

PCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 0053/17
Classification (e.g. Not protectively marked/restricted):
Title of report: Pan Essex Council Tax Counter Fraud Software
Area of County/Stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by : Charles Garbett Date of report: 4th May 2017 Enquiries to: Charles.garbett@essex.pnn.police.uk

- 1. Purpose of report**
 - 1.1 To seek approval of £42,441 to fund the Essex Police contribution to the Pan Essex Council Tax Counter Fraud Software.
- 2. Recommendations**
 - 2.1 Approve funding to contribute to the Pan Essex Council Tax Counter Fraud Software. This includes a capital element of £24,457 and revenue of £17,984.
- 3. Benefits of Proposal**
 - 3.1 The proposal will assist to reduce the amount of council tax which is awarded in council tax discounts and exemptions across Essex. It is estimated that the implementation of the software will result in estimated annual savings of £486,354 over four and a half years.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has signed up to the Council Tax Sharing Agreement and the Information Sharing Protocol – Counter Fraud Initiative. Please see decision sheet 83/14 for additional information.
- 4.2 The Fraud Initiative is intended to reduce the amount of public money lost to fraud and error each year. It aims to do so by sharing information from a number of databases held by the district, unitary and county councils in Essex.
- 4.3 The main purpose is to protect the Council Tax base by ensuring that discounts and exemptions are awarded only to people who are entitled to them. Matching data on a monthly basis will identify if other systems across Essex contain contradictory information regarding household, residency and income information which may suggest that a discount or exemption has been incorrectly awarded.
- 4.4 Braintree District Council is the lead authority for the purchase and implementation of the Counter Fraud Software in Essex. All authorities in Essex including the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Essex Fire Authority have signed up to the agreement.

5. Police and Crime Plan

- 5.1 The performance of district councils in collecting council tax impacts on the level of council tax receipts which are a significant funding source need to support the Police and Crime Plan.

6. Police Operational Implications

- 6.1 No police operational implications.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 Cost to the Police and Crime Commissioner over 5 years is £42,441. This includes £24,457 implementation cost which will be capitalised. With a further IT support and maintenance cost of £4,496 each year for years 2 to 5.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 PCC has signed up to the council tax sharing agreement and is bound by the terms of this agreement.

9. Staffing and other resource implications

- 9.1 There are no staffing implications for the PCC, however Braintree District Council are leading the implementation of the software.

10. Equality and Diversity implications

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

11. Background papers

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the OPCC Chief Executive and Treasurer, prior to review and sign off by the PCC / DPCC .

Chief Executive/M.O Sign: 

Print: S Hancock

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Sign: 

Print: Charles Crabbett

Decision

I agree the recommendations to this report;

Sign: 

Print: R.C. Hirst

PCC/Deputy PCC

Date signed: 5/6/17

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because;

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Sign:

Print:

PCC/Deputy PCC

Date signed:

Publication

Report for publication

YES

NO

Reasons for non-publication (*state 'None' if applicable*)

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Sign:

Print:

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.