

**ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING
AND GOVERNANCE**

DECISION NUMBER: 36 - 2023

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

**SUBJECT: AWARD OF CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION GRANT:
REDUCING REOFFENDING PROBATION HGV TRAINING PROJECT**

SUMMARY:

1. This report seeks approval for the allocation of a £5,000 contribution from the Police and Crime Commissioner as match funding to the Probation Service for the delivery of a Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) driver training project for people on probation.
2. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has discussed delivery of HGV training with the Probation Service, to contribute towards a reduction in reoffending through provision of training and subsequent employment in an area of economic and employment need. This proposal follows a successful pilot undertaken by the Probation Service.
3. This report seeks approval to award a Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant to two local HGV training companies utilising £5,000 of PCC crime and disorder reduction funding to match funding of £20,000 from the Probation Service.
4. The funding will enable crime and disorder reduction activity and supports Objectives 2 and 4 in the Police and Crime Plan by investing in an initiative to reduce reoffending.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards grant funding of £5,000 to contribute to an HGV driver training project for people on probation in Suffolk.

OFFICIAL

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out above is agreed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Parmore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Signature:

Date: 20 December 2023

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Creating opportunities for those on probation to access education, training and employment is a key tool to prevent relapse into offending and so they can gain independence and contribute to wider society. Prison leavers who get a job are up to nine percentage points less likely to reoffend, which cuts crime and helps to protect the public.
- 1.2 Data shows that 26.4% of offenders are employed at 6 months post release and 41.8% employed at 6 months post community disposal¹. In the East of England, His Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS) aims to continue to increase the proportion employed 6 months after release from 24%, in the performance year to March 2023².
- 1.3 The Probation Service (East of England) has successfully delivered a pilot in Cambridgeshire covering the costs of Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) driver training to people on probation, with the aim of getting them into employment and preventing reoffending.
- 1.4 The Cambridgeshire pilot trained 3 people who all passed (2 at Class 2 and 1 at Class 1). There has been no reoffending and the feedback from the individual who passed the Class 1 licence is that the opportunity has 'set him up for life' and given him stable work leading to security of accommodation and family life.
- 1.5 The pilot has recently been rolled out to other counties and the Probation Service has approached the PCC to offer a similar project in Suffolk. By investing in HGV training, the recommended project will support a known gap in the local and national economy, by providing key skills and expanding the pool of HGV drivers.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 This report therefore seeks approval for a £5,000 contribution from the PCC as match funding to the Probation Service funding for the delivery of an HGV driver training pilot for people on probation.

2. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 sets out the intention, in Objective 2, to provide services which support victims of crime and invest in initiatives which reduce crime. Objective 4 sets out how the PCC will work in partnership to improve criminal justice outcomes and enhance community safety.
- 2.2 The proposed grant will contribute to the following activity within Objectives 2 and 4 of the Police and Crime Plan:
 - Use crime and disorder reduction funding to work with the Constabulary and partners to reduce reoffending.

¹ <https://data.justice.gov.uk/probation>. Accessed 11.12.2023

² East of England Reducing Reoffending Plan 2022-2024, Annual Update, 2023)

- Explore opportunities to co-commission with the new National Probation Service, where it adds value to reducing reoffending in Suffolk.
- Support problem-solving in local communities, by investing in solutions which reduce reoffending, prevent crime and disorder, or improve community safety.
- Work with the Suffolk Reducing Reoffending Group (including the new structures in the National Probation Service and Integrated Offender Management), to understand gaps in provision.
- Consider whether the PCC's crime and disorder reduction funding could support or match fund provision to reduce reoffending.

2.3 The project also supports the priority of the Probation Service to support people on probation into employment and explore joint commissioning arrangements with regional partners including PCCs.

3. DELIVERY

3.1 A memorandum of understanding will be developed between the Probation Service and the PCC, setting out key roles and responsibilities. The Probation Service will be responsible for managing referrals and monitoring outcomes and the Office of the PCC will be responsible for the payments to the delivery providers following confirmation of delivery.

3.2 In line with the PCC's contract standing orders three quotes from potential local delivery providers were obtained. Having considered cost and location (accessibility for potential candidates) it is proposed that the Probation Service will work two providers (Ipswich and West Suffolk) to ensure ability to deliver.

3.3 The Probation Service will identify 'work ready' individuals for this pilot from their cohort in Suffolk. Selection of individuals by the service should ensure best value for money and a high completion rate. This project will be accessible to any individuals on probation in Suffolk, other than those with disabilities that legally prevent them from driving.

3.4 The Probation Service will make referrals to a local training provider who will support the individual through the medical, training, theory and practical test plus employment opportunities with local companies who are recruiting drivers thereafter. The exact cost per individual is variable based on training hours and licence requirements but quotes obtained are approximately £3,000 per person. The Probation Service will have an Information Sharing Agreement in place between themselves and the successful providers so that referrals can take place.

4. MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

4.1 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken by the Probation Service and reported back to the PCC.

4.2 The Probation Service will track the effectiveness of the intervention by measuring course completion, subsequent employment and reoffending rates. Qualitative feedback about the impact of the project from Probation Officers and those on probation will be captured.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the PCC awards funding of £5,000 from the 2023-24 commissioning budget to support the delivery of the project. This will be alongside the funding of £20,000 from the Probation Service. The Probation Service will transfer the remainder of the funding to the PCC in order for the PCC to grant fund the successful delivery providers through a staged payment process.
- 5.2 The total funding of £25,000 will provide training, medical certificate, theory and practical tests for 8-10 people on probation in Suffolk, using two local HGV training providers.

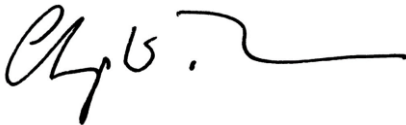
6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 6.1 No other risks or implications have been identified.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
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
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

<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>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 PCC.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Signature: _____ Date: 20 December 2023</p>
