‘Safer Town Centres’ Grant Scheme 2025

Guidance Notes

The ‘Police & Crime Plan 2025-29: Fighting Crime, Making Hertfordshire Safer’ contains a focus on safer neighbourhoods and tackling crime & anti-social behaviour (ASB). This is illustrated by the following actions within the plan:

Within Priority 1 Make Hertfordshire Safer/Safer neighbourhoods

- Fund ‘safer streets’ interventions at neighbourhood level, securing match funding where possible, to undertake proactive, place-based crime reduction
- Focus on town centres to ensure they are safe places where businesses want to invest, and people want to spend their time

*Within Priority 3 Tackle Crime & Anti-social Behaviour/*Night-time economy

- Work with local authorities and venues to ensure our towns remain safe places for people to enjoy themselves

Improving safety in town centres is a key priority for the Commissioner. In response to public demand for more visible and responsive policing, including tackling ASB and disorder in communities, the Commissioner launched Operation Hotspot in 26 hotspots, primarily town centres. In its first year, Operation Hotspot delivered over 26,000 of additional high visibility police patrols, cutting crime, ASB and violence by 14.5%.

The Commissioner is now working with the police, local authorities, and business groups to build on this progress, with a concerted programme of activity to make Hertfordshire’s town centres safer, including high priority parks.

To support this work, the Commissioner is offering statutory, voluntary/community & the business sector/Business Improvement Districts the opportunity to bid for funding to implement measures to tackle issues in those areas.

Eligible Town Centres

Town centres which are eligible for funded activity are: Berkhamsted, Borehamwood, Bishop’s Stortford, Harpenden, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Hertford, Hitchin, Hoddesdon, Letchworth Garden City, Potters Bar, Rickmansworth, St Albans, Stevenage, Waltham Cross, Ware, Watford, Welwyn Garden City.

High priority parks are Hartham Common (Hertford) and Cassiobury Park (Watford).

Funded initiatives
Examples of the types of measures that could be funded include physical improvements to safety/security in town centres/parks, projects designed to reduce retail crime or ASB, projects to improve safety in the nighttime economy, and youth diversionary projects.

Applicants need to show that they have conducted research to make sure the project does not duplicate existing services or provision.

Initiatives should also strive to keep crime low and/or support victims where possible.
Priority will be given to bids which can begin mobilisation and impact during summer 2025.

How much funding can organisations/partnerships bid for?

- Up to £15,000 can be bid for by the Constabulary, District/Borough Councils, Town/Parish Council or Community Safety Partnerships.
- Up to £6000 can be bid for by Community/Voluntary & Charitable Groups or Business Sector Organisations.

Exceptionally strong/impactful bids from the Constabulary/ District or Borough Councils for greater amounts would be considered, particularly if match funding is offered.

Who can apply?
The fund is open to the Constabulary, District/Borough Councils, Town/Parish Council or Community Safety Partnerships as well as Community/Voluntary groups, Charitable Groups and Business Sector Organisations.

Constabulary applications need the support of the relevant Chief Inspector.

The Commissioner also wants to support innovative projects based on local collaborations and partnerships that can make a lasting difference to communities in terms of safety.

When to apply
There is no set deadline, with decisions made on a regular basis.

Eligibility

- You are a Community Safety Partnership (with Terms of Reference), a Parish, Town, or District/Borough Council or the Constabulary.
- Alternatively, you are a not for profit voluntary or community group or business sector organisation, active in your local community, with a written constitution or set of rules. This set of rules has at least the name of your group, its aims or purpose, objects, a dissolution clause for the group, a list of at least 3 Trustees/Committee members and Trustee/Committee members' signatures.

- Your organisation has its own bank account with at least two independent signatories and all the relevant Equal Opportunities and Safeguarding Policies required for your work.
- You are based in Hertfordshire or can show specifically how people in Hertfordshire benefit from your activities.

Exclusions

Applicant Exclusions:

- National Charities without a Hertfordshire branch or a clear Hertfordshire focus
- Individuals

Project Exclusions:

- General fundraising appeals
- Core/every day running costs; the fund is for projects, but you can include a contribution to running costs as a part of your proposal
- Retrospective funding
- Funding for CCTV cameras or ANPR equipment
- Funding for patrols by Constabulary or local authority wardens
- If the proposed project should be delivered using other public funding or replicates publicly funded service(s), it will not be considered