

SAFER CITY GRANT SCHEME

The Safer City grant scheme has been in operation since the 1997/98 financial year. It provides small (maximum £5,000) grants to community projects that will help tackle crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in Cambridge. Applications can be made by any community group at any time, and the City Council endeavours to reach a decision within 5 weeks of the application being acknowledged.

The budget for this financial year is £41,000 (being £17,000 capital and £24,000 revenue). A bid to increase the pot to £50k to be used for either revenue or capital has been submitted for 2012/13. If the bid is successful the recommendation is to allocate the funds equally between the four area committees and one 'Citywide' pot. If the bid is not successful it is proposed to divide the available funds equally between the area committees and 'Citywide' pot.

The current criteria for approving Safer City Grants is:

- The application is submitted by a group with a clear structure, and not an individual;
- There is an identified need for the project, which is supported by evidence;
- The project involves working in partnership with the community or other organisations;
- The aims of the project are clearly defined;
- The project has been realistically costed;
- The project represents value for money when comparing the amount of grant requested with the benefits described;
- The project falls within one of the priority areas shown in the Cambridge Community Safety Plan 2011-14
- The ways in which the project will be monitored and evaluated have been considered; and
- The cost of the project is less than £5,000.

It is proposed to keep the criteria as it is with one amendment as follows:

- The project falls within one of the priority areas shown in the Cambridge Community Safety Plan 2011-14 and the recurrent neighbourhood policing priorities within the area.

Currently the process for approval of grants is as follows:

- The application is submitted to the Safer Communities Section and is examined to ensure it has been completed correctly and fully, and that all the necessary evidence has been provided;
- Application is acknowledged;
- Application is then assessed, liaising with any identified partners and obtaining any further evidence to support the project;
- Safer Communities Section draw up a report on the application, together with a recommendation whether to accept or reject it;
- Application and report is then submitted to the Executive Councillor for Community Development & Health for approval with a copy sent to opposition spokes for information.