

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) FOR LINCOLNSHIRE
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

**REF: 013/2021
DATE: 19 March 2021**

SUBJECT	
NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT	
REPORT BY	PARTNERSHIP AND DELIVERY MANAGER
CONTACT OFFICER	Joanne Davison, Partnership and Delivery Manager Telephone 01522 947406
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF REPORT To approve funding for the Lincs Alert system to ensure continuity of service to existing subscribers and to further develop the system for use by OPCC Communications and Safer Together teams.	
RECOMMENDATION	That £13,999 be released from the Development & Partnership Working Reserve to fund the Lincs Alert system.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LINCOLNSHIRE

I hereby approve the recommendation above, having considered the content of this report.

Signature:  **Date:** 19 March 2021

A. NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE PCC

A1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. The Police and Crime Commissioner has a statutory obligation to engage with communities under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. This is reflected as a priority within the Police and Crime Plan, with specific reference to engagement and the development of community capacity and resilience (see section A2).
2. Lincs Alert has been used by Lincolnshire Police for some time to communicate community safety messages and alerts to members of the public. There are currently c. 12,000 individuals registered to receive updates from Lincolnshire OPCC and c. 21,000 individuals registered to receive updates from Lincolnshire Police.

3. The Force has taken the operational decision not to use the system going forward and to use alternative communication methods (social media).
4. Consultation with members indicates that confidence in Lincs Alert is high and 1,220 respondents stated that the information within the messages has helped prevent them from becoming a victim of crime. In addition, 75% of respondents indicated that they do not trust social media.
5. The OPCC will take ownership of the system from April 2021 to ensure continuity of service to existing subscribers and to further develop the system for use by OPCC Communications and Safer Together teams.
6. The Alert system is a secure, web-based two-way national community messaging system which enables Police, Fire & Rescue, Neighbourhood Watch and other public sector partners to deliver targeted, relevant messages to specific groups of users, based on a wide range of criteria. It integrates seamlessly with the National Neighbourhood Watch OurWatch database and supports the sharing of messages on Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, Linked in, WhatsApp and many other platforms.

A2. LINKS TO POLICE AND CRIME PLAN AND PCC'S STRATEGIES/PRIORITIES

This will support delivery of the following priorities, as identified within the Community Safety, Policing and Criminal Justice Plan 2017 – 2021:

Listening, responsive and accountable

- Engage with the public of Lincolnshire regularly, openly and through multiple 'channels' recognising that 'one size' does not fit all including:
 - Active web, social media engagement and online surveys.
- Represent the voice of the Lincolnshire people at a local, regional and national level to shape and influence priorities and policy.
- Seek the public's view on key and emerging issues throughout the year.
- Shape services with partners to be responsive to local need including:
 - Surveying public perception of the force to inform priorities.
 - Recognising and reflecting the different priorities and concerns of the people of Lincolnshire.
 - Neighbourhood engagement including digital forums

Community Safety and Prevention in Partnership

- Support for citizen involvement and development of community capacity and resilience through prevention, education, and promotion of volunteering opportunities and "watch" schemes – crime prevention is everybody's business. Communities, businesses, and individuals will be empowered to harness local resources and expertise to help themselves and their communities.

B. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The cost net of VAT (£13,999) will be met through the Development & Partnership Working reserve. This decision approves the drawdown of the reserve in 2021/22, any subsequent year costs will need to be considered during budget setting.

C. LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

[This should include the legal powers the PCC has for making the decision]

The Police and Crime Commissioner has a statutory obligation to engage with communities under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSRA).

In addition, Section 143 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides Police and Crime Commissioners with powers to provide or commission services. Within the meaning of this section, a PCC may provide or arrange for the provision of:

- (a) services that in the opinion of the PCC will secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in the PCC's area
- (b) services that are intended by the PCC to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour
- (c) services of a description specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.

D. PERSONNEL AND EQUALITIES ISSUES

The system will support the identification of under-represented groups. It is also able to auto translate outgoing messages to over 100 languages which will allow us to engage with members of our communities who we have not previously due to language barriers.

E. REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

Review and evaluation arrangements will be put in place to assess whether intended outcomes have been achieved.

F. RISK MANAGEMENT

Through the review and evaluation arrangements as necessary.

G. PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this form along with any supporting material is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC's website within one working day of approval. However, if release by that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved, publication may be deferred. An explanation for any deferment must be provided below, together with a date for publication.

Is the publication of this form to be deferred? No

If Yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate part 2 form.

Is there a part 2 form? No

If Yes, for what reason:

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION


	Initial to confirm
Originating Officer: The originating officer recommends this proposal for the reasons outlined above.	JD
Financial advice: The PCC's Deputy Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on this proposal.	GH
Monitoring Officer: The PCC's Monitoring Officer has been consulted on this proposal.	MB

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. Consultation outlined above has also taken place. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire.

Signature:



Date: 19 March 2021