

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER  
FOR HUMBERSIDE  
DECISION RECORD**

Decision Record Number: **34/2024**

Title: **PCC Fund – Safer Roads Humber**

**Executive Summary:**

The Safer Roads Humber partnership holds funds, known as the PCC fund which originated from the original speed awareness courses prior to the current national funding framework.

As the result of scrutiny of the fund and the processes, a review of the 2016 board decision was conducted, and a new board decision was made to provide greater clarity and transparency of decision making.

This decision record will replace the 2016 process decision and ensure all requests for spend against this fund are brought to the attention of the PCC for agreement. Spend will be approved via decision record which will be then published by the PCC.

**Decision of the PCC**

Approved

**Background Report: Open**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside**

I confirm I have considered whether I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct.

Any such interests are recorded below.

The above decision has my approval.

**Signature**



**Date 28/10/2024**

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**FOR HUMBERSIDE**

**SUBMISSION FOR: DECISION**

**OPEN**

**Title: PCC Fund – Safer Roads Humber**

**Date: 30.08.24**

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**1. Executive Summary**

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**2. Recommendation(s)**

It is recommended the partnership board decision is accepted by the PCC and the fund managed under the new arrangements (option 1).

**3. Background**

The original speed awareness courses were provided by Humberside Police and the funds had to be ring fenced and held separately to other police funds and this fund could only be used for road safety projects. The fund was managed by the Police Authority until 2015 when the first PCC was in place.

The fund built up over a period to the value of around £758k and in 2016 the Partnership and the PCC agreed the funds would be transferred to the partnership and for it to be managed by them against an agreed governance process within a decision record agreed by the then PCC in 2016.

The agreement was that the funds should be used for road safety projects and spent quickly and where possible, equally between the four local authority areas.

The previous decision record allowed any bid for funds up to £10k to be authorised by the chair of the partnership board with oversight by the Humberside Police representative and any bid over that amount would be agreed by the board in principle and then approval in writing should be sought by the PCC for oversight.

This continued until early 2024 when scrutiny of the process showed that a more robust and auditable process should be in place.

Some of the bids had been authorised outside of the agreed process and one bid (Community Speed Watch) was being funded over a five-year period as opposed to the agreed one-year period. PCC approval was not in place for these spends.

A review of the processes was conducted by the partnership manager, the police, the OPCC and the East Riding of Yorkshire council treasury and a report produced by the OPCC.

The report was discussed at the June 2024 partnership board meeting and the proposals were accepted by the board.

To adequately deal with the previous lack of approval a proposal was made to return funds back to the PCC Fund that had been claimed from the police in relation to the extra funding of the Community Speed Watch bid.

The report recommended that a decision record be submitted by the partnership setting out governance requirements for spend against the fund that would replace the previous 2016 record. This is the required decision record. To access future funds the partnership manager would complete a decision record for any bid, regardless of value and the OPCC would consider the matter within 4 weeks.

Each bid should be aligned with the Police and Crime Plan and a record be maintained to show full governance of the funds.

The value of the fund would be £224,420 on approval of the decision.

#### **4. Options**

- 1) Approve the 2024 partnership board decision and the new processes to manage the fund.
- 2) Do not approve the 2024 partnership board decision and the new processes to manage the fund and revert to the 2016 board decision.
- 3) Request a further scrutiny of the decision and processes.

**5. Financial Implications**

There is no cost to the decision. The partnership would have an agreed process to adhere to, which, overseen by the OPCC would have full governance and accountability.

**6. Legal Implications**

None known.

**7. Driver for Change/Contribution to Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan**

This would ensure full accountability of funds, that are ring fenced for road safety and casualty reduction which is part of the Police and Crime plan.

**8. Equalities Implications**

None known.

**9. Consultation**

There has been a consultation with the four local council areas, National Highways, the police, OPCC and fire service in relation to the fund and its management. No concerns were raised and all agreed the new process at the board meeting.

**10. Media information**

Not required.

**11. Background documents**

PCC fund update paper (Presented to SRH board 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024) – attached.

**12. Publication**

Open

**13. DPIA considered (Data Protection Officer will complete full checklist)**

Not required



<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	SRH Board 20 June 2024
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	OPCC Head of Assurance and Statutory Duties
<b>PAPER TITLE:</b>	PCC Fund Update

**AREA FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Following concerns from the OPCC regarding the spend against the PCC Fund, a pack of evidence was presented to the OPCC demonstrating spend against the fund. With a couple of exceptions, it was found that spend had been made outside of the agreed governance for the fund. Further questions were then raised about the evidence pack and a discussion was held between the Chair of SRH Board, Steve Chandler ERYC Finance, OPCC Chief Executive, and OPCC Head of Assurance and Statutory Duties on 2 May 2024 to create a fuller understanding of the issues raised.

**ISSUES OF NOTE**

2. Following the meeting there were two identified issues:
  - a) The governance process around funds being used from the PCC Fund.
  - b) The understanding around mainstreaming of Community Speed Watch (CSW).

**Governance**

3. The evidence pack from the SRH Partnership Manager included a financial schedule outlining the PCC Reserve Summary. This outlined an unallocated amount of £30,177.
4. It was agreed as per a Decision Record enclosed within the evidence pack from the previous SRH Partnership Manager, that any spend under £10k could be taken direct from the PCC Fund for road safety initiatives with verbal agreement from the Humberside Police lead. However, it was requested that any spend above this limit be brought as a business case to the PCC prior to any spend. The governance structure within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) works via a Decision Record process, for which decisions are then published.
5. On only one occasion, the cycle lanes bid for £40,394 in 17/18, was a Decision Record used. All other spend above £10k was undertaken outside of this process and total individual spend between 17/18 and 22/23 above the £10k agreement was £239,496 (excluding the cycle lanes bid which followed due process and CSW funding which is covered below).

6. It is accepted that the bids and spend should have formally come through the agreed PCC Decision Making process. However, the PCC also accepts that the SRH Board has considered the cases within their meeting and that the bids were all deemed as valid road safety initiatives.
7. This accepted, from this point forward (24/25) the agreed process should be adhered to. It is requested that new Decision Records be completed to ensure the SRH Board are clear on governance requirements for the PCC Fund. To ensure the fund is managed in line with all other PCC spend activity we ask all requests for monies from the PCC Fund follow this process, irrelevant of the amount involved.
8. PCC decision-making does not require adherence to set dates and schedules. We require a Decision Record template completing, which is not onerous, and most information would be easily lifted from any business case. A four-week turnaround on decisions would be achievable. In addition, to assist in clarity around what the PCC Fund could potentially contribute towards, the PCCs Police and Crime Plan contains an aim around safer communities – the outcomes for this aim are focused for example on delivering safer roads for all users, education and support for young people, and prevention activities.

#### Community Speed Watch (CSW)

9. Following the pilot funded by the PCC in 2018, our understanding from the SRH Chair at the time was that there were identified benefits around how the scheme could compliment the work of SRH in reducing road casualties without having a detrimental impact on the core responsibilities of the partnership. As there were monies within the SRH attributed to PCC funding, an agreement was made with the OPCC to fund the CSW scheme for the first year and thereafter funding would be bid from SRH funds. The understanding of the PCC was that:
  - CSW was unanimously endorsed/supported by the SRH Board, and the SRH Partnership Manager at that time stated the proposal fit the SRH casualty reduction strategy.
  - First-year funding would be provided by the PCC up to £96,250 (from the SRH PCC Fund) and subject to successful evaluation a bid submitted to the SRH Board for continuation of the scheme, funded by SRH at that point.
  - CSW would be located within SRH and provided access to all systems to support interoperability and the road safety identification processes.
  - The project in the first year would be overseen by a Chief Inspector and not SRH but there would be a close alignment and mutual support.
  - Recruitment of the co-ordinator post as a Humberside Police employee funded through the PCC Fund on a one-year contract initially.
  - A working Group would be established to develop the process, led by the Chief Inspector and incorporating a member from each Local Authority, SRH and the OPCC.
10. In March 2020, a report was presented by the Force to the PCC's Accountability Board on progress. This stated the review of outcomes had been presented to the

SRH Board and members were unilaterally supportive of the scheme and outcomes in terms of engagement and speed reduction. The spend was significantly less than predicted and therefore there was funding in the initial provision from the PCC Fund to continue to deliver CSW over a further two years, with outcomes from the project being integrated into the diagnostics in the SRH Strategy to reduce casualties on our roads. The OPCC were led to believe at the meeting that CSW was therefore mainstreamed within SRH fund future planning (the PCC made it explicitly clear the PCC Fund was not to be used as the route for this), with the outcomes being included within performance reporting at the tactical and strategic level.

11. In November 2023, we were informed the PCC fund had used £171,607 to date (19/20-23/24) for CSW and was forecast for £119,292 up to year 26/27, when the funding apparently ended (with a total spend on CSW of £290,900 over an 8-year period).
12. As a gesture of goodwill, the PCC is willing to accept the spend in 19/20 and 20/21 to a total of £62,931 (which makes up £96,656 over a three-year period 19/20 to 21/22). In addition, the PCC understands that CSW has functioned during 22/23 and 23/24, of which the costs are £74,951. The PCC has sought the agreement of the Force to absorb these costs and SRH will be credited this funding back accordingly. Any future costs for Community Speed Watch will be absorbed by the Force.
13. Once the credited monies are received by the partnership, the OPCC believes that there will be £224,420 unallocated of the PCC Fund (CSW funding between 22-23 to 26-27 of £191,243 and unallocated £30,177) which should follow the agreed Decision Record governance protocol for spend.

## **NEXT STEPS**

1. Force to credit the SRH partnership £74,951 for 22/23 and 23/24 salary costs that have been incurred and paid outside agreed governance arrangements.
2. Complete a decision record that documents the process that will be followed to ensure the request complements the aims of the Police and Crime Plan, that governance of the PCC Fund is maintained, and PCC agreement is sought for all spend.
3. SRH Partnership Manager to ensure adherence to the PCC Decision Record process from 23/24 onwards for the PCC Fund.
4. OPCC to ensure that all requests for decision-making are completed within four weeks of request.