

RECORD OF DECISION

TITLE: West Mercia – Sale of registration mark AB1

Ref: PCC/D/2017/08

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is recommended that the registration rights to AB1 owned by West Mercia PCC be sold to maximise value for money.

PROPOSAL

Worcestershire was allocated the identification letters AB1 in May 1903, and as a result AB1 was the very first mark to be issued to a motor vehicle in the county. The mark was used on the vehicle of the Chief Constable of Worcestershire County Police until 1931. Following that, the mark remained void for some time, until being reissued on the vehicle used by the Chief Constable of Worcestershire County Police in 1957. Since that time and following the amalgamation of the Worcestershire County force into West Mercia Police in 1967, the mark has been displayed on each of the Chief Constables vehicles. Since 2011 the registration mark has been held on retention and not allocated to any specific vehicle within West Mercia Police. Registration is the only proof of rights to assign the mark to a vehicle. It is registered in the name of West Mercia Police Transport [Department], and therefore the Police and Crime Commissioner can sell the rights of that registration.

Whilst fully acknowledging the significant local history behind the registration mark, the asset has remained unused for a significant period of time. No Chief Constable or other public servant will use a private number plate, both for security reasons and because of public expectations of prudent use of public resources. On this basis, it is appropriate to market the registration rights to AB1 to achieve a capital receipt for the Police and Crime Commissioner that can be used to deliver services that benefit the local community more fully.

The registration mark has been valued independently to ensure that any sale is in line with market expectations and to ensure that value for money for local taxpayers is achieved.

The mark was sent to auction earlier this summer through Brightwells, an established and experienced company, and there were a number of offers. The best offer to purchase the registration was received directly to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, completely independent of the auction process. The amount

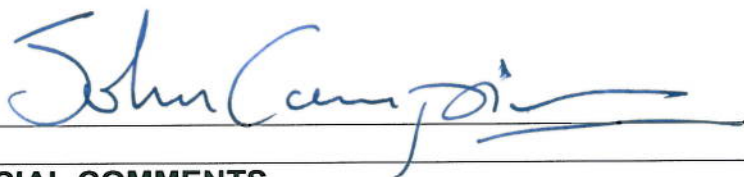
offered is in excess of the provisional estimates given by Brightwells.

The recommendation is therefore that the offer of £160,000 to purchase the registration mark by a private individual be accepted by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.

**APPROVAL OF
West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner**

I hereby approve the above proposal.

Signed



FINANCIAL COMMENTS

The private sale of the registration rights will generate a capital receipt of **£160,000** including VAT. This value was significantly higher than any offer received through the auction process, and above the independent valuation of the registration mark. This has ensured that value for money for local taxpayers has been achieved.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

By virtue of schedule 11, paragraph 14 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Police and Crime Commissioner may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of commissioner. That includes: entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not) and acquiring and disposing of property (including land).

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the West Mercia Commissioner's website. Any facts and advice that should not be made automatically available on request are not included in Part 1 but instead in a separate Part 2 report. There is no Part 2 report.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive Officer

Signature  Date 8th August 2017