

TO: JAC

FROM: Chief Finance Officer to the Chief Constable

DATE: 27th September 2017

Charging For Police Services

1.0. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is for JAC to note the new charging rates in accordance with the NPCC Guidance Charging for Police Services whilst retaining the departure from the guidance for our community events.

2.0 Background

2.1 During 2007 a large piece of work was undertaken to consider what Cambridgeshire Constabulary charged for the supply of Policing Services that were required for Commercial and Community Events. The Constabulary and Police Authority considered adopting the then “NPCC Guidance on Charging for Police Services” as the model.

2.2 At the time Cambridgeshire had a lot of complaints from Community events holders that we were charging inconsistently, that the charges were too high and that some events paid nothing while others paid “over the odds”.

2.3 Also, the Constabulary was in dispute with a particular community event which eventually led to the police withdrawing the support for the event and the subsequent cancellation of the event. This in turn led to some very bad publicity for the police, threat of judicial review and a lengthy court process for the recovery of costs which the police duly lost.

2.4 There were a lot of lessons learned that came out of this process not least of which was that if the police do not have a signed agreement to charge before the event

takes place then, even if the resources are deployed, the charges cannot be recouped through the court should the event organiser refuse to pay.

- 2.5 On the strength of all of the above Cambridgeshire Constabulary, approved by the Police Authority, used the NPCC document as a basis for the charging and adopted the use of “Full Economic costs for commercial events” but came up with its own charging regime for the community events. This deviation from the guidance charges “Full Economic Cost to Community Events abated by 70%”.

The 70% was worked out taking into account all those events that were classed as community events for which police were deployed to, the past and present charges applied and consideration of what would be a fair rate that organisers would sign up to. Some Community events that had traditionally paid nothing had a stepped approach to their full charge over 3 years.

- 2.6 In August 2016 this was reviewed and the decision was made to continue with community events using the 70% abatement rule.

- 2.7 In September 2017, the Commissioner agreed to endorse the uplift charges by 1% in line with the NPCC guidance.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 JAC to note the report.