

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

REQUEST FOR POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER DECISION - (N° 009 / 2018)

TITLE: Funding for Speed Laser Guns and Equipment

Executive Summary:

The Police and Crime Plan's objective 3 'Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour' links to the priority to target speeding and dangerous driving. The OPCC has received several requests for funding from Community Groups looking to purchase Speed Laser Devices. However, after consultation with Constabulary leads around roads policing it has been proposed that the Commissioner considers supporting the existing Neighbourhood Speed Watch Schemes, this would ensure a level of regulation and support is present around the use of such devices.

Recommendation:

The Commissioner is asked to:

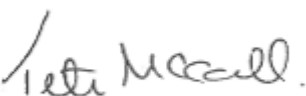
- Consider funding Neighbourhood Watch Schemes £9,453.90, funding will be used to purchase 3x additional Speed Laser Devices, one for each area to support the existing scheme and equipment available, plus additional high visible jackets and signs.

Police & Crime Commissioner

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner. Any such interests are recorded below.

I hereby approve/~~do not approve~~ the recommendation(s) above

Police & Crime Commissioner / ~~Chief Executive~~ (delete as appropriate)



Signature:

Date: 13th April 2018

PART 1 – NON CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE PCC

1. Introduction & Background

Neighbourhood Speed Watch programs are national initiatives where active members of local communities join with the support of the police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. The program encourages citizens to take an active role in changing driver behaviour on their neighbourhood streets by helping raise public awareness and educate drivers about the negative impact of speeding. Vehicles exceeding a speed limit are referred to the police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds. In cases where education is blatantly ignored and evidence of repeat or excessive offences is collated (even across county borders), enforcement and prosecution follow.

Speeding continues to be a concern for many communities in both rural and urban environments. Volunteers received appropriate training and are supported by neighbourhood policing team (NPT) staff. The scheme aims to cater for the problem of real or perceived speed related offending, and through partnership with the community it is to be used in circumstances that are necessary, justifiable and proportionate in order to:-

- Reduce death and injury on the roads
- Improve the quality of life for local communities
- Reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- Increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

Breakdown of funding required:

Item	Item Cost per Area	Balance
3x Speed Laser Gun	£3,000	£9,000
18 x High Vis Jackets (x6 per Area)	£41.70	£125.10
6x Community Speed Watch Sign + Stand (2 per Area)	£109.60	£328.30
Total Cost of Funding	£3,151.30	£9, 453.90

The proposal to provide funding for 3x additional Speed Laser Guns and equipment supported through the Neighbourhood Speed Watch Scheme and Constabulary will have long-term cost efficiencies. There are 53 Parish Councils in Cumbria to continue to provide funding through the OPCC Property Fund could result in a cost to the OPCC of £167,018.90. As previously stated there is some discrepancies around the impact of stand-alone groups, many Speed Watch Groups that are not part of the national scheme are unregulated, untrained and the guns purchased are generally not of ACPO standard.

2. Issues for Consideration

Unregulated use of Speed Laser Devices has the potential to cause issues within communities, previous incidents have occurred resulting in violence against the person offences due to the misuse of such devices. With the current Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, Community volunteers are screened for suitability to use such devices, support is given around correct use and the community benefits from direct Police action and analysis on the community hotspots.

The options of funding additional devices through the open grants schemes such as property and community fund would hinder and undermine the current initiatives and procedures in place. Additionally, there is no statutory requirements for the Constabulary to carry out checks on unregulated devices and information provided. The unregulated use of these devices could result on increased demands on police resources

3. Implications

(List and include views of all those consulted, whether they agree or disagree and why)

- 3.1. Financial: There is no financial implications as the funding will be provided through OPCC funds which are subject to monthly monitoring by Head of Partnerships and Commissioning and the Finance Officer.
- 3.2. Legal: There is no legal implications identified due to support from police around the regulated use of such devices
- 3.3. Risk: There is no risk associated with this proposal as the project and use of the Speed Laser Devices will be handled through existing Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.
- 3.4. HR / Equality: There are no equality and diversity issues as the project will support all members of the wider community.
- 3.5. I.T.: There is no IT implications
- 3.6. Procurement: No procurement implications have been identified as the purchasing of the Speed Laser Devices will be the responsibility of Cumbria Constabulary in partnership with the Neighbourhood Speed Watch Schemes.
- 3.7. Victims: No issues or risks to victims have been associated with the project. The aim of the funding and project is to increase capacity to reduce speeding and save lives.

4. Backgrounds / supporting papers

(List any relevant business case, EIA, PID, Media Strategy and append to this form; list persons consulted during the preparation of the report)

Public Access to Information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC website within 3 working days of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form. Deferment is only applicable where release before that date would not compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.

Is the publication of this form to be deferred? NO

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date (if known):

Is there a **Part 2** form - NO

(If Yes, please ensure Part 2 form is completed prior to submission)

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

I confirm that this report has been considered by the Chief Officer Group and that relevant financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

Signed: Jo Woof

Date: 10/04/2018

OFFICER APPROVAL**Chief Executive / Deputy Chief Executive (delete as appropriate)**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner / Chief Executive (delete as appropriate).

Signature: Vivian Stafford

Date: 10/04/2018

Media Strategy

The decision taken by the Police & Crime Commissioner may require a press announcement or media strategy.

Will a press release be required following the decision being considered? YES

If yes, has a media strategy been formulated? NO

Is the media strategy attached? NO

What is the proposed date of the press release: Dependent on purchase of equipment.