

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NO: 26 - 2021

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

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

SUMMARY:

1. In accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 the Police and Crime Commissioner can commission services that:
 - a) secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk;
 - b) are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.
2. This report seeks approval to award a Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant to Locus Management Solutions (Ipswich Central, Business Improvement District) for £5,000 per annum to deliver the Taxi Marshal service in Ipswich for the period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2024. The proposed funding from the PCC will be conditional on match funding from partners each year.
3. The funding will enable crime and disorder reduction activity and support the Police and Crime Plan (2017-2021) objectives by 'caring about victims, communities, the local economy' and 'protecting the most vulnerable people and communities by preventing, reducing and solving crime'.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards grant funding of £5,000 per annum to Locus Management Solutions, trading as Ipswich Central, for delivery of the Taxi Marshal service between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2024.

APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The recommendation set out is agreed.



Signature:

Date: 1 September 2021

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A key part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's role is to commission services that help reduce demand on the Constabulary, support victims of crime and contribute to crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk.
- 1.2 The PCC's commissioning budget in 2021/22 is £2.2m for both crime and disorder reduction grants and grants for victim services.
- 1.3 The Taxi Marshal service in Ipswich has been an integral part of the night time economy since 2010, preventing and deterring crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), assisting others (Town Pastors, CCTV, Police, Security and businesses). The presence and activity of Taxi Marshals promotes safety and instils confidence in those using the late night venues.
- 1.4 This report seeks approval from the PCC to award a grant of £5,000 per annum to Ipswich Central to deliver the Taxi Marshal service in Ipswich for the period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2024.

2 POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Taxi Marshals contribute to the following objectives and themes within the Police and Crime Plan (2017-21): 'Caring about victims, communities, the local economy' and 'Protecting the most vulnerable people and communities by preventing, reducing and solving crime'.
- 2.2 Following the re-election of the PCC in May 2021 a new Police and Crime Plan is being developed. The PCC has indicated he wishes to use crime and disorder reduction funding to focus on initiatives which reduce the demand on the police in particular in policing the night-time economy, addressing anti-social behaviour and reducing crime and disorder in our towns.

3 TAXI MARSHALS

- 3.1 Taxi Marshals have been working in night time economy (NTE) in Ipswich since 2010 to prevent low level public disorder and ASB generated in taxi ranks and helping people get home safely after a night out.
- 3.2 The service has been funded since 2014 by Locus Management Solutions trading as Ipswich Central (the Business Improvement District (BID) for Ipswich), Ipswich Borough Council (IBC) and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk.
- 3.3 The scheme operates from Ipswich Cattle Market Bus Station taxi rank every Friday and Saturday, between 11.30pm and 4.30am and no Bank Holidays. Taxi Marshals are Security Industry Authority (SIA) accredited individuals. The contract was retendered in 2019 by Ipswich Central and the successful supplier, Stage Event Security Ltd, have provided the Taxi Marshal service since August 2019.
- 3.4 Taxi Marshals prevent bullying, queue jumping and anti-social behaviour whilst people are waiting in the taxi rank. They also intervene to prevent criminal activity (such as violence, sexual offences and harassment), support vulnerable people and help prevent pedestrians/traffic incidents.

- 3.5 The aims and objectives of the scheme is to work in partnership to prevent crime and disorder and increase public safety in the night time economy by:
- Facilitating the quick and effective dispersal of public from the town centre as customers leave licenced premises in and around the town centre area, particularly at closing time.
 - Providing an enhanced security presence at the taxi rank to deter, and diffuse, alcohol fuelled crime and disorder, thereby reducing the rate of violence with injury and increasing the feeling of safety among members of public using the taxi rank and those engaging in the night time economy in general.
 - Reducing demand on the emergency services (in particular Police and Ambulance).
 - Improving the safety of individuals, particularly lone females or those who are vulnerable by virtue of intoxication levels.
 - Providing safety and reassurance to hackney carriage drivers, contributing towards increased availability at peak demand times, and a reduction in the number of unlicensed taxis potentially operating.

4 SERVICE DELIVERY

4.1 Monitoring information from previous years shows that Taxi Marshals have been involved in all types of incidents: deterring violent crime, assisting and helping with vulnerable individuals, assisting the police, managing disorder and working with CCTV staff to identify or help keep an eye on developing situations.

4.2 Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic over 50,000 people were using the rank each year. The 2019/20 report noted a reduction in violent crimes and incidents recorded as occurring around the Taxi Marshal area of 58%.

Examples of vulnerable people supported include:

- Female using 'Ask for Angela' initiative when feeling unsafe;
- Female lost friends on night out, placed in cab and safe;
- Various incidents where intoxicated persons were placed in taxi and further assisted by Town Pastors;
- Female asked for male to be refused at taxi rank as he had been following her;
- Drunk male refused at taxi rank, town pastors called for additional support.

Previous examples of managing disorder and working with the police include:

- 2 males fighting, Taxi Marshals split them up and both went home in different taxis
- Fight at bus stop, 3 males, Taxi Marshal intervened, police called
- Female attempted to enter taxi she was not welcome in - moved on to another taxi
- Male calmed down before trying to get into taxi

4.3 At the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, the Taxi Marshal service was suspended, in agreement with funders, due to the restrictions and the night time economy being shut down. The service resumed in September 2020 with revised hours, in line with licensed premises that could reopen, and ceased again in December 2020.

4.4 Taxi Marshals recommenced the service in May 2021 using the underspend held from the 2020 financial year to continue operation. This funding has covered the service until September 2021.

4.5 There has been a decline in numbers using the service (of approx. 50%) which is unsurprising given that restrictions on all night time venues (clubs in particular) were only lifted in July 2021. Ipswich Central say they anticipate this will improve over the coming months as consumer confidence grows and people start to frequent the town

centre and the night time economy venues more regularly. Funding to continue the service is therefore recommended.

5 MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

5.1 This grant award is made on the basis of financial and activity data being made available to the PCC annually by Ipswich Central. Stage Security, who provide the service, send monthly figures to Ipswich Central.

5.2 The volume of people supported through the rank is expected to increase over time and will be measured by usage figures. This data will also include any incidents that the Taxi Marshals have had to be involved with for example assisting vulnerable people, solving incidents, taxi issues and deterring violent crime.

5.3 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.

5.4 An analysis, using data and qualitative feedback, should indicate the contribution of the scheme to reducing in crime and ASB and in particular:

- The dispersal of the public from the town centre quicker and more effectively;
- 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.

4.1 The outputs/outcomes are a condition of PCC continuation funding at the end of each financial year.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Grant funding from the PCC's commissioning budget of £5,000 is recommended each year for the period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2024.

6.2 Ipswich Central and Ipswich Borough Council have matched funded the service to date and an agreement is in place for 2021/22 for match funding. PCC funding in future years will be subject to this funding being secured from the partners or through alternative funding.

6.3 Ipswich Central has agreed to hold the funds and manage the service including communication, monitoring and promotion without charge. A small proportion of the funding is used for signage/food bags and printed literature when required.

6.4 Previous monitoring and evaluation provides evidence that there are service and financial benefits in terms of reduced costs and resource implications on the Constabulary, and other emergency services as a direct result of the work of Taxi Marshals in preventing public disorder and providing welfare support to potentially vulnerable people.

7 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

7.1 An assessment of risk in delivery of the service has been undertaken. This assessment has considered the value of the grant sought, the duration of delivery and

the history of delivery and ability to deliver. The monitoring arrangements outlined in the conditions of award reflect the fact that the Taxi Marshal service has been successfully delivered within the conditions of the award since 2013/14.

7.2 The three year award is subject to the Home Office policing grant to Suffolk remaining the same. Should there be any risk to continuation of funding the PCC will make the funding partners aware as soon as practicable

7.3 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered Ipswich Central are required to notify the PCC.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards grant funding of £5,000 per annum to Locus Management Solutions, trading as Ipswich Central, for delivery of the Taxi Marshal service between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2024.

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
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this 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:

Date: 31 August 2021