

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Police Committee	22 January 2016
<b>Subject:</b> Police Property Act Fund	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Decision</b>
<b><u>Summary</u></b>	
<p>This report informs Members of applications and awards from the Police Property Act Fund during 2015 and asks the Committee to consider six further grants suggested by individual Members.</p>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
Members are asked to:-	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) note the contents of the report;</li> <li>(b) consider a grant of £2,500 to the following charities:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Embrace Child Victims of Crime (CC Reg. No. 1043101)</li> <li>ii. The Royal Humane Society (CC Reg. No. 231469);</li> <li>iii. City of London Police – Charity of Children (CC Reg. No. 294362)</li> <li>iv. The Police Rehabilitation Trust (CC Reg. No. 292941)</li> <li>v. Housing the Homeless Central Fund (CC. Reg. 233254)</li> <li>vi. Care of Police Survivors (CC Reg. No. 1101478)</li> <li>vii. St John’s Ambulance – City of London Branch (CC Reg. 1077265)</li> <li>viii. Only Connect (CC Reg. 235979)</li> <li>ix. The Sheriffs and Records Fund (CC Reg. 221927)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

### **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 criteria for disbursements was reviewed in July 2014 and a number of changes were implemented including setting the maximum level of funding to any charity at £2,500 and allowing Members to fund the same charity in consecutive years.
3. The balance of the Fund now stands at £ £30,379 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.
4. Consideration of this report was deferred at the last meeting for further information on the levels of income & expenditure over previous years. This information is now included at Appendix C to this report.
5. The summary table (see Appendix C) shows income of only £1,896 being generated in the period 2013-15 compared to £29,789 for the period 2011-13. Members should therefore consider revisiting the grant requests for 2015 as agreeing all of the proposed donations would leave an opening balance of £6,879 for the 2016-17 financial year.

### **Requests from the Force**

6. The Commissioner has requested that donations be made to the following charity:-
  - a) **Embrace Child Victims of Crime** (CC Reg. No. 1043101):  
The Embrace Child Victims of Crime Charity works with police officers to brighten the lives of children who have suffered as a result of the most serious crimes and have often been the invisible victims behind the headlines.
  - b) **Royal Human Society** (CC Reg. No. 231469):  
The Royal Humane Society grants awards for acts of bravery in the saving of human life and, also, for the restoration of life by resuscitation. The awards are granted to those that have put their own lives at risk to save or attempt to save someone else. Since its foundation in 1774 the Royal Humane Society committee has reviewed over 86,000 cases and made around 200,000 awards.
  - c) **City of London Police – Charity of Children** (CC Reg. No. 294362):  
This charity is run for the benefit of children and young people principally with a link to the City of London. Its mission is to provide support in cases of sickness, crisis, disability and disadvantage. .
7. The Committee also undertook to donate £1,000 per annum for the next five years to the Police Memorial Trust.

### **Further Requests from Members of the Police Committee**

8. The following charities have been put forward by Members for consideration:-
  - (a) **The Police Rehabilitation Trust** (CC. Reg. No. 292941):  
Provides short intensive rehabilitation, including physiotherapy, nursing care and counselling to sick and injured serving and retired police officers in England and Wales.

- (b) **Housing the Homeless Central Fund** (CC. Reg. No. 233254):  
Supports the very disadvantaged including the homeless and those in danger of losing their homes, victims of domestic violence and relationship breakdown, ex-offenders and those suffering from drug and alcohol abuse.
- (c) **Care of Police Survivors (COPS)** (CC Reg. No. 1101478)  
Provides peer support to the families of police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.
- (d) **St John's Ambulance (City of London branch)** (CC Reg. 1077265):  
Provides first aid training, first aid services, ambulance services and youth services.
- (e) **Only Connect** (CC Reg. 235979):  
Only Connect is a criminal justice charity which focuses on reducing re-offending. They work with Londoners aged 16+ with recent experience of the justice system, equipping them with the necessary skills, attributes and positive networks to develop and pursue their life goals. In 2014/15, over 65% of their Members progressed into education or employment or training.
- (f) **The Sheriffs and Records Fund** (CC Reg. 221927):  
The fund makes grants to ex-offenders for clothing, household furnishings, training courses and tools.

## **Consultees**

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

**Background Papers:** *[Reports of the Town Clerk, November 2008, November 2009, December 2010, December 2011, December 2012, December 2013, December 2014]*

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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.
7. 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).
8. The Finance Committee and the City Bridge Trust Grants Officer will be informed of any disbursements made from the Fund.
9. Up to 75% of the total fund balance is to be donated on an annual basis
10. The figure of £2,500 is set as the standardised donation amount to individual charities. Police Committee Members may choose to request that a lower amount be donated. However, only in exceptional circumstances and with the agreement of the Police Committee will this amount be exceeded.
11. Police Committee Members may request that selected charities receive donation over consecutive years, or on consecutive occasions when disbursements are made at intervals longer than one year.