

## PFCC Decision Report

**Please ensure all sections below are completed**

**Report reference number: 116-24**

**Classification (e.g. Not protectively marked/restricted): Not protectively marked**

**Title of report: Essex Association of Local Councils support**

**Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide**

**Report by: Darren Horsman**

**Chief Officer: Darren Horsman**

**Date of report: 04/7/2024**

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### 1. Executive Summary

This paper sets out support for the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) over the next two years to provide a range of engagement and communication support. This will consist of £20,000 (£10,000 for 2024-2025 and £10,000 for 2025-2026) and a contribution of £5,000 per year for both 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 to host a shared conference for parish and town councils across Essex.

### 2. Recommendations

That the PFCC agrees to pay Essex Association of Local Councils £10,000 from the Community Safety Fund (CSF) for the provision of a series of engagement events and regular ongoing communications support. That the PFCC agrees to contribute £5,000 from the CSF to the EALC towards a shared conference. That this funding is provided for in 2024/25 and again in 2025/26.

### 3. Background to the Proposal

The Essex Association of Local Councils is a valued partner that has provided consistent and growing support for the Commissioner over the past few years.

Since the introduction of district engagement, the EALC has provided significant support to the Essex Police engagement team in sharing performance data and local updates. This includes sharing information from the Rural Engagement Team and other projects such as Specials recruitment.

For the last eight years the PFCC and the EALC have delivered collaboratively an Emergency Services Conference for parish and town councils across Essex. This has proved popular and a valuable opportunity to engage with local elected representatives.

These conferences have been used to launch the Community Special Scheme and the district engagement plans and have led to strong buy in and support from local, town and parish councils.

During 2020 the impact of COVID meant that our engagement with locally elected representatives had to change, with regular face-to-face engagement severely restricted. The EALC have been an important element of how we replaced this traditional engagement with more regular communications and the introduction of several online engagement opportunities.

As we re-established our engagement programme, taking on board the lessons learnt through the pandemic, we benefited from regular and positive engagement with the EALC members. The EALC and their members remain a key stakeholder group being heavily involved in the development of our Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan and involved in a wide range of our partnership activity. We anticipate this being a significant strand of activity over the next two years.

#### **4. Proposal and Associated Benefits**

The Essex Association of Local Councils will support the Commissioner in delivering the following activity during each year of this agreement.

- Distribution of weekly performance data, district level newsletters and recruitment activity by Essex Police.
- Distribution of news, events and updates from the PFCC.
- Distribution of performance data, news and campaign material from ECFRS.
- The EALC will also work with their membership to evaluate the effectiveness of these communications, providing feedback where possible to help each organisation improve how they engage with local elected representatives.
- The EALC will support the Commissioner in holding regular engagement events with their members, promoting these events to their members, facilitating questions and participating in these discussions with the Commissioner and representatives from the Services.
- The EALC will also promote job vacancies, urgent messages and notices and promote surveys and questionnaires as appropriate to their members.

#### **5. Options Analysis**

It was considered whether the Commissioner could establish their own alternative communication channels to these locally elected representatives however, the cost, time and lower value of this bespoke solution led to the team deciding to work in partnership with EALC instead.

## **6. Consultation and Engagement**

n/a

## **7. Strategic Links**

Partnership and Communication and Engagement are identified as key enablers within the Police and Crime Plan and this proposal strengthens capacity within these areas. The proposal also puts on a significantly stronger footing the established channels to reaching the tens of thousands of parish and town councillors across the county.

## **8. Police operational implications**

This will directly support Essex Police's ability to engage with their local communities.

## **9. Financial implications**

This decision covers 2024/25 and 2025/26 with the funding being allocated through the CSF. The budgeted fund for 2024/25 is £1,507,158 with a £73,017 carry forward from previous years. This £15,000 for EALC was allowed for when the budget was set and there is no funding remaining in the CSF.

The table below details the allocation and expenditure relating to the CSF, which shows that with the inclusion of this decision there is no CSF funding remaining for 2024/25, including having used the carry forward from previous years.

Allocation	
Carry Forward from previous years	£73,017
<b>Budget for 2024/25</b>	<b>£1,507,158</b>
Probation (HGV project) contribution	£35,000
Violence and Vulnerability contribution	£20,000
Confidence survey uplift	£4,300
Transfer to Staff costs	(£100,000)
Transfer to DA Perp	(£75,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,464,475</b>
Expenditure	
Essex DAAT	£399,785
Southend DAAT	£54,296
Thurrock DAAT	£48,907
Essex YJS	£253,233
Southend YJS	£109,255
Thurrock YJS	£81,347
Essex CSB	£66,426
Southend SCB	£14,355
Thurrock CSB	£17,777
Essex LASB	£58,564
Southend LASB	£22,711
Thurrock LASB	£18,750
DHR Fund Contribution	£43,000
CSP Top Slice to DHR Fund (12%)	£37,167
Neighbourhood Watch	£15,000
Crimestoppers	£55,549
Crimestoppers Regional Manager	£10,000
Essex Police Memorial Trust	£500
Brake (road safety)	£7,055
Public confidence survey (EP)	£50,000
Community Speedwatch	£12,070
DA Comms support	£26,000
CSP conference (Braxted)	£2,880
Road Train	£22,500
Essex Transport Training	£22,500
<b>EALC – this DR 116-24</b>	<b>£15,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,464,627</b>

## 10. Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications from this decision.

## 11. Staffing implications

This will not have any direct staffing implication.

## **12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications**

Information shared via the EALC from the PFCC will largely link through to the Commissioner's website and so will be available in an accessible format. The EALC are currently exploring plans to move their communication on to an online portal which will allow greater accessibility of all content and tracking of access by members of the public. The PFCC in their Equality Diversity and Inclusion Strategy state their desired aim to engage with communities across Essex and this agreement will provide strong support for reaching a wider range of local communities in remote and at times isolated locations.

## **13. Risks and Mitigations**

There is the risk that the EALC will not be able to deliver this over the course of 2024/25 however, given their previous strong record of delivery this is a very low-level risk.

## **14. Governance Boards**

This decision was discussed and supported by the Commissioner's Senior Management Team via email during the week commencing 1 July 2024.

## **15. Links to Future Plans**

n/a

## **16. Background Papers and Appendices**

n/a

**Report Approval**

The report will be signed off by the PFCC's Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O. Sign: 

Print: Darren Horsman - Deputy MO

Date: 29.7.2024

Chief Finance Officer Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 26 July 2027

**Publication**

Is the report for publication? YES  NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)

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If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

**Redaction**

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet? YES  NO  2. Of Appendix? YES  NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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Date redaction carried out: .....

**Chief Finance Officer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only**

If redaction is required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is to sign off that redaction has been completed.

**Sign:** .....

**Print:** .....

**Chief Executive / Chief Finance Officer**

**Date signed:** .....

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report:

**Sign:** 

**Print:** Jane Gardner

**Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:** 29/07/2024

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

.....  
.....  
.....

**Sign:**

**Print:**

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**