

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 004-21
Classification; Not protectively marked
Title of report: Rural Crime Hare Coursing -Crimestoppers
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Kirsty Smith
Date of report: 21 January 2021
Enquiries to: kirsty.smith@essex.police.uk

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the allocation of £1,500 in the form of a crime and disorder reduction grant to Essex Police for them to contribute to a Crimestoppers awareness and intelligence campaign on hare coursing across Essex.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of £1,500 from the 2020/21 Community Safety Fund to Essex Police as a contribution to a Crimestoppers awareness campaign on hare coursing.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. The campaign aim is to generate awareness of hare coursing and the issues it causes across Essex.
- 3.2. The campaign will educate members of the public on spotting the signs of hare coursing activity and to encourage reporting.
- 3.3. Crimestoppers provide the opportunity for members of the public to report crime and provide intelligence anonymously helping Police build evidence to prosecute and prevent criminal activity.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. Hare Coursing is a blood sport where dogs are used to chase, catch and kill hares. It is illegal in the UK. Hare Coursing in Essex largely impacts our rural communities.

- 4.2. Essex Police Rural Engagement Team are responsible for providing long term problem solving in rural communities. A main focus of this team is to tackle and prevent hare coursing.
- 4.3. Since August 2017 there has been a steady decline in number of recorded hare course incidents. However, this is impacted by high seasonality. Uttlesford, Braintree and Maldon have the most recorded incidents over the three years to July 2020. This reflects the rural environment in those districts.
- 4.4. In order to continue to support the steady decline of Hare Coursing and continue to encourage the public to report incidents a Crimestoppers campaign has been developed. The campaign will focus on areas where this crime is common and focus on certain demographics. The campaign will also use insight into the interests and behaviours of people involved in Hare Coursing to target activity. The campaign will run from the beginning of February 2021 until the end of March 2021.
- 4.5. The cost of the campaign is £3000. This will be funded equally between Essex Police and Police Fire and Crime Commissioner.
- 4.6. This campaign will coincide and support a Police operation targeting hare coursing and fly tipping.
- 5. Alternative options considered and rejected**
 - 5.1. The PFCC could opt not to support this project and Essex Police will have to adjust the proposed campaign in order to deliver within a reduced budget. In turn, this may reduce the impact that this project can have in raising awareness of hare coursing in rural communities.
- 6. Police and Crime Plan**
 - 6.1. This grant supports the PFCC priority for more local, visible and accessible policing. Particularly, working with our rural communities to strengthen our response to preventing and fighting crime in rural areas.
- 7. Police operational implications**
 - 7.1. Funding will support Essex Police Rural Engagement Team response to tackling and engaging crime within rural communities.
- 8. Financial implications**
 - 8.1. The PFCC will allocate £1,500 from 2020/21 Community Safety Fund to Essex Police as a contribution in order to deliver a Crimestoppers campaign.
- 9. Legal implications**
 - 9.1. The award of the grant is subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.
- 10. Staffing implications**
 - 10.1. Changing Pathways will be responsible for the management of this new role.
- 11. Equality and Diversity implications**
 - 11.1. Crimestoppers is a targeted campaign towards rural geographic communities where this type of crime takes place. There is no impact to protected characteristics and therefore does not require an equality impact assessment.

12. Risks

12.1. No risks have been identified.

13. Governance Boards

N/A

14. Background papers

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: 21 January 2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: 

Print: Elizabeth Helm

Date: 25 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
NO

2. Of Appendix? YES
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: 29 January 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: