



THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST: To agree a financial contribution			
Title: North East Retail Crime Partnership			
Executive Summary: See attached business case and North East Retail Crime Partnership Terms of Reference			
Decision: To agree a contribution of £7000 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)

£7,000 funding support for 12 months - funding previously agreed by the Force from April 2008 - March 2012.

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: 3/10

Police and Crime Commissioner:

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

Signed:  Date: 7/10/14



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. Funding of £7,000 from each force was agreed for 2 years, commencing April 2008 to March 2010. Further funding was agreed for 1 year in 2011.

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

Progress to date of the NERCP and Police Partnership

Since the first contribution from the forces in 2008, the NERCP have developed by improving the way intelligence is shared throughout the partnership and promoting the most responsible and effective messages within the retail sector i.e. Deter and Prevent, driving a cultural change in relation to crime prevention.

Relationships have been established and strengthened between the NERCP and Police including the intelligence units and NPT's resulting in:

- ✓ A more effective information flow producing more accurate and relevant information. This has enabled the NERCP to provide retail members with a higher quality intelligence package
- ✓ More professional, travelling criminals identified and disrupted
- ✓ More unknown individuals being identified by circulating via the NERCP network. The NERCP identified 197 unknowns in 2012, many of which were convicted
- ✓ An increase of public confidence for the Police as the retail sector feels more supported - resulting in reassurance and co-operation
- ✓ An ability to get the Police message across quickly and effectively to the retail sector e.g. 2011 saw the Riots effect the UK. The forces were inundated with phone calls from retailers worried about their stores. The NERCP sent an alert out to all members from the forces which in Durham force alone reduced the calls from retailers by approximately 50%.
- ✓ Creating a more joined up approach to crime prevention, reducing strain on police resource. The NERCP now link into 42 Shopwatch schemes, supporting all and managing some, this has reduced the amount of work required by the NPT's in many areas

The NERCP and Police Steering group are currently developing a new refreshed 'Terms of Reference' in keeping with the ever changing trends and issues retail crime poses. *See appendix A*

Review of Support and Future Developments

As the last financial contribution expired in March 2012, further consideration is required to review the established partnership and progress it further within each force area to enable development in the following areas:

- ❖ Improved processes in dealing with information on Organised Crime Groups
- ❖ Effective and meaningful information flow between police forces, retailers and the NERCP
- ❖ Increase the NERCP members network
- ❖ Continue to lead the retail sector into a culture of deter and prevention
- ❖ Increase Confidence - Helping to ensure sustainable economic growth

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



North East Retail Crime Partnership - Police Steering Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE - March 2013

Purpose of the group

Working together to reduce retail crime and the fear of crime in the North East, whilst creating a safe and pleasant shopping environment for our communities.

Key areas of delivery

- ✓ Crime Prevention & Reduction
- ✓ Information Sharing
- ✓ Engagement
- ✓ Reassurance
- ✓ Performance

Delivery Plan

Crime Prevention

- Working in partnership to divert young people from crime
- Identification of prolific offenders and referral to integrated offender management
- Timely and accurate intelligence led initiatives
- Identification of crime trends and emerging threats
- Emphasis on prevention of retail crime
- Effectively tackling issues to ensure offenders are not displaced into other areas

Information Sharing

- Co-ordinated approach to sharing information on cross border crime
- Quality, timely and accurate information/intelligence recording and dissemination
- Effective and meaningful information flow between police forces, retailers and the NERCP

Engagement

- Ensure strategic commitment of the Police Steering group
- Operational engagement via Shopwatch
- Appropriate use of media marketing campaigns
- Develop integration of Town Centre Management into Shopwatch
- Training and education to raise awareness of M.O's offenders, crime series/trends etc.
- Improve communication between Police intelligence hubs and the partnership
- Maintain a sustainable membership base to assist in development
- Conferences and seminars to raise awareness, provide reward and recognition

Reassurance

- Media Marketing – promote good news stories and the work of the partnership

Performance (what does success look like?)

- Evaluate process effectiveness (e.g criisp)
- Resource needed to manage information
- Crime figures – deters and other outcomes (e.g sightings and bans)



- Sustain economic viability (i.e. stock loss prevention)
- Finance
- Best practice and lessons learned
- Intelligence submissions – Quality and quantity

The delivery plan will be implemented and monitored via an associated action plan which will be reviewed at each steering group meeting. Each action will have an owner and be subject to deadlines for completion. The overarching delivery plan objectives will be reviewed on an annual basis.