

WYPCC – Briefing / Decision template

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Timing: Routine.

Purpose:	Briefing for PCC on the Police Property Act Fund and decision on charitable donations to West Yorkshire food banks.
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SUBJECT OF ADVICE: Police Property Act Fund.

Summary: To outline the process for and the balance of cash held in the Police Property Act Fund.

Recommendation: That the contents of this report are used to inform the Police and Crime Commissioner for any future decisions in the use of the Police Property Act Fund.

That consideration is given to making donations to food banks throughout West Yorkshire in an attempt to mitigate the increase in crimes such as shoplifting. There are many food banks run throughout the Region by charities such as Christians against Poverty and the Salvation Army.

Consideration: The Police (Property) Regulations 1997 vests the ownership of the fund in the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Chief Constable may exercise the powers or duties of the fund at the Police and Crime Commissioners request. The powers and duties are set out in regulation 6, namely

1. To defray expenses in connection with the storage or disposal of property.
2. to pay reasonable compensation to anyone who delivered the property to the Police
3. To make charitable payments.

The scheme of delegation currently provides that the ACO Finance and Business Support determine the sums to be paid from the Police Property Act Fund for charitable purposes after consultation with the PCC. As per paragraph 2.3 of the current scheme of delegation;

“Any of the Commissioner’s statutory functions may be exercised directly by the Commissioner at any time, irrespective of whether those functions, or matters ancillary to them, have been delegated to any other person”

The Police Property Act Fund contains forfeited connected cash and cash from the sale of property connected with crime. No cash in the fund is in relation to drugs offences

Affordability: The balance on the account currently stands at £ 281,975. In the last full financial year receipts of £ 66,000 were recorded. Over the past ten years receipts to the account have averaged £ 63,784 per annum. In the last full financial year charitable donations totalling £ 33,250 were made as follows

1. WYP Community Trust	£ 30,000
2. Child Victims of Crime	£ 500
3. Care of Police Survivors	£ 500
4. Royal Humane Society	£ 250
5. The Inforce Foundation	£ 500
6. The Jane Tomlinson Fund	£ 500
7. Samm National	£ 1,000

Given the recent impact on Crime it is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner give consideration to making numerous payments from the Police Property Act Fund to the many charity run food banks throughout West Yorkshire. This may help reduce the increase in shop lifting offences the Force is currently experiencing.

Handling: Depending on how the Police and Crime Commissioner wishes to progress there may need to be a media strategy.

Risks/Legal Opinion: There is a risk that proceeds to the fund may fall year on year.

Supporting and dissenting Views: There are no dissenting views