

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 131-20
Classification Not protectively marked
Title of report: Essex Association of Local Councils Engagement Support
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Darren Horsman Date of report: 05.11/2020 Enquiries to: Darren.Horsman@essex.pnn.police.uk

1. Purpose of the report

To seek agreement to pay Essex Association of Local Councils £20,000 (£10,000 for 2020-2021 and £10,000 for 2021-2022) to provide a range of engagement and communication support as listed below.

2. Recommendations

That the PFCC agrees to pay Essex Association of Local Councils £20,000 (£10,000 for 2020-2021 and £10,000 for 2021-2022) from the Community Safety Fund for the provision of a series of engagement events and regular ongoing communications support.

3. Benefits of the proposal

The Essex Association of Local Councils will support the Commissioner in delivering the following activity during each year of this agreement.

- Distribution of weekly performance data by Essex Police.
- Distribution of news, events and updates from the PFCC.
- Distribution of performance data, news and campaign material from ECFRS.

- Distribution of briefing documents from the Essex Resilience Forum
- EALC will also work with their membership to evaluate the effectiveness of these communications, providing feedback where possible to help each organisation improve how they engage with local elected representatives.
- Hold four tailored online engagement events each year, promoting these events to their members, facilitating questions and participating in these discussions with the Commissioner and representatives from the Services.

The EALC will also promote job vacancies, urgent messages and notices and promote surveys and questionnaires' as appropriate to their members.

4. Background and proposal

The Essex Association of Local Councils is a valued partner that has provided consistent and growing support for the Commissioner over the past few years. Since the introduction of district engagement, EALC has provided significant support to the Essex Police engagement team in sharing performance data and local updates.

For the last four years the PFCC and EALC have delivered collaboratively an Emergency Services Conference for parish and town councils across Essex. This has proved popular and a valuable opportunity to engage with local elected representatives. These conferences have been used to launch the Community Special Scheme and the district engagement plans and have led to strong buy in and support from local, town and parish councils.

During 2020 the impact of COVID has meant that our engagement with locally elected representatives has had to change, with regular face-to-face engagement severely restricted. EALC have been an important element of how we have replaced this traditional engagement with more regular communications and the introduction of several online engagement opportunities.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

It was considered whether the Commissioner could establish his own alternative communication channels to these locally elected representatives however, the cost, time and lower value of this bespoke solution led to the team deciding to work in partnership with EALC instead.

6. Police and Crime Plan

Partnership and Communication and Engagement are identified as key enablers within the Police and Crime Plan and this proposal strengthens capacity within these areas. The proposal also puts on a significantly stronger footing the established channels to reaching the tens of thousands of parish and town councillors across the county.

7. Police operational implications

This will directly support Essex Police's ability to engage with their local communities.

8. Financial implications

This decision covers the first two years of this agreement with the funding being allocated through the Community Safety Fund. Any further funding will be agreed by a subsequent decision.

9. Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications from this decision.

10. Staffing implications

This decision will not have any direct staffing implications.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

Information shared via EALC from the PFCC will largely link through to the Commissioner's website and so will be available in an accessible format. EALC are currently exploring plans to move their communication on to an online portal which will allow greater accessibility of all content and tracking of access by members of the public.

The PFCC in their Equality Diversity and Inclusion Strategy state their desired aim to engage with communities across Essex and this agreement will provide strong support for reaching a wider range of local communities in remote and at times isolated locations.

12. Risks

EALC, like many organisations, are operating under unusual and difficult circumstances. COVID has disrupted the normal operational activity of many organisations which has increased the risk to them and their ongoing ability to operate. This is a risk shared across the world and is not considered to be a specific risk to EALC. As such, on balance it is considered that a two-year funding agreement is a proportionate approach and reduces the risk to the PFCC compared to a longer-term agreement.

13. Governance Boards

This proposal has not been discussed at a governance board.

14. Background papers

N/A

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: 10 November 2020

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign:



Print: Elizabeth Helm

Date: 10 November 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)

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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: 10 November 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC