



*Making Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest*

**ORIGINATOR:** LIZ HOLLINGWORTH

**DECISION NUMBER:** 37-2014

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION:** FOR DECISION

**SUBMITTED TO:** POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

**SUBJECT:** AWARD OF CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION GRANT –  
IPSWICH TAXI MARSHALS

**SUMMARY:**

1. Police and Crime Commissioners are able to utilise their resources to commission services from anyone who can provide the community safety related services that they believe will contribute to their police and crime objectives. These objectives are set out in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017.
2. Following discussions between the OPCC and organisations supporting the Taxi Marshals scheme in Ipswich this report seeks approval to award a Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant to Ipswich Central for the amount of £5,000.
3. The funding will enable crime and disorder reduction activity focussing on: preventing the damaging effects of drugs and alcohol on lives, crime levels and the night-time economy; creating a safer environment for road users; supporting effective crime prevention activity; reducing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and engaging with businesses to impact on business crime.
4. The original application is included alongside this decision paper.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the PCC approves a grant of £5,000 for the period 24 October 2014 to 23 October 2015 to Ipswich Central for delivery of Taxi Marshals and that the grant is funded from the PCC's Police and Crime Plan Fund.

**APPROVAL BY: PCC**

The recommendation set out is agreed.

**Signature**

*Tina Parnore*

**Date** 24/10/2014

## **DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is able to utilise his resources to commission services from anyone who can provide the community safety related services that they believe will contribute to their police and crime objectives including secure, or contribute to securing crime and disorder reduction.
- 1.2 This report seeks approval to award a Crime Disorder and Reduction Grant of £5,000 to Ipswich Central to contribute to delivering the Taxi Marshal service in Ipswich. This decision paper should be read alongside the original application.

### **2. TAXI MARSHALS**

- 2.1 Taxi Marshals have been working in night time economy (NTE) in Ipswich since 2010, initially to prevent low level public disorder and ASB generated in taxi ranks.
- 2.2 The service has previously been funded by Ipswich Central, which is the Business Improvement District (BID) company for Ipswich, Ipswich Borough Council and the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner. Suffolk Constabulary Operational Partnership Team (OPT) have expressed their supportive of the Taxi Marshals scheme continuing.
- 2.3 The scheme operates from Dogs Head Street Taxi Rank in Ipswich every Friday and Saturday between 11pm and 4am. Taxi Marshals are Security Industry Authority (SIA) accredited individuals, supplied through a third party company. They are deployed to prevent bullying, queue jumping and anti-social behaviour whilst people are waiting in the taxi rank. They also intervene to support vulnerable people who may be susceptible to sexual assault or violence and help prevent pedestrians/traffic incidents.
- 2.4 Through this activity Taxi Marshals will contribute to an overall reduction in demand and contribute to the following Police and Crime Plan objectives:
- Prevent the damaging effects of drugs and alcohol on lives, crime levels and the night-time economy;
  - Create a safer environment for road users;
  - Support effective community safety or crime prevention activity;
  - Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB);
  - Engage with businesses to impact on business crime.
- 2.5 An evaluation of Taxi Marshals by Suffolk Constabulary summarises the impact of Taxi Marshals on crime and ASB in the night time economy of Ipswich during 2013/14. The evaluation found that:
- Between 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014, Taxi Marshals were on duty on 51 nights and, over a total of 255 hours, 27,647 people were recorded as using the rank. This equates to an average of 542 people for each deployment or 108 people per hour.
  - Data from incident logs indicates that Taxi Marshals are managing and assisting the dispersal of significant numbers of people, lessening the demand on the Police and other agencies.
  - Within areas covered by the marshals, there has been an overall reduction in crime and ASB level between 2011/12 and 2013/14. Violence with injury offences have particularly reduced in the night time economy. The direct impact of Taxi Marshals on this trend is difficult to assess but it can be said that Taxi Marshals have been deployed during a consistent downward trend in recorded crime.

- Qualitative feedback from partners such as the local taxi association, police officers and Town Pastors has been very positive and indicates an invaluable contribution to supporting the police in keeping the NTE safe.
- Benefits in addition to the reduction in crime and ASB include: increasing the feeling of safety amongst single female passengers; health and safety of pedestrians; creating a safe environment for visitors and NTE providers; and supporting the police as witnesses to incidents.

### **3. OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES**

- 3.1 This grant award is made on the basis of financial and activity data being made available to the PCC. The data should show the extent of Taxi Marshal activities including:
- Number of times taxi marshals are deployed in the year;
  - Number of people recorded as using the rank;
  - Record of incidents dealt with and outcomes.
- 3.2 An analysis of the contribution to reduction in crime and ASB should be provided. Data and qualitative feedback should indicate the contribution of the scheme to:
- Dispersal of the public from the town centre quicker and more effectively at closing time;
  - Reducing the rate of violent crimes;
  - Reducing the demand on emergency services;
  - Increased feelings of safety for users of the NTE;
  - Improving the safety of lone females;
  - An increase in the number of hackney carriages likely to be working;
  - An enhanced security presence;
  - Reduction in the number of illegal taxi vehicles.
- 3.3 Given this is the second grant award to the Taxi Marshals scheme, the PCC would expect the scheme to consider how it ensures sustainability over the longer term.

### **4. SERVICE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 It is expected there will be service and financial benefits in terms of reduced costs and resource implications on the Constabulary as a direct result of the work of Taxi Marshals in preventing public disorder and providing welfare support to vulnerable people.
- 4.2 This request for funding of £5,000 from the PCC for Taxi Marshals in 2014/15 will add to the commitments from Ipswich Central and Ipswich Borough Council. Ipswich Central has agreed to hold the funds and manage invoicing.
- 4.3 Funding will support two Taxi Marshals at Dogs Head Street Taxi Rank in Ipswich between 11pm and 4am, every Friday and Saturday night and for extra nights linked to bank holidays.
- 4.4 Several companies will be invited to submit their costings to provide this service. Evidence of spend (payment to the successful service provider) will be made available together with outcomes as part of the monitoring process.

### **5. MISCELLANEOUS CONDITIONS OF AWARD**

- 5.1 Full 'Conditions of Award' including conditions relating to transfer of funds, monitoring, and publicity and marketing are specified separately but include the following:

- 5.2 This award is a one-off award and outputs/outcomes should be delivered in the period 24 October 2014 to 23 October 2015.
- 5.3 Payment of the award does not confer any ongoing obligation on the PCC to make payments towards the Taxi Marshal scheme beyond 23 October 2015.
- 5.4 This award may not be used for any activities other than those set out within this decision paper or as approved in writing by the PCC.
- 5.5 This award is made on the condition that if the Taxi Marshal service ceases to function or the grant is not used for the purposes set out within this decision paper the funding must be repaid to the PCC.
- 5.6 Ipswich Central must be able to demonstrate that the grant is being managed in an efficient and effective manner, and that they are actively seeking to minimise bureaucracy and streamline processes in order to deliver the best possible outcomes.
- 5.7 Payment will be made within 21 working days of the receipt of a payment request and must be accompanied by the appropriate monitoring information.
- 5.8 Payment will not be made in advance of need. If the PCC reasonably believes that payment is being made in advance of need, the PCC may change the timing and/or the amount of any payments.
- 5.9 Ipswich Central will provide an end of year financial monitoring report on the grant and outcomes and a representative of the scheme may be required to attend a meeting of the PCC's Accountability and Performance Panel to account for the performance against the grant.
- 5.10 Ipswich Central must notify the PCC as soon as reasonably practicable if an underspend is forecast and any underspend must be returned to the PCC.
- 5.11 By accepting the award from the PCC, Ipswich Central makes a commitment to acknowledge the PCC's support publicly and must acknowledge their funding from the PCC in all their promotional work. Any recipients of funding must display the PCC's logo in all publicity for the life of the initiative. Logo artwork can be provided upon request. Any exceptions must be agreed with the PCC.
- 5.12 Ipswich Central shall ensure that third party recipients have adequate insurance coverage (including but not limited to public liability insurance) in place, appropriate processes for staff direction, and shall provide evidence of such to the PCC on request.
- 5.13 The PCC accepts no liability to Ipswich Central or any third party recipients for any costs, claims, damage or losses, however they are incurred, except for to the extent that they arise from personal injury or death which is caused by the PCC's negligence.
- 5.14 Ipswich Central agrees to indemnify the PCC for any costs, claims, damages or losses which arise as a result of negligence by Ipswich Central or out of any breach of any of the conditions of award.

## **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:**

- 6.1 Potential risks will be mitigated through Taxi Marshals being Security Industry Authority (SIA) accredited. Marshals will be provided with a 'Town Link' radio providing direct access with police and Town Pastors should they require support.

- 6.2 There are no other risks flowing from the consideration of this report. Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, Ipswich Central is required to notify the PCC.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the PCC approves a grant of £5,000 for the period 24 October 2014 to 23 October 2015 to Ipswich Central for delivery of Taxi Marshals and that the grant is funded from the PCC's Police and Crime Plan Fund.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	Yes
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Yes
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	N/A
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	Yes
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	Yes

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

**APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER** (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

### Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the (add decision-maker's title e.g. the PCC).

Signature:



Date 23 October 2014

