

## PFCC Decision Report

**Please ensure all sections below are completed**

<b>Report reference number:</b> 181-21
<b>Classification</b> (e.g. Not protectively marked/restricted): <b>Not protectively marked</b>
<b>Title of report:</b> Decision Making Policy
<b>Area of county / stakeholders affected:</b> Countywide
<b>Report by:</b> Darren Horsman <b>Date of report:</b> 4.1.2022 <b>Enquiries to:</b> Darren.Horsman@essex.police.uk

### 1. Purpose of the report

To seek agreement on the revised Decision Making Policy that sets out how the Commissioner's decisions are made in a clear, robust and transparent way that is available to the public.

### 2. Recommendations

That the Commissioner agrees the revised Decision Making Policy.

### 3. Benefits of the proposal

The Commissioner makes hundreds of decisions each year both as the PFCC and the PFCC FRA. These decisions range from agreement to enter into multi-million-pound contracts to the allocation of small amounts of funding for community groups. The decisions made by the Commissioner have a direct impact on Communities in Essex and it is right that they are transparent, and the public can clear see the decision being made by their democratically elected representative.

The Decision Making Policy sets out a clear approach for the Commissioner to make decisions, the advice they will receive prior to making a decision and the process which will be undertaken to ensure these decisions are made transparently. This will provide the public, and the Police, Fire and Crime Panel, the information required to understand

and scrutinise the decision's of the Commissioner. This will underpin public confidence, build trust and promote ethical, transparent decision making.

#### **4. Background and proposal**

The Decision Making Policy has been in place for a number of years and sets out the process that will be followed when making decisions. The current revision aligns the policy with recent changes to the PFCC Constitution and provides much greater clarity in terms of the role and responsibilities of scrutiny officers and statutory officers.

The revisions in the policy relate to the increased scrutiny of decision reports at Strategic Board, the decision to include decision reports relating to virements at Performance and Resource Boards and the establishment of Scrutiny Officers within the PFCC team.

The revision is part of our regular review of PFCC Policies through the PFCC's office policy framework.

#### **5. Alternative options considered and rejected**

The Commissioner could have chosen not to update the Decision Making Policy but this would have meant the policy did not reflect the current practice and decisions to improve the process were not reflected in the policy. This would have increased the risk that these policy improvements would not be continued, and this would reduce both the efficiency and rigour of the current decision-making processes.

#### **6. Police and Crime Plan**

Taking effective decisions is essential to the successful implementation of the Police and Crime Plan. Each decision report has a specific section where the impact on the police and crime plan is outlined so the Commissioner, the public and the Panel can clearly see the impact any single decision will have on either the Police and Crime Plan or Fire and Rescue Plan.

#### **7. Police operational implications**

While the decisions made by the Commissioner have a large impact on operational policing this decision to update the current Decision Making Policy will not have any direct operational policing implication.

#### **8. Financial implications**

This decision will not have any direct financial implication.

#### **9. Legal implications**

This decision reflects the arrangements for making decisions set out in the PFCC Constitution and PFCC FRA Constitution. It also incorporates all of the relevant sections which the Commissioner must have regard to when making a sound decision including the equality and diversity implications, alternative options, and police and Crime Plan.

**10. Staffing implications**

This policy will provide a useful guide for staff both within the PFCC's team and Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

**11. Equality and Diversity implications**

This Policy incorporates the Commissioner's Public Sector Equality Duty Obligations and ensure that these are considered when the Commissioner makes decisions.

**12. Risks**

There is a risk that decisions are taken without due regard to the relevant statutory obligations on the Commissioner. This policy sets out to mitigate this risk by providing a clear and detailed process and policy for the Commissioner to make decisions and for the transparent scrutiny of those decisions by the public and the Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

**13. Governance Boards**

This Policy has been considered by the PFCC's Management Team and discussed at the Commissioner's Senior Management Team meeting on the 4/1/2022.

**14. Background papers**

Decision Making Policy including the template Decision Reports for PFCC and PFCC FRA and the Decision Making Processes for PFCC and PFCC FRA.

**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.


Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign:  .....

Print: Darren Horsman - Deputy MO .....

Date: 4.1.2022 .....

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign:  .....

Print: Janet Perry .....

Date: 21 June 2022.....

**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

Date signed: .....

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report:

**Sign:** 

**Print:** Roger Hirst

**PFCC**

**Date signed:** 7 July 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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

**Sign:**

**Print:**

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**