

Committee:	Date:
Police Committee	6 December 2013
Subject:	Public
Police Property Act Fund	
Report of:	For Decision
Town Clerk	
<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>The report informs Members of applications and awards from the Police Property Act Fund during 2013 and asks the Committee to consider four further grants suggested by individual Members.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>Members are asked to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) note the contents of the report; (b) consider a one-off grant of £1,000 to the following charities:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (CC Reg. No. 249360); ii. St John's Ambulance (CC Reg. No.1077265/1) iii. City of London Police Charity for Children (CC. Reg. 294362) iv. The Hampstead Marie Curie Hospice (CC Reg. No. 207994) v. St Joseph's Hospice, Hackney (CC Reg. No. 1113125) vi. Haven House children's hospice, Essex (CC Reg. No. 1044296) 	

Main Report

1. The Police (Property) Regulations 1997 enable the surplus from the Property Act Fund to be used for charitable purposes. In 2008, the Committee reviewed the criteria for making grants in view of new requirements under the Charities Act 2006, including the duty to demonstrate public benefit. One of the changes agreed was that only registered charities will be eligible for a grant. The Constitution and Purpose of the Fund and the Criteria for Disbursements, as agreed by your Committee in November 2008 (with an amendment agreed in December 2011), are attached at Appendices A and B respectively.
2. The balance of the Fund now stands at £62,494 (as at 31st March 2012 – see appendix C).

Requests from the Force

3. The Commissioner has requested that donations be made to two charities:-
 - (a) **The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry: (CC Reg. No. 249360)**
The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry was formed in 1907 with the purpose of assisting both Civil and Military authorities in the United Kingdom during any major event, incident, or in planning, so as to protect life and relieve human suffering. This charity provides support to victims of a major incident.
 - (b) **St John's Ambulance: (CC Reg. No.1077265/1)**
St John's Ambulance provides practical first aid training to schools, businesses and local community groups. Last year the organisation taught over 800,000 people. By equipping volunteers with the necessary expertise, the charity intends that they can provide lifesaving treatment if required.

Further requests

4. The following charities have been put forward by Members for consideration:-
 - (a) **City of London Police – Charity for Children (CC. Reg. No.294362)**
The City of London Police Charity for Children aims to provide welfare support and relief for vulnerable, sick or disabled children and young people. Given the close link between the City Police and the charity the grant is recommended.
 - (b) **The Hampstead Marie Curie Hospice (CC. Reg. No. 207994)**
Marie Curie Hospices provide a range of activities and services to help people with terminal cancer and other life-limiting illnesses achieve the best possible quality of life. This charity delivers services that meet section 2 (viii) of the Committee's disbursement criteria.
 - (c) **St Joseph's Hospice (CC Reg. No. 1113125)**
St Joseph's Hospice provides care to those with terminal illness and aims to encourage all of its patients to reach their full potential. The charity is committed to the development of palliative care and encouraging a holistic approach. This charity delivers services that meet section 2 (viii) of the Committee's disbursement criteria.
 - (d) **Haven House Children's Hospice (CC Reg. No. 1044296)**
Haven House Children's Hospice works across North and East London and West Essex. It provides care for children with life limited or complex health needs and aspires to provide the highest quality services and competent providers. These services will be tailored and responsive to their needs, whether delivered in hospice, community or at home, enabling them to enjoy the best possible quality of life. This charity delivers services that meet section 2 (v) of the Committee's disbursement criteria.

Members are requested to consider making a grant of £1,000 to each of these charities.

Consultees

5. The Chamberlain and Chief Grants Officer have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Summary

6. This report has set out a revised Constitution & Purpose and Criteria for Disbursements (attached as Appendices A and B) in line with the 2006 Charities Act, and asked Members to agree grants to six registered charities.

Background Papers: *[Reports of the Town Clerk, November 2008, November 2009, December 2010, December 2011, December 2012]*

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APPENDIX A

POLICE PROPERTY ACT FUND – CONSTITUTION AND PURPOSE

1. The Police Property Regulations 1997 apply to property which is:
 - (a) in the possession of the police by virtue of an order of a court of summary jurisdiction in connection with police investigations of a suspected offence where the owner of the property cannot be ascertained; or
 - (b) in the possession of the police by virtue of a court order in connection with the seizure of property where the court was satisfied that the property had been used for the purposes of committing or facilitating the commission of any offence, or was intended to be used for that purpose.
2. The Regulations provide that where property has been held for a year, in relation to an order under paragraph 1(a) above and for six months, in respect of an order under paragraph 1(b) above (provided, in the latter case there has been no successful application by a claimant of the property or no successful appeal by the offender) then the property may be sold and the proceeds of sale shall be kept in a separate account called the Police Property Act Fund (“the Fund”).
3. The Regulations provide that monies accrued in the Fund may be invested and the income so derived shall become part of the Fund. The monies accrued in the Fund may be used to:
 - defray expenses incurred in the conveyance, storage and safe custody of the property and in connection with its sale;
 - pay reasonable compensation, the amount of which shall be fixed by the Police Authority, to persons by whom property has been delivered to the police;
 - make payments of such amounts as the Police Authority may determine for such charitable purposes as they may select.
4. The Chief Officer of Police may, at the request of the Police Authority, administer the Fund in accordance with the Regulations.

APPENDIX B

POLICE PROPERTY ACT FUND – CRITERIA FOR DISBURSEMENTS

1. The organisations to which disbursements may be made should be registered charities.
2. Such organisations, which may be local or national, should be involved in work directly relating to at least one of the following:
 - (i) victim support
 - (ii) discharged prisoners
 - (iii) prisoners' families/dependants
 - (iv) crime prevention
 - (v) welfare of disadvantaged/disabled young people
 - (vi) improvement of community relations
 - (vii) welfare of present or former police officers and/or their families/dependants
 - (viii) such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be agreed by the Committee.
3. Preference may be given to organisations which are local in nature with close City connections.
4. Prior to any disbursements being made, account will be taken of any assistance which may have been given by the City of London Corporation from other sources within the previous three years.
5. Disbursements will not normally be made to an organisation in consecutive years, or on consecutive occasions when disbursements are made at intervals longer than one year, unless they have a connection with the Force.
6. Requests for assistance from the Fund will normally be considered in December each year; and disbursements will be made when the balance available in the Fund permits (this may be annually or at longer intervals).
7. The Finance Committee and the City Bridge Trust Grants Officer will be informed of any disbursements made from the Fund.