

Guidance Notes: Safer Town Centres Grant Scheme

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.

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.

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 either keep crime low and/or support victims where possible.

Priority will be given to bids which can begin mobilisation and impact within 2026.

Who can apply?

- The fund is open to the Constabulary, District/Borough Councils, Town/Parish Council or 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 and can make a lasting difference to communities in terms of safety.

How much funding can organisations/partnerships bid for?

- Up to £5000 can be bid for.
- Exceptionally strong/impactful bids from the Constabulary/ District or Borough Councils for higher amounts would be considered, particularly if match funding was offered.

When to apply

- The funding window will close on the 31st December 2026. Bids received after this will not be accepted.

Decision process

- Please make sure to provide as much detail as you can. Incomplete applications will not be considered within the review process.
- When you submit your application, somebody from the OPCC may contact you for further information and supplementary information or evidence.
- If your application is successful, you will be informed via email within 3 weeks of a full application being submitted.
- If successful, you will be required to complete project evaluation to report on the impact of your project, including results of relevant survey feedback.

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' signature.
- 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

Further questions?

- If you have any further questions about the grant scheme, then please email grants@herts-pcc.gov.uk