

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 077/20

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: Festival of Rice and Spice 2020

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Colchester

Report by: Kirsty Smith (Commissioning Officer)

Date of report: 17th June 2020

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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the allocation of £2,000 in the form of a crime and disorder reduction grant from the 2020-21 Community Safety Fund to Essex Police as a contribution to the costs of the annual Festival of Rice and Spice

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To approve the allocation of £2,000 to Essex Police as a contribution to the local Festival of Rice and Spice event.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. Research and experience from previous events have identified this as an excellent vehicle to promote and improve community cohesion and trust. Following the 2019 event, festival planners said that 'members of minority communities attending the festival are increasing becoming more confident and comfortable in their interaction with the police. This is very positive and must go a long way towards fostering a closer and more sustained community / police relationship and greater collaboration.'
- 3.2. At the 2018 event, Essex Police recruited four Special Constables who have now been trained and are supporting their local communities and, at last year's event, a further five special constables from BAME communities were recruited.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. This is the fifth year of this event. The PFCC has provided match funding on previous occasions, recognising the value of such a celebration.

- 4.2. The Festival of Rice and Spice is a free one-day festival bringing Colchester's diverse local communities together to celebrate - built around the global themes of diversity and equality. It creates an opportunity and a platform for all local communities in Colchester to showcase and share their heritage through food, dance, music, performance and visual arts. The network of organisations involved represents a wide range of communities, including Bangladeshi, Black African, Caribbean, Chinese, Eastern European, Indian, Iraqi, Nepalese, Syrian, and Turkish, along with refugees, migrant workers, travellers and local White British groups, together with individuals from many other nationalities.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. The PFCC has the option not to allocate this funding, but this event has historically had a positive impact on improving Police relationships with diverse communities in Essex. If funding were to cease, this may have a negative impact on community relationships and inhibit the ability of organisers to deliver an impactful event.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1 This grant supports the PFCC's ambition to make the police part of local communities and local communities part of the police.

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1 Essex Police officers support this event. The application for this funding is from the Colchester Local Policing Team which is supporting coordination of the event.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will allocate a one-off grant of £2,000 to Essex Police from the 2020-21 Community Safety Fund.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1 The grant would be subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1. There are no staffing implications for the PFCC.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

- 11.1. The purpose of the event is to improve relationships between diverse groups. As noted at paragraph 3.2 above, it has historically provided an excellent opportunity for the recruitment of Special Constables from BAME communities.
- 11.2. A full Equality Impact Assessment is attached.



Festival of Rice
EIA.docx

12. Risks

- 12.1. No risks are anticipated from the continued support of this event. The event has been running for several years without concern.

13. Governance Boards

n/a

14. Background papers

Equality Impact Assessment (embedded above)

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the PFCC Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFC.

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign:

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 26 August 2020

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign:

Print: Elizabeth Helm

Date: 1 September 2020

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)

.....
.....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:

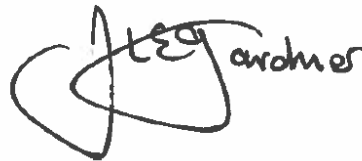
Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Date signed:

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:



Sign:

Jane Gardner

Print:

Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 2 September 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: