

## THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR DURHAM

### DECISION RECORD FORM

**Request: To agree a contribution of £10,000 towards the Rural Aerial Network**

**Title: Rural Aerial Network**

**Executive Summary:**

The proposal is to construct seven new radio aerial masts across the deepest rural areas of Durham Constabulary, which would significantly increase operational policing communications. This collaborative project would enhance partnership, working effectively by providing a strong basis to develop the process of centralising fragmented rural service provisions. Rural resources have retreated gradually, reflected in rural expenditure per person being less than urban. The project would combat this to some degree, inter-linking the police with the community, rural residents and groups such as Rural Watch.

The proposed aerial masts will be shared in use between the force, for whom it would enhance capability to respond efficiently, and local partnership groups such as Rural Watch. For communities and residents who are the most rural, these masts would strengthen the link with the police force and their local communities respectively. Ultimately, the seven masts would increase the reach the force has across the county, specifically in the deepest rural areas which will allow for a more comprehensive policing and community response.

If successful and installed this proposed radio aerial system will help in providing a modern communication method for rural communities. It will provide coverage across the Northern Pennines and further where there is limited or no phone signal. It will enable volunteers, police, gamekeepers and landowner's to have access to an updated communication system, which will assist in deterring and tackling rural crime.

With a revamped infrastructure in place the network will have the capability to be used 24/7, and will cover all parts of Weardale, Teesdale and into South Durham. It will enable members of Rural Watch to be contacted at any time to support police or residents in times of extreme weather. This will help with the availability of off-road vehicles, tractors, chain saws and assistance to vulnerable people.

This request to the OPCVC is to contribute £10,000 towards the overall cost of the scheme, which is approximately £24,000. The remaining £14,000 would be covered by three Area Action Partnerships – Teesdale, Weardale and Three Towns. All three have indicated that they will support this project and contribute equally to the balance of the cost.

This decision aligns closely with the priority in the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan to 'improve community safety in rural areas'. Decision was made at the PCVC Commissioning Board held on 23rd September 2019.

**Decision: To agree a contribution of £10,000 towards the Rural Aerial Network.**

**OPCVC Lead Officer: Jon Carling**

**Contractor Details (if applicable): n/a**

**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)

Funding exists to cover this contribution.

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

No specific legal implications.

Equality and Diversity Implications

No specific equality and diversity implications.

Human Rights Implications

No specific human rights implications.

Sustainability Implications

No specific sustainability implications.

Risk Management Implications

No specific risk management implications.

**OFFICER APPROVAL**

**Acting 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: 23/09/2019



**Acting Police Crime and Victims’ Commissioner:**

Signed:

Date: 23/09/2019

