA should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a **Part 2** form –NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION

Tick to confirm statement (✓)

Financial Advice:

The Strategic Finance and Resource Management Team has been consulted on this proposal.

✓

Legal Advice:

The MPS legal team has been consulted on the proposal.

✓

Equalities Advice:

Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.

✓

Commercial Issues

Commercial issues are not applicable.

✓

GDPR/Data Privacy

GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report.

✓

Drafting Officer

Alex Anderson has drafted this report in accordance with MOPAC procedures.

✓

Director/Head of Service:

The MOPAC Chief Finance Officer and Director of Corporate Services has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.

✓

Chief Executive Officer

I have been consulted 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 Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

Signature

Date 17/02/2023

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Acceptance of Police STAR Fund Grant Agreement 22/23**MOPAC Investment Advisory & Monitoring meeting – 24 January 2023****Report by Jennifer Ewing on behalf of the Chief of Corporate Services****Part 1 – This section of the report will be published by MOPAC. It is classified as OFFICIAL – PUBLIC***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) has been awarded £5.2m through the 2022/3 Police Settlement via the Home Office, to fund Science, Technology, Analysis and Research (STAR) across the policing sector.

The terms and use of the STAR Fund Grant Agreement for 22/23 will remain as per the approach to the 21/22 STAR Fund Grant Agreement. The fund will be managed by the Police Chief Scientific Advisor, and will be used to support a programme of innovative research and development activity for policing, including 21 STAR Fund Innovation projects (all with Police Force Leads). The monies will also continue to fund the role of the Police Chief Scientific Advisor, his private office (i.e. all resourcing costs), strategic research and development for Policing, and other related costs, e.g. communications activity, events etc. All spend relating to this activity is currently being processed by Forces and the NPCC as a pressure, awaiting delayed transfer of the STAR fund via the STAR Fund Grant Agreement.

A decision is required from MOPAC on behalf of the NPCC, to receive the 2022/23 funding provided by the Home Office and administer the STAR fund to innovation Projects.

Recommendations

1. The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, via the Investment Advisory and Monitoring meeting (IAM), is asked to:
 - a) **Approve MOPAC entering into a Grant Agreement with the Home Office (HO), on behalf of the NPCC, to receive the STAR Fund of up to £5.2m in 2022/23.**
 - b) **Approve MOPAC providing Grants from the 2022/23 STAR Fund to successful STAR Fund Projects.**
 - c) **Approve MOPAC accepting 2022/23 STAR Fund awards to support successful MPS-led STAR Projects.**

Time sensitivity

2. A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor by 31 January 2023 or as soon as possible,

because of the impact on Forces who are currently required to spend at risk/as a pressure, in order to comply with project delivery within this financial year.

Non-confidential facts and advice to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Introduction and background

3. In 2021/22, £5.2m was previously awarded through the Police Settlement to fund Science, Technology, Analysis and Research across the policing sector, formalised with a Grant Agreement between the Home Office and MOPAC.
4. £5.2m has again been awarded through the Police Settlement to fund Science, Technology, Analysis and Research across the policing sector. It is anticipated that as per last year, the Fund will be transferred via a Grant Agreement between the Home Office and MOPAC.

Issues for consideration

5. The 22/23 £5.2m Grant Agreement has been delayed awaiting finalisation within the Home Office. This delay has been raised at senior level (Director General) in the Home Office, and as part of NPCC/Home Office engagement on general delays to the NPCC receiving funding from that Department. We have received assurances from the Home Office that they will work to get the 23/24 STAR Fund Grant Agreement ready at pace.

Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments

6. These funds will again be managed by Professor Paul Taylor as the Police Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA), a role which sits within the NPCC. The role of Police CSA is tenured for three years and commenced in 2021. Subject to formal confirmation, a further Grant Agreement will be drafted to cover 23/24 arrangements for the STAR Fund, which will again include costs of the CSA role, his Private Office, supporting activity (including communications, events, strategic research and development for Policing) and STAR Fund projects.
7. Spend of the fund has/will be overseen and facilitated by existing NPCC Commercial and Financial controls. As regards STAR Fund projects, monies will be transferred to Forces directly by the NPCC, with supporting Grant Agreements in place between MOPAC and Project/Force leads, in accordance with the amount agreed for award under the STAR Fund bidding process. Additional reporting and assurance processes will be outlined in the Grant Agreement to address oversight and transparency.
8. Police STAR Fund projects were assessed through an open and transparent process, using UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) criteria, and overseen by the Police STAR Board, comprising of senior, Director-level leads across Policing – including the APCC, Government and Academia. The approved STAR Fund Projects for 22/23, total £2,517,581. As outlined in the Executive Summary, the remainder of the STAR Fund monies will also continue to fund the role of the Police Chief Scientific Advisor, his private office (i.e. all resourcing costs), strategic research and development for Policing, and other related costs, e.g. communications activity, events etc. Given the annualized nature of our funding, projects are required to spend the funds and complete their work within this financial year; therefore it is vital that they receive their funds as soon as possible once the Grant Agreement is in place.
9. The 22/23 total value of Approved STAR Projects includes 4 MPS awards totalling £514,818.
10. Additional Financial and Commercial support and advice is provided to the Police Chief Scientific Advisor via the NPCC, in the course of his duties.

11. In line with the governance and assurance processes outlined above and which will be detailed in the HO Grant Agreement, we are satisfied that there will be compliant spend to match the STAR Fund 22/23. Although not anticipated, in the unlikely event of any overspend of the grant funding, costs will be met by the NPCC – there will be no financial liability to MOPAC.

Legal Comments

12. This grant will be paid to the MOPAC, as the host organisation for the NPCC, in exercise of the power conferred upon the Secretary of State for the Home Department under Section 57 of the Police Act 1996:

“s.57 (1) The Secretary of State may provide and maintain, or may contribute to the provision or maintenance of, such organisations, facilities and services as he considers necessary or expedient for promoting the efficiency or effectiveness of the police.

(1B) Financial assistance under subsection (1)—

(a) may, in particular, be given in the form of a grant, loan or guarantee or investment in a body corporate;”

13. Further, the acceptance and provision of Grant Agreements to support this function are legal under Schedule 3, Paragraph 7 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 which provides that:

“7(1) The Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of the Office.

(2) That includes— entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not);”

14. Under paragraph 4.8 of the MOPAC Scheme of Consent and Delegation the DMPC has delegated authority to approve “Bids for grant funding made and all offers made of grant funding; and/or where appropriate a strategy for grant giving”.

15. The Grant Agreement will be published under the Elected Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011.

Equality Comments

16. The following comments relate to the three recommendations in this report – i.e. the receipt of this HO funding, it’s subsequent grant-awarding to successful STAR Fund projects and acceptance by successful MPS STAR Projects.

17. This business case has undergone an initial equality screening. Due regard has been taken to the Equality Act’s Public Sector Equality Duty. Real consideration has been taken to assess equality impact caused by the proposed business changes. As a result no negative impact has been identified to any individual and/or group safeguarded by a protected characteristic and those who are not.

18. As the intention of this document is financially related there is no real organisational change. Further reviews will be conducted and if as a result any new Equality Impact is identified, a full Equality Impact Assessment will be initiated.

Privacy Comments

19. The receipt of this HO funding, its subsequent grant-awarding to successful STAR Fund projects and acceptance by successful MPS STAR Projects (i.e. the 3 recommendations in this report) do not involve the use of personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no GDPR issues to be considered.

Real Estate Implications

20. There are no direct implications arising from the receipt of the HO funding. The Police Chief Scientific Advisor and his staff have access to office and meeting space within current NPCC Offices.

Environmental Implications

21. No impact.

Background/supporting papers

22. N/A

Report author: Jennifer Ewing, Office of the Police Chief Scientific Advisor, National Police Chiefs' Council.