

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

<p>Report reference number: 111-21</p> <p>Classification Not protectively marked</p>
<p>Title of report: Essex Association of Local Councils Engagement Support</p>
<p>Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide</p>
<p>Report by: Kirsty Smith</p> <p>Date of report: 21st July 2021</p> <p>Enquiries to: kirsty.smith@essex.police.uk</p>

1. Purpose of the report

To seek agreement to support the ongoing partnership between Essex Association of Local Councils with a £20,000 (£10,000 for 2022-2023 and £10,000 for 2023-2024) contribution towards their ongoing costs.

2. Recommendations

That the PFCC agrees to support Essex Association of Local Councils with £20,000 (£10,000 for 2022-2023 and £10,000 for 2023-2024) from the Community Safety Fund.

3. Benefits of the proposal

The Essex Association of Local Councils provide a vital role in connecting our emergency services with Parish and Town Councils. Their ongoing operation and support helps Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner connect with communities across Essex, promote positive campaigns and hear back about issues and concerns that these communities have.

Example of the ongoing benefit of this partnership includes:

- Distribution of weekly performance data, news and campaign material from 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 or other partnership forums as appropriate
- 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 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.

EALC 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. Their connection and role with Parish and Town Councils across Essex provide a valuable conduit to these communities, strengthening the democratic accountability at a local level and providing strong links into these local councils for our Services.

Since the introduction of district engagement reports, EALC has also provided significant support to the Essex Police engagement team in sharing performance data and local updates.

The PFCC and EALC have also 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.

EALC received a previous £20,000 (£10,000 2020-21 and £10,000 2021-22) and the ongoing partnership has continued to grow and develop over the last two years.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

The Commissioner does have the choice not to provide this partnership funding however this would diminish the positive work that EALC can do with their members. It may also weaken the links between parish and town councils and their local police and fire and rescue representatives. This would make the delivery of the police and crime plan more difficult.

It was also considered whether the Commissioner could establish their own alternative support for locally elected representatives however, the cost, time and lower value of this bespoke solution led to the clear conclusion that it would be better 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 and working with 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

£20,000 (£10,000 for 2022-2023 and £10,000 for 2023-2024) will be allocated to EALC from the Community Safety Fund.

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

No significant risks have been identified. EALC have been supporting the PFCC for the past two years and have provided demonstrated good value for money.

13. Governance Boards

This proposal is not subject to any governance boards. It has been discussed with Strategic Head of Policy and Public Engagement and Deputy Crime Commissioner who have demonstrated initial support.

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: 16 August 2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: 

Print: Julia Berry

Date: 16 August 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: Jane Gardner

PFCC Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 16 August 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: