



ORIGINATOR: DEPUTY CHIEF
EXECUTIVE

DECISION NO. 7-2014

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: AWARD OF CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION GRANT –
FELIXSTOWE VOLUNTEER COAST PATROL RESCUE SERVICE

SUMMARY:

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 and include various themes. One of those themes is 'Rural, Wildlife and Marine Crime' and the commitment '*we will also investigate ways in which we can police our waterways more effectively to prevent and detect crime*'.

Discussions have recently taken place between the PCC and Felixstowe Volunteer Coast Patrol Rescue Service (FVCPRS) and this report seeks approval to award a Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant to FVCPRS of £15,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the PCC approves a grant of £15,000 to Felixstowe Volunteer Coast Patrol Rescue Service for the period 12 March 2014 to 11 March 2015.
2. That the grant is funded from the PCC's Police and Crime Plan Reserve.

OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Signature

Tim Parnmore

Date

17/08/2014

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 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. There is no maximum or minimum amount that PCCs must spend on community safety activity and they can also pool funding if they wish.

2. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Following the issue of the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017 work has been on-going to develop a delivery plan to ensure that the Police and Crime Objectives and the Plan's principal themes will be achieved.
- 2.2 One of the themes of the Police and Crime Plan is 'Rural, Wildlife and Marine Crime'. Under this theme the PCC commits to investigating *'ways in which we can police our waterways more effectively to prevent and detect crime'*.
- 2.3 Since the publication of the Police and Crime Plan the PCC has engaged extensively on the ambitions set out within the Plan and this has included discussions regarding a marine capability.
- 2.4 Previous experience confirms that the provision of a marine capability can have a positive impact on the provision of an efficient and effective policing service and will contribute to the PCC's police and crime objectives. To further the ambition set out in the Police and Crime Plan discussions have taken place between the PCC and the Felixstowe Volunteer Coast Patrol Rescue Service with regard to the services they can provide by utilising their rigid hulled inflatable boat (RHIB) to support policing in Suffolk. This paper sets out proposals for the award of a crime and disorder reduction grant for the sum of £15,000 to FVCPRS to support the ambition of providing a marine capability.

3. FELIXSTOWE VOLUNTEER COAST PATROL RESCUE SERVICE

- 3.1 Suffolk has a large coastline and also includes many miles of navigable creeks, estuaries and rivers. Ipswich has extensive maritime history and Felixstowe hosts the UK's premier container port and over 7,000 vessels use the Harwich Approach. Despite the heavy commercial activity the Harbour and the estuaries of the River Stour and River Orwell provide sailing and recreational activities for large numbers of pleasure craft.
- 3.2 The FVCPRS was formed in 1997 to fill the void left by the withdrawal of the Felixstowe Coastguard Patrol Boat. The website for the FVCPRS describes the service as follows.
- 3.2.1 The service's prime objectives are "To promote sea safety awareness through education, and to protect and to preserve life at sea by the provision of a volunteer coast patrol rescue service within the surrounding areas, or as tasked by HM Coastguard".
- 3.2.2 The FVCPRS comprises a group of volunteers whose aim is to ensure that the surrounding marine areas remain safe for both local and visitors alike.
- 3.2.3 The FVCPRS is licensed by the local authority and provides an 'Additional Facility' for HM Coastguard, a 'Marine Resource' for the Suffolk Constabulary, and a 'Chapter' of the International Emergency Rescue Corps. It works closely with all the Emergency

Services and maintains a 'Rapid Response Team' mainly for tidal flood emergencies. Volunteers are from the community and include professional Certified Mariners, police, UK Border Control Agency, ex Coastguard officers, divers, marine engineers, ex military personnel, RYA instructors and businessmen, etc.

- 3.2.4 The Service has at its disposal, extensive rescue and first-aid equipment including a Toyota 4x4 mobile rescue/support vehicle, mobile incident/first-aid tow van, rescue equipment trailer. All units are fitted with communications direct to Coastguard. The patrol boat 'Volunteer' is a purpose built (new in service 2000) 6.3m Humber Ocean-Pro Rigid Inflatable Boat - 'Class B Offshore' for extended voyages where winds exceed Force - 8 and with wave heights of 4m. With a crew of three 'Volunteer' is certified to operate in Area Category 5 : To sea within 20 miles from a nominated departure point (Harwich). 'Volunteer' has an operating range of 100 miles with onboard fuel and is equipped with an electronic chart navigation system, two Icom Marine VHF sets, GMDSS System, a full safety/rescue Itinerary.
- 3.2.5 The Service is a UK Registered Charity and independent from any other organisation. Volunteers give their time free.
- 3.3 Historically the RHIB has been used to support the Constabulary's visible policing patrols which can help to prevent crime. It has also been used for operational incidents such as searching for missing persons and assisting the emergency services during flooding (as evidenced in December 2013). The service has also supported the Constabulary at awareness raising events.
- 3.4 The PCC considers that the FVCPRS performs a valuable role on the waterways. Given the commitment for a marine capability in the Police and Crime Plan it is recommended that a crime and disorder reduction grant of £15,000 is awarded to the FVCPRS for the purposes of supporting the a marine capability service throughout Suffolk.

4.0 OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES .

- 4.1 A service level agreement between the PCC, Suffolk Constabulary and the FVCPRS should developed. The outputs/outcomes will be clearly set out in the service level agreement and could include but are not limited to the following:
- FVCPRS will provide the services of a RHIB to be used for policing purposes. (FVCPRS will be responsible for all ensuring regular maintenance of the RHIB and all associated costs as well as the supply of appropriate equipment including the provision of all necessary insurances);
 - that the (fully crewed) RHIB is made available for Suffolk Constabulary purposes on a regular basis;
 - that the service is made available within all Suffolk waterways (e.g. Broads, coastal, rivers, etc);
 - that the (fully crewed) RHIB is made available for incidents as appropriate;
 - that the RHIB will be made available for use by appropriately qualified and experienced Suffolk Special Constabulary officers for the purposes of visible policing/patrol;
 - that FVCPRS support appropriate PCC/Constabulary engagement activities such as attendance at the Suffolk Show, etc. by mutual agreement;
 - In the event that FVCPRS volunteers decide to join the Suffolk Special Constabulary the Constabulary will provide the necessary equipment to perform the role of Special Constable (e.g. protective clothing);
 - The required output/outcomes should include clear measures such as numbers of incidents/events attended, hours available, geographical coverage and awareness raising events attended.

4.2 FVCPRS will undertake to ensure all relevant insurance, maintenance and servicing is performed on the RHIB to ensure that it is in an appropriate serviceable and seaworthy condition for the role to the satisfaction of the Constabulary. The FVCPRS should also confirm to the Suffolk Constabulary that it has any necessary certification to operate in other waterways such as The Broads and rivers.

4.3 Copies of all relevant documents and certificates such as necessary qualifications and clearance (e.g. DRB) checks must be provided.

5. MISCELLANEOUS CONDITIONS OF AWARD

5.1 This award is a one-off award and outputs/outcomes should be delivered in the twelve months' 12 March 2014 to 11 March 2015.

5.2 Payment of the award does not confer any ongoing obligation on the PCC to make payments beyond 11 March 2015.

5.3 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.

5.4 This award is made on the condition that if the FVCPRS 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 FVCPRS 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 The PCC will not pay 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 FVCPRS will report provide regular progress updates to the PCC including financial monitoring and outcomes of projects. An end of year report on the award of grants and outcomes shall be presented to the PCC and FVCPRS will be required to attend meetings of the PCC's Accountability and Performance Panel to account for the performance against the grant. Written updates shall be submitted on dates as specified by the PCC and an end of year financial monitoring report should be submitted to the PCC on or before 31 March 2015.

5.10 The PCC shall be notified 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 FVCPRS 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 FVCPRS shall ensure that third party recipients have adequate insurance coverage (including but not limited to public liability insurance) in place and shall provide evidence of such insurance to the PCC on request.

5.13 The PCC accepts no liability to FVCPRS 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 FVCPRS agrees to indemnify the PCC for any costs, claims, damages or losses which arise as a result of negligence by FVCPRS or out of any breach of any of the conditions of award.

6. SERVICE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The award of this grant represents good value for money. Establishing a marine capability within the Constabulary would be costly. The purchase of a new RHIB is around £200,000 and it would be costly to maintain and equip it, as well as providing ongoing training to officers. Utilising the FVCPRS provides an effective and efficient alternative and enhances the Constabulary's capability and capacity.

7. RISKS

7.1 There are no risks associated flowing from the consideration of this report. The risks associated with operating a marine capability must be considered by Suffolk Constabulary during the development of the service level agreement.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that:

8.1.1 The PCC approves a grant of £15,000 for the period 12 March 2014 to 11 March 2015 to FVCPRS.

8.1.2 The grant is funded from the PCC's Police and Crime Plan Reserve.

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?	YES
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
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	YES

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER

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 Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Date 15 March 2014