



RECORD OF DECISION

TITLE: West Mercia – Restoration of Community Kiosks Project (ROCK project)

Ref: PCC/D/2017/09

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is recommended that financial support up to £50,000 be approved towards the restoration and regeneration of nineteen former BT telephone kiosks to create community hubs throughout the West Mercia region.

PROPOSAL

The growth of the mobile phone industry has meant that phone box usage has fallen dramatically, which has resulted in over 50% of phone boxes being removed across the country. In 2016, BT announced an 'adopt a kiosk' initiative which allowed local authorities to purchase classic red phone kiosks for £1 - transferring full ownership and responsibility to the purchaser. The adoptions allow the purchaser to convert the kiosks to create a community benefit.

This scheme represents a unique opportunity to coincide with West Mercia's 50th birthday, to develop community kiosks in some rural areas across West Mercia, particularly where the closure of community post offices, public houses and police stations, may have resulted in a feeling of loss of local identity.

There are two types of renovation that will occur - level one renovation (those kiosks without a power supply and those that do not fall under a level two requirement below) will see the kiosks refurbished, rebranded and converted into a community benefit aligned to the Safer Neighbourhood Team for the area in which it sits. A level two renovation (specifically those kiosks with an existing power supply and where considered a suitable location) will house a defibrillator accessible to anyone within the community. Defibrillator training and education will be offered to those communities to ensure they are empowered to use the equipment should it be required.

The availability of external funding to finance part of the project is currently being pursued. The recommendation is that up to £50,000 be transferred from reserves to support this project, to create community hubs across West Mercia to deliver much needed community services and to recognise and celebrate the 50th anniversary of West Mercia Police.

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

I hereby approve the above proposal.

Signed



FINANCIAL COMMENTS

The drawdown from reserves of up to £50,000 to fund this unique community project, will mark the 50th anniversary of West Mercia Police and provide community hubs and information points in some of our most rural communities. The transfer from reserves will not significantly affect the current reserves strategy included in the Medium Term Financial Plan, which will be reviewed again as part of the budget setting process for 2018/19. Any ongoing revenue costs will be borne by the Force and an annual cost of £126 per defibrillator will be financed from CSP budgets.

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 16th August 2017