

## PFCC Decision Report

**Please ensure all sections below are completed**

**Report reference number:** 100-23

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

**Title of report:** National Rural Crime Network Subscription

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:** Countywide

**Report by:** Darren Horsman

**Chief Officer:** Darren Horsman

**Date of report:** 25/5/2023

**Enquiries to:** Darren.Horsman@essex.police.uk

### 1. Executive Summary

The National Rural Crime Network (The Network) is working to see greater recognition and understanding of the problems and impact of crime in rural areas so more can be done to keep people safer. Essex PFCC has been an active member of the Network for many years and the Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is currently a board member of the network.

### 2. Recommendations

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner agrees to pay £3,000 for continued members of the National Rural Crime Network.

### 3. Background to the Proposal

The National Rural Crime Network was set up to raise awareness, share best practice and tackle rural crime and enhance community safety in rural areas. The Network is concerned with all crime and anti-social behaviour occurring in rural areas. This includes problems typically associated with the countryside such as wildlife and heritage crime, farm equipment and hare coursing but also drug dealing, domestic abuse and burglary, which very often present different demands when they happen in rural areas than they do when they occur in cities and urban areas.

The PFCC for Essex has been an active part of the Rural Crime Network and has supported their activity including rural crime surveys and the publication of research into the cost of rural crime across the county.

#### **4. Proposal and Associated Benefits**

Continued membership of the Network will provide the PFCC with an established national network to work alongside to improve the visibility and understanding of rural crime nationally. This aligns closely to the PFCC's priority around tackling rural crime in Essex, which is in their police and crime plan.

As the Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is a board member for the network the PFCC has significant influence over the activity and focus of the network helping them gain greater strategic value from our ongoing membership.

#### **5. Options Analysis**

The PFCC could choose not to continue with their membership, though this is not recommended as it would make it much harder for the PFCC to deliver against their priorities.

#### **6. Consultation and Engagement**

This proposal has been discussed at the PFCC's Management Team Meeting.

#### **7. Strategic Links**

This decision would support the commissioner's priority to tackle crime in rural and isolated areas.

#### **8. Police operational implications**

There are no operational policing implications for this decision.

#### **9. Financial implications**

The cost of this subscription is £3,000 for 2022-23. This is an increase from £2,000 in 2021-22. This has historically been funded from the PFCC's Communications and Engagement Budget, so it is proposed that this will continue to be funded from that budget.

**10. Legal implications**

There are no legal implications from this decision.

**11. Staffing implications**

There are no staffing implications from this decision.

**12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications**

Membership of this group provides access to survey results focused rural communities. This gives the PFCC a good data source to better understand the impact of crime and community safety activity on rural communities and how they can better understand how to support them.

**13. Risks and Mitigations**

This decision doesn't present any significant risk.

**14. Governance Boards**

This proposal was discussed at the PFCC's Management Team.

**15. Links to Future Plans**

This decision will support delivery of the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024, and the Rural Crime Strategy 2022-25.

**16. Background Papers and Appendices**

None

**Report Approval**

The report will be signed off by the PFCC's Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign: DHorsman.....

Print: Darren Horsman - Deputy Monitoring Officer.....

Date: 25.5.2023.....

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: .....

Print: Janet Perry.....

Date: 02 June 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*)

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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: .....

**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**

**Date signed:** 09/06/2023

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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

**Sign:**

**Print:**

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**