

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 120/20
Classification; Not protectively marked
Title of report: FireBike Manager and Instructor
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Kirsty Smith
Date of report: 9 October 2020
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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the allocation of £16,000 (£8,000 in 2020-2021 and a further £8,000 in 2021-2022) in the form of crime and disorder reduction grant to Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) as a contribution to the costs of a FireBike Manager and Instructor.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of £16,000 (£8,000 per annum) to ECFRS as a contribution to the salary for a two-year fixed term contract for a FireBike Manager and Instructor.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. The FireBike Manager and Instructor will
 - Improve the knowledge and understanding of safety issues on the road to motorcyclists across Essex
 - Aim to deliver a 20% increase in the volume of referrals into the ECFRS FireBike initiative
 - Support the development of a motorcycle steering group
 - Increase the reach of seasonal media campaign, and supporting the Safer Essex Road Partnership (SERP) campaigns
 - Support major events in the community; including community days of action and festivals
- 3.2. This role will help to achieve the Commissioner and SERP's strategic priority to reduce death and serious injury on Essex roads to zero.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. SERP have identified motorcyclists as a key target group because they comprise less than 1% of the traffic but have 26% of fatal and serious collisions (194 in 2016). 37% of these involved male riders aged 16-25 years.
- 4.2. In order to reduce the amount of fatal and serious collisions ECFRS offer a suite of road traffic collision tools including FireBike, an established road traffic collision reduction product. FireBike is a considered and pragmatic approach to reducing the number of motorcycle road traffic collisions. It provides an effective and respected means to directly communicate and engage with motorcyclists and promotes safe riding, the use of protective equipment and the benefits of advanced rider training. The FireBike team delivers rider skills training through its established and popular FireBike Better Biking Courses and FireBike Advanced Machine Skills Courses.
- 4.3. There are seven members of the FireBike team. They currently report into a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) reduction manager. The current RTC reduction manager is due to retire in 2020 and ECFRS started the process to recruit a replacement. During this process ECFRS recognised that over the last five years the role and the RTC product offered by ECFRS has expanded. Therefore, ECFRS completed a review of the current role and responsibilities.
- 4.4. The purpose of the RTC reduction manager involves planning, developing, booking and delivering RTC reduction products and to work with external organisations and agencies, particularly those within SERP, to ensure that ECFRS meets its commitments set out in the SERP Joint Road Safety Delivery Plan.
- 4.5. Motorcycle riders are a specific group of road users who have been identified as being at a higher risk of being involved in a road traffic collision. In order to support the priorities of SERP and to respond to the needs of this vulnerable group, it is proposed that a dedicated FireBike Manager and Instructor should be recruited who will have responsibility to continue to support and develop the FireBike product and report into the RTC Manager.
- 4.6. The proposal is to provide a fixed term contract for two years for a FireBike Manager and Instructor working 21 hours per week. They will
 - Manage, organise, co-ordinate and support the ECFRS FireBike product
 - Organise and deliver the FireBike Better Biking Courses and FireBike Advanced Machine Skills Courses
 - Administration of the FireBike budget and submission of funding bids to the Safer Essex Roads Partnership
- 4.7. The total cost for this post is £24,000 per annum. ECFRS and SERP have committed to £8,000 each towards this role and this proposed decision is for the PFCC to also provide £8,000.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

5.1. The PFCC could opt not to support this project but without this dedicated post, limited work with this vulnerable road user group will be undertaken. There has been a reduction in recent years of the number of people in this group who are killed or seriously injured, and this post will help to continue this positive progress by continuing to effectively engage and train motorcyclists.

6. Police and Crime Plan

6.1. This grant supports the PFCC priority to improve road safety by reducing harm and promoting safer driving.

7. Police operational implications

7.1. With less road traffic collisions overtime there will be a reduction in the demand on Essex Police resource.

8. Financial implications

8.1. The PFCC will allocate £8,000 from 2020/21 Community Safety Fund and £8,000 from 2021/22 Community Safety Fund.

9. Legal implications

9.1. The award of the grant is subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.

10. Staffing implications

10.1. ECFRS will be responsible for the management of this new role

10.2. ECFRS have evaluated this role as JCAN Grad 8

11. Equality and Diversity implications

11.1. Not applicable for Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment. ECFRS will manage human resourcing ensuring they meet recruitment standards

12. Risks

12.1. There is a risk that the new post does not meets its set objectives. ECFRS will be responsible for this risk. The outcomes for this new role will be monitored through SERP

13. Governance Boards

13.1. This has been approved by SERP and ECFRS

14. Background papers



FireBike Manager
and Instructor Role PrData 2015 - 2019.doc



FireBike Evaluation



Business case for
New MC role.pdf

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.

Deputy M.O.

Sign:



Print: Darren Horsman

Date: 7 January 2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign:



Print: Elizabeth Helm

Date: 11 January 2021

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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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:

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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: 13 January 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC