

POLICE PROPERTY ACT FUND

INTRODUCTION

1. This report has been prepared to advise Members in relation to awards made under the Police Property Act Fund during the previous twelve months. It also advises Members of the status of the current bids for disbursement under the Fund. Additionally, it summarises the criteria set by Members for applications as resolved at the Audit & Strategy Committee meeting on 9 November 2004.

BACKGROUND

2. The Police Property Act Fund was established by the Police (Disposal of Property) Regulations in 1975. In accordance with Regulation 4 (7) (c) of the Regulations the Police Authority is entitled to use the Fund to make payments "of such amounts and for such charitable purposes as they may select".

INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW

3. Internal Audit completed their review of the Police Property Act Fund in September 2004. A report from them received in October 2004, specifically recommended that the procedures for the management of the Fund be reviewed and updated. This included the necessity to:
 - Review the procedure for advertising and publicising the awards
 - Prioritise awards in accordance with available funds and in the event of insufficient funds agreeing to award no funds
 - Review the calculation and consistency of awards.
4. At the Audit & Strategy Committee on 9 November 2004 Members resolved to:
 - Adopt the criteria detailed at Appendix A for awarding future grants
 - Adopt the procedure outlined at Appendix B for awarding future grants
 - Adopt the application form detailed at Appendix C.
5. Members then considered applications from three bidders:
 - Humberside Police Youth and Community Centre
 - Suzy Lamplugh Trust
 - Child Victims of Crime

In respect of Humberside Police Youth and Community Centre, Members agreed to make an award of £5000. This was awarded to the club in June 2005 and correspondence from the Centre evidences that the money would be used to assist with general maintenance costs and some upgrade work for access to the building.

In respect of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, Members agreed on an award of £1000. The award was paid in April 2005 and correspondence from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust evidences that the money was used towards their national personal safety day held in October 2005 aimed at raising awareness among young men and boys about their personal safety.

In respect of Child Victims of Crime, Members agreed to make an award of £1000. This was paid in March 2005. Correspondence from Child Victims of Crime evidences that the funding provided eight awards to children from the Humberside Police area and these would have been in the form of High Street gift vouchers. Any future awards from the Authority were to be ear-marked for week-long activity holidays.

PROPOSED FUTURE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

6. In accordance with the proposed procedure for the disbursement of the Police Property Act Fund the Police Authority has regularly advertised the existence of the Fund through its public meetings, the media and by circulating letters advertising its existence to Crime & Disorder Partnerships and via the Divisional Commanders of the four police division in the Humberside Police area.
7. The current balance available for disbursement was £10,547.90 at 1 August 2005.
8. In order to capture the maximum amount of potential bids the application period for expressions of interest was extended to October 2005. This has resulted in some 14 expressions of interest. These are currently being assessed and application forms accompanied by detailed applications currently being received.
9. A list of those organisations expressing interest in applications for funding is shown at Appendix D with the current status of the application indicated. Once all the bids have been received and the final assessment process has been completed, a further report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Audit & Strategy Committee making final recommendations for awards.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. It is recommended that:
 - i. Members discuss this report
 - ii. Agree that the three bids made during 2005 have been made in accordance with the criteria for the disbursement of the Police Property Act Fund and the proposed procedure for the disbursement of the Police Property Act Fund
 - iii. Receive final recommendations for disbursement of current applications to the Fund at the next meeting of the Audit and Strategy Committee

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Background papers: Report to Audit & Strategy Committee - 9 November 2004