

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Notice of Decision



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For Decision or Information	Decision
Date received*:	03 December 2018
Ref*:	2018.087

*to be inserted by Office of PCC

TITLE: Purchase of equipment to support and assist officers to tackle rural crime.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Rural communities report through regular engagement events and feedback the perception that officers can sometimes be limited in their attempts to tackle and positively react to reports of rural crime as a result of the availability of specialised equipment to effectively operate in a rural environment; specifically the ability to work in unlit, isolated, remote locations, identify and locate suspects, and access and search such locations.

This proposal aims to improve the ability of officers to tackle rural crime through the provision of equipment, contribution to force projects that have rural applications, and increasing the cadre of officers available to deploy on a quad-bike.

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF DECISION: (e.g report or business case)

Within the context of a budget circa £20k being available for rural crime the following proposals are made which collectively seek to achieve the aim of equipping frontline officers to effectively respond to and investigate rural incidents and thus improve and increase trust and confidence in rural communities.

Thermal imaging devices

Officers are often required to respond to rural offences and undertake searches for offenders in remote open country and in darkness. Securing NPAS attendance / support is not always a reliable option and a precise location for effective deployment of a police dog with adequate containment and options to detain are not always possible. Key stakeholders and communities report offenders are often equipped with night-vision capability and similarly operate night vision, quality lighting or thermal imaging equipment themselves to protect their land.

Thermal imaging devices (binoculars or monocular) are capable of effectively operating over hundreds of metres allowing officers to identify precise locations of offenders or routes of escape and availability of them would enable officers to be more effective in reactive and pro-active activities. There are also cross-over benefits to be gained e.g. in relation to assisting with high risk MFH searches.

Devices of sufficient functionality and capability to benefit officers are indicatively £3k per item.

LED searchlights/torches

Frontline officers report current lighting options (Rechargeable Dragon lights) are ineffective at holding charge and operating at the brightness and distance remote rural locations require. Current searchlights do not utilise the latest LED technology and undermine/prevent officers' from responding to rural incidents in a manner stakeholders and rural communities would expect.

Rechargeable items reduce revenue consumable spend on batteries and are environmentally friendlier.

Rechargeable searchlights and torches with vehicle charging and docking options available are

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indicatively £150 per item.

Disruptive and preventative signage

Maintaining visibility and presence across a wide geographical area presents particular difficulties and can be resource-intensive for little benefit or gain. Signage of sufficient quality and construction to have some longevity provides an indication of and can support physical presence. The intention would be for two specific areas of particular concern to rural communities – off-road ASB and Hare-coursing/poaching to erect durable A3 sized warning/preventative signs and messages at key locations and hotspots which would be supplemented by making the designs available for individual farmers/businesses to download and print for use themselves.

Indicative cost for 100 A3 durable signs is £1200

Expanding Police quad bike cadre

PPE equipment for each rider has been costed at approximately £275.

An external training course provider can deliver a one day course for 4 riders at approximately £650

The current cadre of riders (8) is exclusively within the pro-active specials team and the BNS neighbourhood team. It is anticipated that the size of this cadre will reduce and there is a need to widen the cadre to include individuals from across the county.

Drone project

Previous rural crime submissions and activity requests regarding a drone project have been unsuccessful. The benefits to rural activity and policing are among the wider benefits a drone brings to the force. A contribution to fund training for specifically rural-based officers is proposed to ensure that the benefit and availability of a drone is felt by rural communities and is utilised to tackle rural crime

It is my view that the above proposals align with identified rural priorities and would contribute in key areas of work as well as having a broader impact on the trust and confidence of rural communities and supporting frontline officers to undertake their role effectively.

Summary of proposals

Proposal	Indicative cost	Cumulative total
Thermal imaging devices x3	9000	9000
Rechargeable searchlights/torches x 20Ancillaries x 20	3000(150 x 20) 1000(50 X 20)	12000 13000
Signage for Operation Jericho- Off-road ASB issues100 A3 signs	1200	14200
Signage for Operation Bifocal-Hare-coursing and poaching100 A3 signs	1200	15400

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Expansion of Police quad bike rider cadre	1750	17150
Drone project	2500	19650

FINANCIAL INFORMATION (please include if is it capital or revenue or both. What the split is and the totals being requested. Is this a virement/ something already budgeted for or something that requires additional funding. Are there any savings that can be offered up/or achieved)

Funding for the proposals is to come from the priority crime budget. This is revenue spend.

Signature:

Chief Finance Officer

Date:

14th December 2018

Is any of the supporting information classified as non-public or confidential information?**

Yes

No

X

If yes, please state under which category number from the guidance**

DECISION:

The Commissioner approves the purchase of equipment to support and assist officers to tackle rural crime.

OFFICER APPROVAL

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that the appropriate 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.

Signature:

Chief Executive

Date:

12/12/18

DECLARATION:

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and I take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any interests are indicated below:

The above request has my approval.

Signature:

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Date:

6/12/18

** See guidance on non public information