

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**TITLE: Donation of seized and unclaimed bicycles to partner organisations**

**Ref: PCC/DN/2023/14**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Bicycles seized by the Police during operations or unclaimed from lost and found are currently disposed of in a way that means their potential usage isn't maximised after the legal retention timeframes have elapsed. Often requiring repair, or rusting whilst in storage, many bikes end up in landfill currently.

West Mercia Police and the OPCC have recognised an opportunity amongst our regionally commissioned services, charities, educational institutions, and other community groups for these otherwise wasted bikes. The benefits include enabling children, young people and adults the opportunity to repurpose a bike, with support to repair it to a roadworthy condition, learn new skills, offer a mode of transport and participate in an activity with health benefits.

This proposal supports the Commissioner's commitment towards sustainability and continued focus on diverting young people away from criminality.

A maximum of 25 bikes per quarter may be donated without further engagement with the PCC. The PCC will require quarterly reporting on the bikes donated.

**PROPOSAL**

**That the Police and Crime Commissioner authorise:**

The donation of up to 25 seized and unclaimed bicycles per quarter direct from West Mercia Police to partner organisations, who will gift them to young people in need, once all relevant governance / legal timeframes have elapsed.

This arrangement will be ongoing unless / until otherwise varied.

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

I hereby approve the above proposal.

Signed



**PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL/EXEMPT FACTS AND FIGURES**

**SUPPORTING REPORT**

Bikes seized by West Mercia Police have been previously donated by a one off signing off process by the OPCC to projects that help young people.

In one example, a young person transformed broken bikes back into working order, one of these was gifted to another young person to enable them to get to and from school every day. Other bikes were donated to a primary school where 'Dr Bike' fixed them and then given to those pupils without, to enable them to learn cycling proficiency etc.

The bicycles would otherwise either be destroyed or left to slowly deteriorate if not donated.

The Police Property Act (1897) as amended by the Police Property Act (1997) allows for the disposal of property which has come into the possession of the Police in connection with their investigation of a suspected offence, where the owner of the property has not been ascertained and no order of a competent court has been made in respect of it.

The bikes are accepted by the third party in the condition that they are donated, and there is an understanding that there is no legal obligation that remains with the West Mercia PCC on donation.

It is proposed that this donation continues on an ongoing basis until / unless such a time that this decision is varied.

There are no significant financial decisions associated with this proposal.

The police force will be authorised to donate up to 25 bikes per quarter. Anything above this level would require further engagement / authorisation from the PCC. The police force will provide a quarterly written update to the Commissioner on the bikes that have been donated.

**STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS**

This decision supports the following element(s) of the Safer West Mercia Plan:

- Putting Victims and Survivors First     Building a More Secure West Mercia  
 Reforming West Mercia                       Reassuring West Mercia's Communities

The decision supports this/ these objective(s) through the following:

- Mangle resources to maximise value, effectiveness, efficiency and meet demand.
- Greater community engagement and contribution to happier, healthier communities

### **BENEFITS AND THEIR REALISATION**

- Health and training benefits to the community, to be delivered via partner organisations.
- Releasing space in police stores

### **AUTHOR**

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Date: 04.04.2023

### **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER COMMENTS**

No financial implications from the transfer of the assets to a third party, on the basis of compliance with the relevant legislation for seizure of property.

On donation there is expectation that there is no further liability to West Mercia PCC.

**Treasurer**



Signature

Date 27/04/23

### **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.

### **OFFICER APPROVAL**

**Chief Executive Officer**



Signature

Date 27/04/23