

## PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

<b>Report reference number:</b> 025-21
<b>Classification:</b> Not protectively marked
<b>Title of report:</b> Browsealoud – text help
<b>Area of county / stakeholders affected:</b> Countywide
<b>Report by:</b> Darren Horsman
<b>Date of report:</b> 26 February 2021
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Darren.horsman@essex.police.uk

**1. Purpose of the report**

To approve the allocation of £2,844 from the PFCC's communications budget to pay for a 2-year contract with Browsealoud to provide a text help service for the PFCC website.

**2. Recommendations**

Approve the allocation of £2,844 from the PFCC's communication budget to continue with this service and ensure we meet our accessibility obligations.

**3. Benefits of the proposal**

The service helps people who may not be able to read the PFCC website to access the content by providing an audio read out of the text. This supports the Commissioner's obligation to ensure the website is accessible and the public sector equality duty to ensure people with protected characteristics can access relevant and timely information.

These statutory obligations also support the wider participation of the public in the work of the PFCC and build public confidence.

**4. Background and proposal**

We have been using Browsaloud service for the last four year and have received positive anecdotal feedback. We have asked partners to test the service and have undertaken spot tests on different file formats and pages within the website and these have demonstrated the service is delivering a useful and effective service.

The service was also included in an assessment of the accessibility of our website in summer 2020 so any decision not to continue with the service would require us to find an alternative and rerun that accessibility assessment.

- 5. Alternative options considered and rejected**

We could decide not to continue with this contract but it would introduce significant risk that we were excluding sections of our communities from understanding the work of the commissioner and limiting their access to information which they have a right to know and that helps them play an active and engaged part in society.
- 6. Police and Crime Plan**

This service helps sections of our community engage with the police and crime plan and the work of the commissioner.
- 7. Police operational implications**

No direct operational implications.
- 8. Financial implications**

The cost of the service for two years is £2,844.
- 9. Legal implications**

There are no legal implications and the relevant checks of the service for GDPR compliance and been undertaken.
- 10. Staffing implications**

There are no staffing implications.
- 11. Equality and Diversity implications**

The Commissioner has a duty to develop clear and accessible information and help groups with protected characteristics understand and engage with the Service and the work that the PFCC does. This service is part of a wider range of activity that supports this.
- 12. Risks**

There is no specific risk associated with this project.
- 13. Governance Boards**


This decision has not been discussed at any governance boards.
- 14. Background Papers**

The quote for this service is attached.

**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: 26 February 2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign:  .....

Print: Julia Berry .....

Date: 3 March 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:** 10 March 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

.....  
.....  
.....

**Sign:** .....

**Print:** .....

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:** .....