



THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST:			
To agree a financial contribution			
Title:			
North East Retail Crime Partnership			
Executive Summary:			
In August 2007 the North East Retail Crime Partnership (NERCP) approached the three North East forces (including North Yorkshire) for funding to assist in the progression and development of the partnership, which would include vast improvements to partnership working and information sharing protocols, whilst encouraging a more cohesive approach to tackling retail crime.			
Decision:			
To agree a contribution of £7,000 to the North East Retail Crime Partnership (NERCP) in conjunction with Durham, Northumbria and North Yorkshire PCCs.			
Implications:			
Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	
Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality & Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(If yes please provide further details below)			

Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's CFO where the decision has financial implications)

The £7,000 funding to continue to support this partnership for the next 12 months can be funded from within the budget set by the PCC at the start of the year.

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

Equality and Diversity Implications

Human Rights Implications

Sustainability Implications

Contribution towards NERCP will be reviewed annually.

Risk Management Implications

OFFICER APPROVAL**Chief Executive**

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

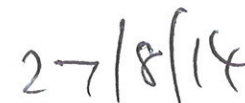

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS / ~~DOES NOT HAVE~~ my approval.

Signed: _____



Date: _____





North East Retail Crime Partnership

Police Business Case

Introduction to the NERCP

May 1999 saw the launch of the North East Retail Crime Partnership (NERCP) in Newcastle supported by the Northumbria Chief Constable Crispian Strachan. Such has been the success of the partnership, Durham Constabulary joined in 2000, Cleveland Police in February 2002 and North Yorkshire Police in 2008.

The NERCP collates information, intelligence, sightings and deters reported by member stores and partner organisations. Newsletters collating all available information and featuring the most prolific offenders and teams of offenders are circulated along with regular alerts on active known and unknown offenders in our region, to all member outlets, police force intelligence units, neighbourhood policing teams and the regional intelligence unit.

The NERCP is supported and encouraged by the three North East Forces and North Yorkshire. Having established the 'Regional Police Steering Group' in August 2008 to assist in the progression and development of the partnership, it has been instrumental in improving our partnership working and information sharing protocols, whilst encouraging a more cohesive approach to tackling retail crime.

Background of Police Support

In August 2007 the North East Retail Crime Partnership (NERCP) approached the three North East forces and North Yorkshire for funding to assist in the progression and development of the partnership, which would also include vast improvements to the partnership working and information sharing protocols between the NERCP, North East forces and inclusion of North Yorkshire.

The key benefits outlined for all partners and police forces were to:

- provide an efficient, effective system for partnership working for the detection and prevention of crime
- join-up services to quickly identify travelling individuals and teams using anonymity to avoid detection and prosecution
- increase the amount of information and intelligence available
- ensure that businesses do not need to give the same piece of information to different agencies
- increased operational visibility and effectiveness
- increase public confidence by raising awareness of initiatives used to target criminals

For the police intelligence units, the additional benefits of being able to:

- identify and map retail/business crime trends and hotspots
- identify how retail/business crime links to organised crime
- determine how best to assign resources and inform appropriate operations
- prevent others from becoming victims

North East Retail Crime Partnership

Police Business Case

12 Month Progress of the NERCP and Police Partnership

With the financial contribution given to the NERCP by the Police and Crime Commissioners and forces from June 2013 – 2014, the partnership have continued to develop services, identify potential threats and lead the way to a cultural change in relation to crime prevention within the retail sector. The following details the achievements over the past 12 months:

Achievement	Benefit to the Police
<p>Heightened Level of Engagement - More resource has enabled the NERCP to support more police and retailers on a local basis in the region. This has resulted in a 23% increase of engagement from police partners and retail members.</p>	<p>Provides police officers with a more sustainable and cohesive mechanism of support and advice. Increases the quality of information sharing and therefore the outputs of offender targeting successes.</p>
<p>Development of the new Retail Crime secure website where members and police can view all NERCP circulations including offender forewarnings, training material and other advice. To view the website visit: www.nercp.org.uk to get into the members area, please contact the NERCP for your login details.</p>	<p>Officers are kept up to date with daily activity in relation to retail crime in the North East, including local targets, force wide, regional and national travelling targets enabling them to identify threats to their area.</p> <p>The training material and other useful tools can be used by officers within their local areas to support the prevention of retail crime.</p> <p>The sharing of best practice in relation to Shopwatch schemes and case studies around restorative justice are available for officers to view and use to enhance their own operation.</p>
<p>Counterfeit Currency Initiative. The NERCP identified an increase in counterfeit currency in the region which prompted an initiative aimed at raising the awareness of North East retailers and police officers by highlighting how to identify counterfeit money and what to do with it if it is received. Over 900 retail staff and police officers were trained by the NERCP in how to spot a fake note. Over 4000 Bank of England training products were circulated to retailers and police in the region.</p>	<p>Heightening awareness of retailers and police potentially reduces the amount of crimes reported of this nature and reduces future opportunity for criminals to sell and spend the notes.</p>
<p>Change Ringing Initiative - The NERCP identified the increase in the 'Change Ringing' scam throughout the region, whereby offenders will enter a retail store/other business, select items and proceed to pay with cash and use distraction methods to confuse staff into taking less cash than the items cost. This is also used in post offices, travel agents and other businesses where nominal can change cash. From January – June 2014 the NERCP trained over 800 North East retailers and over 70 police officers in relation to the Change Ringing Scam. Over 1500 Pocket sized information cards were generated by the NERCP and distributed by the partnership and local PCSO's to North East retail businesses. The NERCP has seen a substantial reduction of incidents reported of this nature.</p>	<p>Heightening awareness of retailers and police has reduced the amount of crimes reported of this nature and reduces future opportunity for criminals to successfully complete this type of crime.</p>

North East Retail Crime Partnership

Police Business Case

<p>The 2013 Christmas Card Initiative saw the top 100 retail crime offenders in participating force areas receive a Christmas card from the partnership with a criminality notice warning them not to take part in crime over the festive season. The cards were donated by retail members and in many cases hand delivered to offenders by local police. Overall 87.5% of offenders who received the cards were not identified as taking part in further retail crime in the region over the festive period.</p>	<p>Reduction in prolific offenders being identified as taking part in retail crime over the festive period. Increased confidence from retailers and police as a result of working together in partnership.</p>
<p>Promotion of Restorative Approach within the retail industry to encourage co-operation from retailers to engage in restorative approaches. NERCP produced a RJ information leaflet circulated to over 4000 retailers, provided a presentation to over 500 retailers and added a Restorative Approach area to the website for police to share case studies for information. Some retail members are taking a more restorative approach within their own businesses, choosing not to report the offence as a crime.</p>	<p>More retailers now understand and are engaged in the RJ process, reducing police time in dealing with low level crimes. Reduces the risk of an offender taking park in future crime and the time taken by police having to deal with small level offences.</p>
<p>Development of #Shopwise, a project aimed at diverting young people from retail crime. The project has 2 elements: 1) Divert young people aged 10-13 from crime by delivering sessions in schools and youth groups which include art and drama pieces 2) To work with young people who have already engaged in shop theft. Sessions are in the process of being arranged with primary schools in the region for September 2014.</p>	<p>Reducing the risk of young people being involved in crime reduces future crime in the North East. Neighbourhood policing teams have the opportunity to be involved in the sessions.</p>
<p>Unknown offenders identified by the NERCP network increased by 8% in the past 12 months with 132 people being named, many of which went on to be convicted.</p>	<p>Increased amount of identifications and therefore crimes solved. More police officers are aware of the NERCP's facility to circulate their outstanding crimes, giving them more options to progress their case.</p>
<p>Increased Intelligence packages produced by the NERCP to tackle force wide travelling and cross border targets. 127 targets including teams and individuals were investigated by the NERCP over the past 12 months with all relevant information being passed to the relevant force intelligence departments for disruption and appropriate action.</p>	<p>Increased awareness of potential threats, deterring criminal activity from the area.</p>
<p>Development of 1 Information Sharing Agreement for all North East Shopwatch schemes to use. This would be reviewed every 3 years by the NERCP.</p>	<p>Reduction of time taken by Police Shopwatch co-ordinators in terms of reviewing the ISA and much more clarity about what the document is and where to find it.</p>

North East Retail Crime Partnership

Police Business Case

<p>Implementation of a Shopwatch performance plan and Shopwatch Co-ordinators forum - which aims to capture the quality of each local scheme, extracting the best practise and applying to schemes that need more support. We can also gauge from this where engagement levels by both retailers and police can be improved.</p>	<p>This highlights to police co-ordinators where work needs to be done and provides a platform to obtain that information. This has enhanced the local Shopwatch schemes, increasing retail involvement and confidence in the police.</p>
<p>Development of the 'BEST of Shopwatch' awards. In partnership with the 4 forces, the NERCP have developed an accreditation for all North East schemes which includes a minimum standard and assessment process. The aim of this is to ensure all Shopwatch schemes are relevant, effective and value for money. Those schemes that are successful will be awarded in the 2014 North East Retail Crime Conference.</p>	<p>The awards and minimal standards accreditation gives police Shopwatch co-ordinations and officers involved in other ways, the recognition for the work they are doing and encourages all schemes to be the best they can be.</p>
<p>The North East Retail Crime Conference 2013 was attended by 170 delegates from around the North East and further afield, giving an overview of how retail crime was affecting the region and highlighting the good work being done to prevent it. Speakers included the National Fraud Authority, Northumbria University Cyber Crime Department, Wilkinson and M&S, Cleveland and Durham Police and Northumbria Deputy PCC.</p>	<p>The event offered police officers who are involved in Shopwatch schemes and intelligence sharing, the opportunity to see what is going on throughout the region and UK to tackle retail crime. It gave them a chance to network; share best practise and feel supported by the NERCP.</p>

Review of Support and Future Developments

As the last financial contribution expires in September 2014, further consideration is required to review the established partnership and progress it further within each force area to enable development in the following areas:

- ❖ Continue to lead the retail sector into a culture of deter and prevention
- ❖ Increase Confidence - Helping to ensure sustainable economic growth
- ❖ Continue to develop the local Shopwatch schemes further
- ❖ Continue to develop and deliver ongoing initiatives
- ❖ Support in any future retail crime initiatives
- ❖ Increase the NERCP members network

Recommendations

- Agreement from the four forces to continue funding support of £7k per annum, for a further 12 months
- Continuation of the Police Steering Group to ensure objectives are met and the partnership remains prevalent across force areas dealing with retail crime