

DMPC Decision – PCD 1155

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

Executive Summary:

This paper seeks approval to accept Home Office grant funding of £3,793,101.29 for 2021/22 in respect of the National Policing Chiefs Council (NPCC) Science, Technology, Analysis and, Research (STAR) function. There is no financial exposure to MOPAC.

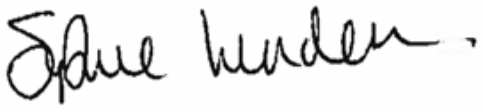
Recommendation:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to approve MOPAC entering into a grant agreement with the Home Office, on behalf of the NPCC, and receive up to £3,793,101.29 of funding in 2021/22

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 6/3/2022

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

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The Home Office awarded £5.2m through the 2021/22 Police Settlement, to fund Science, Technology, Analysis and Research (STAR) across the policing sector.
- 1.2. This paper seeks approval for MOPAC on behalf of the NPCC to accept £3,793,101.29 of this funding – the balance of the £5.2m being retained by the Home Office for projects led by them and the National Crime Agency.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. The grant funding is for the 2021/22 financial year only. It has been used to fund the role of the new Police Chief Scientific Advisor, his private office and specific STAR projects approved through the Police STAR Board.
- 2.2. The delay in seeking this approval is due to Home Office administrative issues.

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. This grant will be paid to the MOPAC, as the host organisation for the NPoCC, 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. 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”.
- 4.3. 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 receipt of HO 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. There are no equality implications arising from acceptance of this grant funding.

7. Background/supporting papers

- Appendix 1 NPCC report - The Police STAR Fund

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: N/A

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 interim 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 3/3/2022



The Police STAR Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) was awarded £5.2m through the 2021/22 Police Settlement, to fund Science, Technology, Analysis and Research (STAR) across the policing sector. The amount of the Grant Agreement (£3,793,101.29) reflects deductions from the £5.2million of £1,406,898, which will not be transferred to the NPCC, but will instead remain with the Home Office to pay STAR Fund projects led by its Department and the National Crime Agency, directly.

The attached STAR Fund Grant Agreement was expected early this financial year, but has been delayed due to Home Office administrative issues.

The Fund has been used to support 29 STAR projects during fyr 21/22 in delivering innovative research and development for policing, as well as the new role of the Police Chief Scientific Advisor, his private office and other costs. **All spend has been processed by Forces and the NPCC as a pressure**, awaiting delayed transfer of the STAR Fund via the attached Grant Agreement.

A decision is required from MOPAC on behalf of the NPCC, to receive the 2021/22 funding provided by the Home Office. Whilst noting that neither MOPAC or the NPCC are responsible for the late processing of this Grant Agreement, given the delay (and knock-on impacts for Forces), an expedited decision would be greatly appreciated.

Recommendations

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is asked to consider the following:

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 **£3,793,101.29** in 2021/22.

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

Introduction and background

2. £5.2million was awarded through the 2021/22 Police Settlement to fund Science, Technology, Analysis and Research across the policing sector – this includes funding specific STAR projects through the Police STAR Board, as well as establishing the role of the new Police Chief Scientific Advisor, his private office and other related activity.

3. The amount of the Grant Agreement (**£3,793,101.29**) reflects deductions from the £5.2million of **£1,406,898**, which will be paid directly to those STAR projects which are led by the Home Office and National Crime Agency, rather than payment via the NPCC. All STAR projects (including Home Office, NCA and Force-led) are subject to the same governance of the Police STAR Board, regardless of the mechanism used to allocate their STAR Funding.

Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments

4. These funds will be managed by Professor Paul Taylor as the newly appointed Police Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA), a role which sits within the NPCC. The role of Police CSA is tenured for three years. Subject to formal confirmation, a further Grant Agreement will be drafted to cover 22/23 arrangements for the STAR Fund, which will again include costs of the CSA role, his Private Office, supporting activity and STAR Fund projects. 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, in accordance with the amount agreed for award under the STAR Fund bidding process. Additional reporting and assurance processes are outlined in the Grant Agreement to address oversight and transparency.
5. Police STAR Fund projects were assessed through an open and transparent process, overseen by the Police STAR Board, as set out in the agreement. Projects have been spending as a pressure, and it is therefore vital that they receive the onward transmission of monies contained within this Grant Agreement, via the NPCC, this financial year (21/22).
6. Additional Financial and Commercial support and advice is provided to the Police Chief Scientific Advisor via the NPCC, in the course of his duties.
7. In line with the governance and assurance processes outlined above and detailed in the Grant Agreement, we are satisfied that there will be compliant spend to match the STAR Fund 21/22. 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

8. 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.
9. 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”.
10. The Grant Agreement will be published under the Elected Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011

Equality Comments

11. No issues have been identified relating to equality or diversity.

Privacy Comments

12. The receipt of HO funding does 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

13. 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

14. No Impact

Background/supporting papers

15. [Link to the announcement of the Police Chief Scientific Advisor](#)

Report author: Jennifer Ewing, Office of the Police Chief Scientific Advisor, NPCC.