

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 150-22

Classification (e.g. Not protectively marked/restricted): **Not protectively marked**

Title of report: Essex Association of Local Councils support

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Darren Horsman

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Date of report: 26/9/2022

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1. Executive Summary

Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) was provided with £20,000 (£10,000 for 2020-2021 and £10,000 for 2021-2022) to provide a range of engagement and communication support. The PFCC also worked with the EALC, including contributing up to £5,000, to host a shared conference for parish and town councils across Essex. This paper recommends an extension of the arrangement for the remaining of the current PFCC's term, so covering 2023-2024.

2. Recommendations

That the PFCC agrees to pay Essex Association of Local Councils £10,000 from the Community Safety Fund for the provision of a series of engagement events and regular ongoing communications support. That the PFCC agrees to contribute 1/3 of the costs (estimated at £4,000 and no more than £5,000) from the Community Safety

Fund to the EALC towards a shared conference in September 2023 for parish and town councils.

3. Background to the 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 seven 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 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 replaced this traditional engagement with more regular communications and the introduction of several online engagement opportunities.

During 2022 as we have continued to re-establish our engagement programme, taking on board the lessons learnt through the pandemic, we have benefited from regular and positive engagement with the EALC members and would anticipate this being a significant strand of activity over the remaining years of this term.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

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, district level newsletters and recruitment activity 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 as required.
- The 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.

- The EALC will support the Commissioner in holding regular engagement events with their members, 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.

5. Options Analysis

It was considered whether the Commissioner could establish their 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. Consultation and Engagement

n/a

7. Strategic Links

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.

8. Police operational implications

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

9. Financial implications

This decision covers 2023-2024 with the funding being allocated through the Community Safety Fund. Any further funding will be agreed by a subsequent decision.

10. Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications from this decision.

11. Staffing implications

This will not have any direct staffing implication.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion 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.

13. Risks and Mitigations

There is the risk that EALC will not be able to deliver this over the course of 2023-24 however, given their previous strong record of delivery this is a very low-level risk.

14. Governance Boards

This decision was discussed and supported at the Commissioner's Senior Management Team meeting on 27.9.2022.

15. Links to Future Plans

n/a

16. Background Papers and Appendices

n/a

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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Date redaction carried out:

Chief Finance Officer / 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:

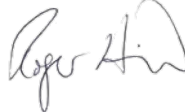
Print:

Chief Executive / Chief Finance Officer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign:



Print:

Roger Hirst

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 10 October 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: