

Decision ID:

PCCDJ

000658

2022

Decision title

Approval for the donation of £60,000 to enable additional police activity countering rural crime

Executive summary

Approval is sought from the Police and Crime Commissioner to accept a donation of £60,000 to enable additional police activity countering rural crime in line with existing NaVCIS rural work.

The National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (NaVCIS) is a national police unit that works to protect communities in the UK from the harm of vehicle finance crime and associated serious and organised crime. It comprises of a centralised, specialist police capability. NaVCIS is dedicated to developing and disseminating intelligence that helps forces pursue offenders and prevent crime. Hampshire Constabulary has overall operational responsibility for NaVCIS pursuant to a collaboration agreement, between various policing bodies.

The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurers (NFU Mutual) provides insurance to rural communities. They work closely with local communities throughout the UK, and have an understanding of what people want from their insurance and financial services company particularly in the rural and farming communities.

The proposal is to use the donation from NFU Mutual to enable additional police activity countering rural crime in line with existing NaVCIS rural work. The donation is pursuant to section 93 of the Police Act 1996 in order to extend and enhance OPCC/ NaVCIS delivery of its core objectives and priorities. A Memorandum of Understanding will be put in place to ensure that the donation will not create sensitive associations between the parties, create any preferential treatment towards either party, create any benefit in policing terms or come with specific conditions attached.

Recommendation(s)

That the Police and Crime Commissioner accepts a donation of £60,000 from The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurers (NFU Mutual) to enable additional police activity countering rural crime in line with existing NaVCIS rural work. The acceptance is on behalf of all Police and Crime Commissioners across England and Wales as Hampshire Constabulary has

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overall operational responsibility for NaVCIS pursuant to a collaboration agreement, between various policing bodies.

Statement on publication

This Decision Record and supporting Decision Request documentation is suitable for publication.

Police and Crime Commissioner approval

I hereby **approve** the recommendation above.

Signature:



Name:

Donna Jones

Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire

Date:

13-June-2022

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Approval for the donation of £60,000 to enable additional police activity countering rural crime

Requester details:

Requester: DCI Brett Mallon

Role title: Head of Unit, NaVCIS (National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service)

1 Strategic context

The National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (NaVCIS) is a national police unit that works to protect communities in the UK from the harm of vehicle finance crime and associated serious and organised crime. It comprises of a centralised, specialist police capability. NaVCIS is dedicated to developing and disseminating intelligence that helps forces pursue offenders and prevent crime. Hampshire Constabulary has overall operational responsibility for NaVCIS pursuant to a collaboration agreement, between various policing bodies, as defined by s.22A Police act 1996.

The Police Act makes a distinction between Special Police Services (Section 25) and the acceptance of gifts and loans (Section 93). Under section 25 the Chief Constable can receive payments for Special Policing Services but under Section 93 only the local policing body (Police and Crime Commissioner) can receive gifts and loans. Therefore the Police and Crime Commissioner is being asked to agree the donation of funding for the purposes outlined in this decision notice.

The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurers (NFU Mutual) provides insurance to rural communities. They work closely with local communities throughout the UK, and have an understanding of what people want from their insurance and financial services company particularly in the rural and farming communities.

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NFU Mutual is proposing a donation of £60,000 to enable additional police activity countering rural crime in line with existing NaVCIS rural work. The donation is pursuant to section 93 of the Police Act 1996 in order to extend and enhance NaVCIS delivery of its core objectives and priorities.

Examples of anticipated spending include funding small local trials/initiatives combatting rural crime and predominantly offering a central pot of money to cover upfront costs incurred by forces who deploy NaVCIS covert assets (tracker equipped quad bike, trailer and land rover; to be deployed in hotspot areas). This upfront cash cost was identified as a blocker to forces using the tactic, and this donation is to avoid assets not being used.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been created to set out the relationship between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and NFU Mutual to ensure that the donation does not create sensitive associations between the parties, create any preferential treatment towards either party, create any benefit in policing terms or come with specific conditions attached.

The Commissioner's Financial Regulations provide that:

"3.10.2 In accordance with the Police Act 1996, the Commissioner may decide to accept gifts of money and gifts or loans of other property or services (e.g. car parking spaces) if they will enable the police either to enhance or extend the service which they would normally be expected to provide. The terms on which gifts or loans are accepted may allow commercial sponsorship of some police force activities.

3.10.3 Gifts, loans and sponsorship are particularly suitable for multi-agency work such as crime prevention, community relations work, and victim support schemes.

3.10.4 Gifts, loans and sponsorship can be accepted from any source which has genuine and well intentioned reasons for wishing to support specific projects. In return, the provider may expect some publicity or other acknowledgement. It is acceptable to allow the provider to display

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the organisation's name or logo on publicity material, provided this does not dominate or detract from the purpose of the supported project."

It is considered that, for the purposes of section 3.10.2 of the Financial Regulations, the proposed donation of funding to enable additional police activity countering rural crime in line with existing NaVCIS rural work will enable the NaVCIS to fund small local trials/initiatives combatting rural crime and predominantly offering a central pot of money to cover upfront costs incurred by forces who deploy NaVCIS covert assets, thereby enhancing the service which they would normally be expected to provide.

With regard to section 3.10.4 of the Financial Regulations, it is considered that the proposed donator, NFU Mutual, has genuine and well-intentioned reasons for wishing to support the enhancement of police activity countering rural crime because they work closely with local communities throughout the UK and have an understanding of what people need in relation to crime in the rural and farming communities.

2 Options appraisal

Accept: If the donation was accepted it would allow the NaVCIS to fund such things as small local trials/initiatives combatting rural crime and predominantly offering a central pot of money to cover upfront costs incurred by forces who deploy NaVCIS covert assets (tracker equipped quad bike, trailer and land rover; to be deployed in hotspot areas). This upfront cash cost was identified as a blocker to forces using the tactic, and this donation is to avoid assets not being used.

Decline: If the donation is declined the NaVCIS and local police forces would continue to experience issues in finding funding to deploy NaVCIS covert assets which will have a negative impact on reducing rural crime.

3 Timescales

This funding will run concurrently with the agreement already in place between Hampshire Constabulary and NFU Mutual which provides a Police Constable and an Intelligence Development Officer and the use of a police vehicle. This agreement runs until 30 June 2023.

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4 Financial and resourcing implications

There are no resourcing implications for the Police and Crime Commissioner as this is a decision to accept a donation of funding and therefore has a positive financial implication on the budget for the NaVCIS.

The Commissioner's Financial Regulations provide that:
 "3.10.2 In accordance with the Police Act 1996, the Commissioner may decide to accept gifts of money and gifts or loans of other property or services (e.g. car parking spaces) if they will enable the police either to enhance or extend the service which they would normally be expected to provide. The terms on which gifts or loans are accepted may allow commercial sponsorship of some police force activities.

It is considered that, for the purposes of section 3.10.2 of the Financial Regulations, the proposed donation of funding to enable additional police activity countering rural crime in line with existing NaVCIS rural work will enable the NaVCIS to fund small local trials/initiatives combatting rural crime and predominantly offering a central pot of money to cover upfront costs incurred by forces who deploy NaVCIS covert assets, thereby enhancing the service which they would normally be expected to provide.

Total cost	£60,000*
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* This will be funded in full by a donation from NFU Mutual

Timeframe funding required for	[June-2022 to June-2023]
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Table 1 - Funding allocation in each financial year

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Capital	£0	£0	£0
Revenue	£46,000	£14,000	£0

Table 2 - Funding source - Capital and Revenue

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	Capital (insert 'Yes' if applicable)	Revenue (insert 'Yes' if applicable)
Transformation reserve		
Commissioner's reserve		
Commissioning budget		
Approved capital programme		
General fund		
Other: NFU Mutual Donation		Yes

5 Communications and engagement implications

There is little communications and engagement implications as the Police and Crime Commissioner is responsible for accepting gifts and loans on behalf of the Chief Constable as per Section 93 of the Police Act 1996.

However, the Police and Crime Commissioner may want to publicise the donation in partnership with NFU Mutual as it meets her police and crime plan priorities to target rural crime.

6 Legal implications

The Police Act makes a distinction between Special Police Services (Section 25) and the acceptance of gifts and loans (Section 93). Under section 25 the Chief Constable can receive payments for Special Policing Services but under Section 93 only the local policing body (Police and Crime Commissioner) can receive gifts and loans. Therefore the Police and Crime Commissioner is being asked to agree the donation of funding for the purposes outlined in this decision notice.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been created to set out the relationship between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and NFU Mutual to ensure that the donation does not create sensitive associations between the parties, create any preferential treatment towards either party, create any benefit in policing terms or come with specific conditions attached.

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It is the view of the Hampshire Constabulary Chief Finance Officer that the offer meets the definition of 'gifts, loans and sponsorship', and therefore, pursuant to section 3.10.5 of the Commissioner's Financial Regulations, requires the approval of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

7 Risks and mitigation

Reputational risk if NFU Mutual attracts negative publicity for some reason. This risk is considered very low as there is no funding being provided to the service and the NFU Mutual already have an agreement with Hampshire Constabulary for the provision of special police services pursuant to section 25 of the Police Act 1996. It is also considered that the proposed donator, NFU Mutual, has genuine and well-intentioned reasons for wishing to support the enhancement of police activity countering rural crime because they work closely with local communities throughout the UK and have an understanding of what people need in relation to crime in the rural and farming communities.

8 Strategic policing requirement

This donation will enable additional police activity countering rural crime in line with existing NaVCIS rural work. The donation is pursuant to section 93 of the Police Act 1996 in order to extend and enhance OPCC/NaVCIS delivery of its core objectives and priorities.

Examples of anticipated spending include funding small local trials/initiatives combatting rural crime and predominantly offering a central pot of money to cover upfront costs incurred by forces who deploy NaVCIS covert assets (tracker equipped quad bike, trailer and land rover; to be deployed in hotspot areas). This upfront cash cost was identified as a blocker to forces using the tactic, and this donation is to avoid assets not being used to prevent rural crime.

9 Equalities

As part of the agreement with Hampshire Constabulary for the provision of special police services both parties are committed to conforming to the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010.

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10 Data Protection implications

No data relating to individuals is anticipated to be held in relation to the donation.

11 Publication status

Suitable for publication.

12 Personnel consulted

The following personnel were consulted on the Decision Request.

Table 3 - Personnel consulted

Stage 1:

Role	Organisation	Confirmation of consultation (insert 'Yes' if applicable)
Accountant	OPCC (HCC)	Yes
Deputy Monitoring Officer	OPCC (HCC)	Yes
Head of Strategic Procurement	HCC	No
Commissioning and Partnerships Officer	OPCC	Yes
Data Protection Officer	OPCC	No

Stage 2:

Role	Organisation	Confirmation of consultation (insert 'Yes' if applicable)
Chief Executive	OPCC	Yes

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Role	Organisation	Confirmation of consultation (insert 'Yes' if applicable)
OPCC/Hampshire Constabulary liaison	OPCC/HC	Yes
Head of Criminal Justice, Commissioning & Partnerships	OPCC	Yes
Head of Business	OPCC	Yes
Head of Estate	OPCC	N/A
Accountant	OPCC (HCC)	Yes
<i>[others as appropriate]</i>		

Stage 3:

Role	Organisation	Confirmation of consultation (insert 'Yes' if applicable)
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner	OPCC	Yes
Chief Finance Officer	OPCC (HCC)	Yes
<i>[others as appropriate]</i>		

OPCC - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
HCC - Hampshire County Council
HC - Hampshire Constabulary

13 Appendices

None

14 Background papers

- NaVCIS & NFU Mutual Memorandum of Understanding

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- Financial agreement with Hampshire Constabulary for the provision of special police services pursuant to section 25 of the Police Act 1996