

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE *DECISION RECORD*

To be completed in cases where a decision is required

DECISION OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Date: 8th October 2021

Officers present: Rupert Matthews, Grace Strong, Simon Down

Received in OPCC Date:

OPCC Ref: EXE022-21

Title: Violence Reduction Network - Funding

Summary of Issue:

The Violence Reduction Network (VRN) is funded through the Home Office Serious Violence Fund and is one of 18 Home Office funded Violence Reduction Units (VRU). Every year to date, VRUs have not received an indication of the following year's funding until the end of December. The application process usually commences late February with confirmation of success received in April (after the funding year has commenced).

The risk of the Home Office ceasing funding in 2022/23 is assessed as low however there is a risk that the Home Office may reduce its funding or change the requirements of its core grant.

With the exception of one post (data analyst) all of the VRN team are on fixed (short) term contracts or secondments. Productivity, quality and consistency of the team's work is significantly affected by staff attrition rates. Loss of part or all of the team due to uncertainty and a potential reduction in funding is likely to significantly impact on progress. The team have already experienced staff attrition due to uncertainty over future contracts which has impacted significantly on the capacity of the team.

It proving very difficult to retain current staff members and attract new recruits due to the short-fixed term contracts which has implications for the continuity and stability of the VRN programme given how central the team is to delivery.

Recommendation(s) presented:

It is recommended that in order to offer new and existing employees longer term contracts the VRN posts should be underwritten by the Commissioner in the event that the funding from the Home Office ceases. This will also enable recruitment to existing vacancies.

To underwrite the VRN posts from April 2022 to March 2023 this would cost approx. £353,853 (assuming a 2% pay increase).

To underwrite the VRN to March 2024 this would cost an additional £359,377 (assuming an additional 2% pay increase).

Period	£
April 2022 - March 2023	353,853
April 2023 - March 2024	359,377
Total	<u>713,230</u>

As the risk is low it is unlikely that the funds will be required to cover the cost of the VRN posts however, it is recommended that the funds are ring-fenced in the Budget Equalisation Reserve in the eventuality that the Home Office funding cease or is reduced.

Key discussion points

Use of the Budget Equalisation reserve to ring-fence the costs of the VRN core team.

It was resolved that:

Agreed to underwrite the costs of the VRN core team until March 2024 and provide a contingency within the Budget Equalisation reserve for such eventuality.

OFFICE OF PCC APPROVAL

Chief Executive or Chief Finance Officer:

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that 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: 

Name: 

Date: 13/01/2022

Publication Scheme

Decision of Monitoring Officer:

As Monitoring Officer for the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire I have determined that:

It is appropriate to publish this record of decision made by the Police and Crime Commissioner : **Yes/No**

It is appropriate to publish the contents of the report proposing this course of action prepared by either of the senior post holders in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire (i.e. either the Chief Executive or Chief Finance Officer) : **Yes/No**

It is appropriate to publish details of the decision by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire : **Yes/No**

Reasons for any non Publication (referencing appropriate legislation): None

[Redacted]

Name: [Redacted]

Date: 14th January 2022

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire

Having received the advice set out above and reviewed relevant documentation my decision in regard of this matter is:

Supported

Signature: [Redacted]

Date: 14-1-2022

