

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 047/20
Classification: Not protectively marked
Title of report: Chamber of Commerce ERF support model
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Greg Myddelton
Date of report: 3 April 2020
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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To approve the allocation of £20,000 from the PFCC's 2020-21 Community Safety Fund to the Essex Chamber of Commerce to enable the delivery of a helpline and coordination function between businesses and the Essex Resilience Forum (ERF) in response to the COVID19 pandemic.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of £20,000 from the PFCC's 2020-21 Community Safety Fund to support the Essex Chamber of Commerce to deliver a support service to link local businesses with organisations through the Essex Resilience Forum (ERF) to ensure efficient sharing of opportunities to respond to the COVID19 pandemic.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. This helpline service will involve using the Essex Chamber of Commerce to receive calls from businesses with offers of support, and sharing a regular summary of those available opportunities with the ERF. As part of the contact, the Chamber of Commerce will also discuss with businesses how Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service support may be available to them. The Chamber will act as the intermediary between businesses and the ERF, ensuring ERF needs are communicated to businesses who may be able to meet them. The Chamber will manage the businesses' expectations and ensure they feel appreciated and supported. Where offers of support are not required by the

ERF, the Chamber will work to make them available to a wider audience through its existing networks and resources.

3.2. It is anticipated that the project will deliver several benefits:

- Providing a consistent and clear process for businesses to make offers of essential products and/or services that could be utilised by the ERF
- Giving ERF members a reliable and professional channel through which to request and access required products, supplies and services
- Ensuring businesses offering products and services have a professional and well-resourced communication line to engage with
- Having a system in place to offer Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service messages to businesses engaging through the phone line

3.3. Products and services that could be requested/supplied include:

- Medical supplies such as surgical face masks, gloves, aprons, gowns (PPE equipment), ventilators, and Emergency Suction Unit Medical Devices
- Redeployed staff - where staff have been furloughed and have transferable skills
- Volunteers
- Logistical help – van drivers, taxi firms etc
- Premises
- Food
- Security
- Technical help
- Advice, guidance and help with employment issues, loans and grants
- General signposting, reassurance, and management of expectations

4. Background and proposal

4.1. The Chamber of Commerce will use its resources, including four members of staff and its Chief Executive, as well as its extensive experience, skills and networks to put in place a system for liaising with businesses to identify opportunities for supporting the Essex Resilience Forum with products and services required for the response to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic.

4.2. The Chamber will act as a portal through which the ERF can make requests for support of Essex businesses, bringing rigour, professionalism, and capacity to such requests for help.

4.3. The PFCC will monitor the effectiveness and value of this project through simple measures including number of engagements and transactions as well as qualitative feedback from businesses and the ERF.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

5.1. There are many offers of help and support in response to COVID19. This project is an attempt to standardise and group together those requests in an orderly and accessible way in order to maximise the value derived from them. The PFCC

may choose not to do this, but it is felt that the benefits to both businesses and the ERF will outweigh the costs.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1. This project is in line with commitments made in the Essex *Crime Against Business* strategy, specifically to create safe and secure communities where local businesses can thrive.

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1. No direct operational implications

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will provide a one-off grant of £20,000 from the 2020-21 Community Safety Fund to the Essex Chamber of Commerce. This grant will be subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement conditions.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. This funding is subject to the terms of the PFCC's standard grant agreements.

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1. The use of this funding to employ staff or sessional workers will be the responsibility of the Chamber of Commerce. No liabilities, immediate or ongoing, will be placed on the PFCC as a result of this funding.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

- 11.1. The PFCC has a responsibility through the Public Sector Equality Duty to consider how decisions affect people who are protected under the Equality Act. In order to comply with this duty, the PFCC applies conditions on this funding that:

- The Recipient shall not unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of any law, enactment, order, or regulation relating to discrimination (whether in race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age or otherwise) in employment or otherwise.
- The Recipient shall take all reasonable steps to secure the observance of Clause 20.1 by all servants, employees or agents of the Recipient and all suppliers and sub-contractors engaged on the Project.

12. Risks

- 12.1. There is no anticipated risk associated with this funding.

13. Governance Boards

- 13.1. This decision has been discussed and approved in principal at the PFCC's Senior Management Team meetings on 2.4.20 and 3.4.20.

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the OPFCC Chief Executive and Treasurer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign:



Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 3 April 2020

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: N/A – Below the threshold for CFO

Print: approval

Date:

Publication

Is the report for publication?

YES

NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)

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.....N/A.....

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

Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet?

YES

2. Of Appendix?

YES

NO

NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

.....
.....N/A.....

Date redaction carried out:

Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only

If redaction is required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign:

Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC

Date signed: 6 April 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: