

**Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Resources Committee
13 September 2007**

Open for the purposes of FOI.
Report of the Director of Finance and Resources

Police Property Act Fund

Recommendations:

- (i) The Authority approve the transfer of the £139k held within the Police Property Act Fund to the Devon Community Foundation to be invested in an endowed fund;**
- (ii) The Fund be divided between the Devon and Cornwall Foundations for distribution in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly;**
- (iii) The Fund be increased annually with any additional receipts received under the Police (Property) regulations 1997.**

1. Background

1.1. The Police Property Act Fund was established under statute to deal with money and other property that comes into the possession of the Police in connection with criminal charges. After 12 months this property can then be sold with the proceeds being retained by the police. The Police (Property) regulations 1997 state that there are three ways in which the receipts can be applied :-

- ◆ offsetting expenses incurred in the disposal of the property;
- ◆ compensation payments to persons who have delivered the property to the Police;
- ◆ payments for charitable purposes determined by the Authority.

1.2. No payments have been made out of the fund over the last few years and the current available balance stands at £139k.

2. Devon Community Foundation

2.1 Devon Community Foundation (DCF) has approached the Constabulary with a view to them administering the fund. DCF is a charitable organisation that identifies local community groups and charities that would best match our interest as a potential donor of funds. The foundation specialises in making small grants (up to £10,000) to small voluntary and community groups working at grass roots level and can be targeted to geographic areas, named individuals or donor directed. These grants would be tailored to meet the Constabulary's requirements and would be directed to support our priorities and objectives.

2.2 The organisation is known to both the Constabulary and the Authority as amongst the board of trustees for DCF are Mike Bull from the Police Authority and Deputy Chief Constable Tony Melville.

2.3 DCF has awarded more than £5m in grants in the last five years with the average grant £3,780.

3. Proposal for use of the Fund

3.1 The proposal put forward by DCF would be a partnership between Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, the Devon Community Foundation and the Cornwall Community Foundation. This would allow grants to be made in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (distributed annually to an agreed formula) with DCF co-ordinating the programme and managing the overall fund.

3.2 The money would be used to set up an endowed fund (an invested fund that generates income in perpetuity) used to target police priorities. This fund could then be increased each year with the additional receipts received by the Constabulary.

3.3 A steering group would need to be established to set the fund parameters and monitor the programme. Grants would then be made against the set criteria, which can be amended annually to meet changes to police priorities.

3.4 DCF operates with a low cost management fee structure, a 10% administrative fee is applied to each grant with a further 5% if an outreach and support service is required.

4.0 Summary

4.1 The benefits to the Constabulary are as follows :-

- ◆ Partnership working with well respected voluntary sector organisations;
- ◆ Proactive and beneficial use of the fund
- ◆ A focused, dedicated resource to support police priorities;
- ◆ Involvement in decision-making
- ◆ Accountability and transparency
- ◆ Flexibility
- ◆ Cost and time effective
- ◆ Visible results and regular feedback
- ◆ Refer requests for support to the Foundation
- ◆ Ability to add to the Fund

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