

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 016- 23

Classification: OFFICIAL

Title of report: Replacement Unmarked Motorcycles

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: David Stovell – Finance Business Partner

Date of report: 27 January 2023

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1. Executive Summary

The Roads Policing team within the Operational Policing Command seeks approval to include the purchase of two replacement unmarked motorcycles as additional elements of the capital programme which forms part of the current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

The capital purchase cost for the motorcycles is £29,000. There are also five-year revenue budget consequences associated with the purchase which total £30,000 for the proposed five-year lifetime of the motorcycles.

The existing motorcycles have been fully funded by the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) during their operational service. The SERP Board has committed to fully funding this replacement proposal such that there will be no additional financial burden on the MTFS during the operational lifetime of the motorcycles.

The proposal is a like-for-like replacement of existing motorcycles that are reaching the end of their useful operational life, but which are excluded from the Transport Services fleet replacement programme due to the fact that they are funded directly by SERP rather than through the force capital programme.

This decision report summarises how Essex Police will utilise the funding and seeks agreement from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to add the proposal to the capital programme so as to facilitate the purchase of the replacement motorcycles.

2. Recommendations

1. That the Commissioner approves the proposal to add the purchase of two replacement unmarked motorcycles to the capital programme, with a capital budget of £29,000 and a revenue consequences budget of £30,000 (£6,000 per annum) The full cost of £59,000 will be met in its entirety by SERP.
2. That the Commissioner approves the appropriation in 2022/23 of £30,000 of the SERP funding to earmarked reserves, representing the revenue consequences associated with operating the motorcycles. This funding to be subsequently drawn-down on an annual basis at the rate of £6,000 per annum for the proposed five-year operational life of the motorcycles.

3. Background to the proposal

Provision of two unmarked motorcycles through SERP funding has allowed the Roads Policing team to deliver additional enforcement and prevention activities with an overarching desire to improve safety on the roads. The partnership with SERP has been instrumental in reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on the road network in Essex.

As SERP continues to support the Roads Policing team through the proposed provision of the replacement on-road resources, this will be a contributory factor in supporting the Commissioner's objective to improve safety on our roads, to promote safer driving behaviours and to robustly target those who cause the most harm.

The replacement motorcycles will continue to provide an invaluable asset both in terms of policing operational ability of SERP-related community engagement activities, along with business as usual for Roads Policing.

Use of the replacement motorcycles will allow ongoing collaboration with partner agencies and other regional police forces. Essex Police could continue to extend enforcement opportunities, including both daytime and night-time operations, as well as supporting existing regional operational activities. Furthermore, use of the motorcycles would assist with nationwide Highways England operations in line with National Police Chiefs Council aims and objectives.

The existing motorcycles do not have a communication system that now fully meets the operational requirements of Essex Police; hence they are no longer regarded as being fit for purpose. As SERP provided the initial funding for the motorcycles, discussions ensued with the SERP Manager to ascertain whether the partnership would support the replacement programme. This was subsequently agreed at the SERP Board in November 2022, allowing an application to be submitted to add the project to the force capital programme. The proposal now requires the Commissioner's approval to enable the capital programme and MTFS to be amended accordingly and the replacements to be purchased.

4. Proposal and associated benefits

The proposal is to utilise prospective funding of £59,000 from SERP (£29,000 capital income and £30,000 revenue income) to purchase and maintain two

replacement unmarked motorcycles (£29,000 capital cost and £30,000 revenue cost over a five-year period). The motorcycles would be incorporated within the existing fleet for Essex Police, as are the existing motorcycles that would be replaced by the purchase, but operate outside of the existing fleet replacement programme, as overseen by Transport Services.

The operational benefits of the replacement motorcycles include allowing officers to undertake proactive unmarked patrols of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) of Essex. This covers the popular A and B roads which are used by the powered two-wheel community. Operations will increase the opportunity for detection and deterrence of offences and offenders.

Further benefits associated with the purchase of two replacement unmarked motorcycles include:

- Providing further investment in operational activities which promote improved road safety and a reduction in casualties in line with Vision Zero.
- Further enhancing the partnership with SERP and providing collaborative operational opportunities with other police forces and Highways England.
- Enhancing resilience to support SERP-related enforcement activities, in addition to community engagement behaviour.
- Assisting Essex Police in its wider aims to reduce the free use of the SRN to those engaged in criminal activity.

5. Options analysis

The preferred option is that the Commissioner endorses the recommendations contained within this decision report, allowing the project to be added to the capital programme, whilst being fully funded by SERP.

The option to lease the replacement motorcycles was not considered on the basis that full SERP funding has been made available to purchase them outright.

The Commissioner could choose not to support this recommendation. However, if that decision is taken it is likely to result in a reduction of available vehicle resources to the Roads Policing team once the current motorcycles reach the end of their useful operational life and are no longer deployable assets. This would likely have a negative impact of the ability of Essex Police to deliver a roads policing service in line with the stated desires of reduced casualties, as identified in the SERP road safety strategy Vision Zero.

Alternatively, in order to avoid such a reduction in available motorcycle assets in the future, at a suitable point in the operational life of the motorcycles Essex Police will be required to submit an application for capital funding for the purchase of two further replacement motorcycles. Without the ability to access additional funding with which to pay for them, such an application would be made against future available MTFs funding for the capital programme.

6. Consultation and Engagement

Representatives from Transport Services have been consulted in order to consider appropriate replacement options and to recommend the preferred alternative, as noted in the Stage A business case.

The proposal has been supported by the Head of Roads Policing, within the Operational Policing Command (OPC) and endorsed by the OPC chief officer representative, T/ACC Pavelin.

Consultation has also been held with the SERP Manager, culminating in the proposal being presented to and approved by the SERP Board.

7. Strategic Links

This proposal supports one of the identified priorities in the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan, specifically to improve safety on the roads. This is incorporated in the road safety strategy Vision Zero.

Providing fit-for-purpose new motorcycles is also an element in supporting our officers and staff, whilst the operational activities undertaken in using the motorcycles will often aid collaborative working with other forces and agencies.

8. Police operational implications

The replacement motorcycles will continue to provide an invaluable asset in terms of policing operational ability to deliver SERP-related community engagement activities, along with business as usual for Roads Policing.

9. Financial implications

The costs of the proposal, both capital and revenue, will be met in full through the SERP funding that will be provided for this purpose.

An additional £29,000 will need to be added to the capital programme to support the initial purchase of the motorcycles, which will be reflected in the 2023/24 to 2027/28 MTFs. This capital expenditure will be exactly matched by a capital receipt of £29,000.

The motorcycles will not be classified as donated assets as the purchase will be made by Essex Police, and they will be added to the force asset register as PFCC-owned assets.

Over the proposed five-year operational life of the replacement motorcycles there will be £30,000 (£6,000 per annum) additional revenue consequences to maintain, service and operate the motorcycles. This revenue expenditure will be exactly matched by a revenue receipt of £30,000. To ensure the revenue receipt is matched on a year-on-year basis, the revenue receipt will be appropriated to an earmarked reserve and drawn-down on an annual basis at a rate of £6,000 per annum for each of the five years of expected operational life.

If this proposal is endorsed by the Commissioner, there will be a net-nil financial impact on Essex Police for the five-year operational life of the replacement motorcycles (both capital and revenue budgets).

The application of SERP funding for the purchase and ongoing management of the motorcycles will have no direct financial impact on the capital programme across the five-year MTFS period. However, if the motorcycles are replaced at the end of their useful operational life and that requires budgetary resource to be set aside, we will apply for the funding from a future MTFS cycle, as would be the case with the replacement of any other asset of this type.

10. Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications associated with the recommendations contained within this decision report.

11. Staffing implications

There are no specific staffing implications associated with the recommendations contained within this decision report.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

There will be no equality, diversity and inclusion implications associated with the request to endorse the recommendation contained within this decision report. There will be no disadvantages to people with protected characteristics.

13. Risks and Mitigations

The replacement of unmarked motorcycles has not been identified as a specific risk on the Force Risk Register. Nevertheless, the current motorcycles have largely reached the end of their useful operational life and if they are not replaced it will reduce the operational effectiveness of the Roads Policing team.

Supporting this proposal will thus provide operational resilience within SERP-related activities and offer the ability to use the assets for additional roads policing operations to support ongoing business as usual.

14. Governance Boards

This proposal has been supported within the command structure of OPC and endorsed by Chief Officer Group member T/ACC Pavelin. It has also been endorsed by the SERP Board in November 2022, as subsequently notified by the SERP Manager.

The proposal has also been presented to the PFCC Strategic Board on 1 March 2023.

15. Links to Future Plans

This decision report and the recommendations contained therein are intrinsically linked to current and ongoing plans for operational policing, notably the road safety plan Vision Zero.

16. Background Papers and Appendices

[Redacted]



[Redacted]

[Redacted]



[Redacted]

[Redacted]



[Redacted]

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: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 24 February 2023

Chief Financial Officer

Sign:

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 03 March 2023

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)

None

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

2. Of Appendix?

YES

NO

NO

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


The appendices are not for publication due to the inclusion of operationally sensitive material. All appendices should therefore be redacted.

Date redaction carried out:

OFFICIAL

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: Janet Perry.....

~~Chief Executive~~/Treasurer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:


Sign: ...
Print: ...Roger Hirst.....

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 14th March 2023.....

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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

Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC