

**27<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**Agenda Item: 6**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND PUBLIC PROTECTION.**

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY BUDGET UPDATE: REQUEST FOR FUNDING.**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for committing a total of **£8,262** funding from the Community Safety Initiatives Budget for 2016/17.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Community Safety Budget**

2. Each year, a proportion of the Community Safety Budget is allocated to initiatives across the County that are designed to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, reduce the fear of crime and increase levels of community safety and confidence within our communities. Initiatives are targeted at vulnerable communities, and are designed to tackle the issues that are causing the most harm to communities and individuals.
3. Funding approved to date from the “initiatives” element of the Community Safety Budget for 2016/17 are summarised in the following table:

The total funding available within the Community Safety Initiatives budget for 2016/17 is:	<b>£212,380</b>
Funding from the OPCC for the Community Safety Team acting as the “Accountable Body” for the grant received from the OPCC*.	<b>£25,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£237,380</b>
Vulnerable Persons Panels: Social Worker	(up to) £32,000
Contribution to the work of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board: Locality Working	£100,000
The Heartstone Odyssey	£5,000
Safer Nottinghamshire Board Workshop	£680
Dragon’s Den Style Project 8	£3,500
Promoting Community Cohesion	£10,000
Hawtonville Community	£3,500
Contribution towards the Complex Needs Worker/Homelessness Support in Newark	£5,000

Commemoration Event – Battle of the Somme	£300
<b>Current balance</b>	<b>£77,400</b>

(\*£25,000 received from the Office of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for acting as the “Accountable Body” for the grant received from OPCC. Monitoring and co-ordinating use of this funding, ensuring maximum impact by effective interface with other funding sources. Providing lead officer support to SNB Champions for priority thematic/geographic work areas. Providing communication messages as appropriate.)

### **Video Conferencing Equipment. (£5,812)**

4. Nottinghamshire County Council’s response to a major emergency is co-ordinated from the County Emergency Centre (CEC). The CEC is located in the basement of County Hall and has control room equipment (including PCs, laptops, projectors and smart-boards) to assist the response. It is available on a 24-hour basis via the emergency planning duty officer.
5. Until recently, police video conferencing equipment had been available in the CEC. This was installed by Nottinghamshire Police in 2008. The equipment enabled the emergency planning team and any other services on request to participate in video conferences with Nottinghamshire Police and other partners. Prior to the introduction of Police & Crime Commissioners, the equipment was also used by the Police Authority.
6. In order to reduce costs, Nottinghamshire Police recently made the decision to remove their network connection into County Hall. As a result of this, the police videoconferencing equipment no longer worked and it was removed in June 2016. Without the ability to use videoconferencing, the emergency planning team currently use telephone conferences as an alternative.
7. In order to retain the ability to participate in videoconferences with Nottinghamshire Police and other organisations where possible (particularly the Department for Communities and Local Government’s Resilience & Emergencies Division) it is proposed that community safety initiatives funding is used to purchase an alternative system. The new system, which uses a Clever Touch screen and Logitech videoconferencing, costs £5,812.

### **Illegal Fishing: Signage (£700)**

8. Over the past couple of years stocks of freshwater fish and course fish have reduced to dangerous levels with some watercourses around the county now having very little stocks of some species.
9. Fishing clubs, members of the rural community and the public are becoming increasingly concerned about the destruction of fish stocks and the effect this has on both the ecology of the countryside and also the tourist industry and economy.
10. Theft of a good quality carp may be worth in excess of £2000 and can have a massive impact on a business when this is stolen from fishing lakes. It is becoming increasingly recognised that individuals involved in poaching activity are often engaged in a much wider range of criminality and therefore are of interest to various enforcement agencies.

11. Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire have some of the highest illegal fishing problems within the country. Illegal fishing is not restricted to rural areas and is also prevalent within towns and cities and anywhere with a watercourse.
12. Other than poaching, there can be problems due to cultural differences in that the practice of 'catch and release' in coarse fishing is not always adopted by migrant communities who historically fish for the pot.
13. The Angling Trust has been very proactive nationally and has promoted and initiated the Building Bridges Project, which works together with angling groups to promote good practises. The Angling Trust also works closely with Polish Fisheries enforcement officers, and is looking to foster further working relationships with other enforcement agencies in Eastern Europe.
14. The request for £700 is to purchase 100 signs, 25 of which will be in Polish, to be installed at locations across the county where high incidents of illegal fishing occur. The signs will promote the reporting of intelligence about illegal fishing to the Environment Agency or Nottinghamshire Police and are part of a multi-agency response to tackling illegal fishing.
15. The signs will kick start a joint working partnership with Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire Police, The Angling Trust and the Environment Agency to:
  - Provide a high profile and qualitative response to suspected fish related incidents and associated wildlife or criminal offences.
  - Gather intelligence on rural crime issues including the activities around fish theft and poaching related incidents.
  - Target, by intelligence led means, areas both rural and urban that are suffering from, or are likely to suffer from this type of criminality.
  - Work with Environment Agency fisheries enforcement officers on planned days of action.
  - Make full use of the Notts Alert messaging system for the reporting of illegal fishing.

### **Horse Awareness Campaign. (£450)**

16. There are around three million horse riders in Great Britain, many of whom have to ride on the road to reach bridleways and other off road facilities.
17. Data released in October 2015 from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) reported 104 horse rider casualties in Great Britain in 2014. This included one adult horse rider who was killed and 23 who were seriously injured and one child horse rider who was seriously injured.
18. Local data provided by the Nottinghamshire Police Traffic Management and Road Casualty Reduction Unit shows that over the last six years there have been 13 road traffic collisions (RTC's) involving the ridden horse. The 13 RTCs were in the following districts: Rushcliffe

(5); Newark & Sherwood (5); Broxtowe (2); Ashfield (1). 8 of the 13 RTCs were in 60mph speed limits, 4 in 30mph speed limits and 1 in 40/50mph speed limits.

19. Although there have been Horse and Road Safety Campaigns nationally, the Horse Awareness Campaign (HAC) is a recently formed local volunteer group, whose membership consists of riders who live or work across the county. HAC have approached the Safer Nottinghamshire Board Rural Crime Group asking for support to raise awareness of road safety of horse and riders in the county. Other approaches have been made to the National Farmers Union (NFU) who have been working with the British Horse Society to improve safety and welfare of horses and riders on rural roads across the UK.
20. To help promote horse and rider safety on rural roads, HAC will be launching an event called 'The Ride' on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Wollaton Park. The event is about generating publicity and raising awareness to remind motorists of their duty of care towards horse and riders. This event has already generated a lot of interest on social media with 150 attending the ride and 421 interested. This event is also supported by the East Midlands Horse Society.
21. The request for £450 community safety initiatives funding is to purchase a quantity of reflective medical arms bands, which riders have strapped to their arms containing medical information such as emergency contact, existing medical conditions etc. The information stored in the arm band is crucial in the unfortunate event of an accident, and greatly assists the emergency services.
22. Although traditionally, medical armbands are often used in competitive disciplines such as endurance and eventing riding, the arm bands will be distributed to riders who participate in hacks and ride on the roads.

#### **Animal Movements Control: Electronic Identification Devices (EIDs). (£1,300).**

23. Animal identification systems are used to trace animal movements for cattle, pigs, sheep and goats. The purpose of these systems is to reassure consumers that the food they eat can be traced back to its source. The legislation governing animal movements is enforced by Trading Standards.
24. The rules governing sheep and goat movements are complex. They include the provision that sheep that were born or identified after 2009, and are not intended for slaughter under 12 months of age, must be electronically identified and individually recorded in a farmer's flock register. Electronic identification for goats is voluntary unless the owner intends to export then they must be full EID identified.
25. Horse passports are required by European law and are necessary in order to prevent horses that have been treated with certain veterinary medicines (such as wormers and analgesics) entering the human food chain. All horses over 6 months old should have a passport, and if born after 2009 should also have a microchip.
26. From April 2016 all dogs are legally required to be micro-chipped. Micro-chipping aims to reunite owners with their lost or stolen pets and to tackle the growing problem of strays roaming the streets to relieve the burden placed on animal charities and local authorities.

Compulsory micro-chipping will also greatly assist Trading Standards Officers to tackle the recent increase in illegal canine landings in Nottinghamshire. Being readily able to identify animals that have been illegally imported is critical in keeping Nottinghamshire Rabies free.

27. The Trading Standards Service doesn't currently have an electronic identification device (EID) for officers to use to read animal microchips and officers currently have to rely on assistance from vets, livestock market operators and quarantine kennel operators. Having direct access to an EID would increase officers' efficiency and speed of response in dealing with a variety of situations including the illegal landings of dogs and tracing animal movements through the livestock market.
28. The County Council is working with Newark & Sherwood District Council to develop a joint protocol for the management of illegally placed horses ("fly grazing"). Nationally there has been an increase in the number of complaints and incidents relating to horses tethered and trespassing on council and private land, straying onto highways and footpaths, causing a danger to the public, nuisance and concerns about horse welfare. The guidance provides clarification of the roles and responsibilities for local agencies and details of the processes involved.
29. As part of the joint discussions involved in developing the protocol it has been recognised that ready access to an electronic identification device (EID) would greatly enhance the ability of the agencies involved to provide an effective response to complaints relating to illegally placed horses.
30. It is proposed that £1,300 Community Safety initiatives funding is used to fund the purchase of two electronic identification devices (EIDs) for use by Trading Standards Officers and District Council officers in the county.

## **Other Options Considered**

31. There will be other options for use of the 2016/17 community safety initiatives budget and proposed spends of the remaining balance **£69,138** will be the subject of future reports to the Community Safety Committee.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

32. Community Safety remains one of the key concerns for the residents of Nottinghamshire. The recommendations contained within this report will enable funding to action a range of targeted projects, specifically designed to combat issues of crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. Any reductions in these issues will encourage the development of strong, healthy and vibrant communities thus reducing risks to those deemed as vulnerable within those communities

## **Statutory and Policy Implications.**

33. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such

implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

34. The proposed **£8,262** can be met from the Community Safety initiatives budget for 2016/17.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S:**

35. That Members approve the following proposed spends (totalling £8,262) from the Community Safety Initiatives Budget for 2016/2017:

- a. Video Conferencing Equipment (£5,812)
- b. Illegal Fishing-signage (£700)
- c. Horse Awareness Campaign (£450)
- d. Animal Movement Control: Electronic Identification Devices (£1,300)

**PAUL MCKAY**

**Service Director, South Nottinghamshire & Public Protection**

36. For any enquiries about this report please contact: Sarah Houlton, Team Manager Trading Standards & Community Safety x 72460 or Yvette Armstrong Community Safety Officer, Trading Standards & Community Safety x73058.

## **Constitutional Comments ()**

37.

## **Financial Comments (KAS 13/09/2016)**

38. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 34 of the report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s)**

All