

**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, it's 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

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