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**Full Report for Decision**

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHUMBRIA**

**Key Decisions**

**Title and Reference**

**Police Property Fund**

**(PCC/654/2025)**

**Summary**

The purpose of this report is to advise the PCC of the funds available for the disposal under the Police (Property) Act 1897

**Recommendation**

To agree to payments of ;

- £30,000 – Police Treatment Centre.
- £6,000 - Northumbria Police Charity Fund.

This therefore leaves £48,793 for future disbursements.

**Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner**

I hereby approve the recommendations above.

S. E. D 

**Signature**

**Date 10/04/2025**

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**Full Report for Decision**

OPCC Business Meeting	27 March 2025
Police Property Fund	
Report of: Gail Thompson, Interim Joint Chief Finance Officer	
Author: Geoff Lambert, Senior Accountant	

**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the PCC of the funds available for disposal under The Police (Property) Act 1897 and provide information on requests for funding.

**2. Background**

2.1 The Police Property Act states property which comes into the possession of the police in connection with a crime and where the owner cannot be found can be sold, with the money being kept in the Police Property Act Fund. The same is true for property which has been forfeited by convicted persons by order of a court, as it was used or intended for use in a crime.

2.2 Regulation 6, paragraph 4(C) of the 1997 Regulations gives Police Crime Commissioners discretion "To make payments of such amounts as the relevant PCC may determine for such charitable purposes as they may select". Whilst not specifically stated past practice has been to make donations to registered charities.

2.3 Payments agreed since the disposal of balances from the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts, together with the proposed payments for 2024/25 are set out in appendix A.

2.4 In previous years the establishment of additional funds for disposal was based on a proportionate risk based yearly balance approach (Based on balances held over 2 years without claim, less any known large outstanding cases to which the funds related). As a result of external audit scrutiny of the Police and Criminal Evidence act (PACE) retention account and Disposals account balances, Northumbria is moving to a more prudent PIN (Property Identification Number) by PIN approach with a reconciliation of historical individual PINs. The new process will provide a more robust justification of the available disposal value, and satisfy audit and statutory requirements.

2.5 From the 2023/24 Statement of Account the funds available for disposal (after admin charges) in 2024/25 is £87,293.

**4 Considerations for Disposals**

4.1 The following disposal, which was subject to a multi-year agreement, has been paid in 2023/24;

- £2,500 to the Care of police Survivors. (3<sup>rd</sup> year of 3 Year agreement).

Funds available after these two payments are £84,793.

**Full Report for Decision**

4.2 The following organisations are included for consideration as they have requested donations.

- £30,000 - Police Treatment Centre. This request covers payments for the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25. The previous agreement with the Police Treatment Centre covered the 3 years 2020/21 to 2022/23.
- £6,000 - Northumbria Police Charity Fund.

4.2 Please see Appendix B for information on the organisations in consideration for disposals.

**5 Recommendations**

5.1 To agree to further payments of;

- £30,000 - Police Treatment Centre.
- £6,000 - Northumbria Police Charity Fund.

5.2 To note the remaining balance after the recommendations above of £48,793 available for future consideration.

**6. Considerations**

<b>Report Exemption</b>	Non- Exempt
<b>Consultation</b>	No
No consultation has been undertaken.	
<b>Resource</b>	Yes
Financial implications are considered within this report.	
<b>Equality</b>	No
An equality impact assessment is not required.	
<b>Legal</b>	No
There are no legal implications.	
<b>Risk</b>	No
There are no identified risks.	
<b>Communication</b>	No
A communications plan is not required.	
<b>Evaluation</b>	No
An evaluation is not required.	

## Police Property Fund disposals 2019/20 to 2023/24 Statement of Accounts

### Appendix A

Statement of Accounts balance year	Paid / Proposed	OPPC Key Decisions	Agreed Disposals associated with the Statement of Account year.									Total Funds available to PCC (Incl surplus from previous year)	Surplus c/f available funds		
			NPCF	C O P S	PAMT	NUM	PTC	Connor Brown Trust	RHS	OP Payback	Total				
			£	£	£	£	£	£		£	£			£	£
2019/20	Paid	426/2020 16/10/2020 and 445/2021 09/03/2021	15,000	2,000	15,000	5,000	10,000				200,445	247,445	247,445	0	
2020/21	Paid	466/2022 23/06/2022	6,000	2,000		5,000	10,000					23,000	113,017	90,017	
2021/22	Paid	Already Paid : COPS (final year) and PTC (yr 2 of 3 Yr agreement) multi year agreements agreed in decisions above.		2,000			10,000					12,000	114,682	102,682	
		Decision PCC/493/2023	10,000	2,500		5,000						17,500	102,682	85,182	
2022/23	Paid	<i>Paid 2023/24 - PTC final year of 3 Year Agreement</i>					10,000					10,000	113,753	103,753	
		<i>Paid 2023/24 - COPS 2nd of 3 year agreement</i>		2,500								2,500	103,753	101,253	
	PAID PCC Decision 552/2024	<i>Police Arboretum Memorial Trust for the UK Police Memorial</i>				7,250							7,250	101,253	94,003
		<i>Connor Brown Trust</i>							6,500				6,500	94,003	87,503
		<i>Northumbria Police Charity Fund</i>	10,000										10,000	87,503	77,503
		<i>Royal Humane Society</i>								2,500			2,500	77,503	75,003
2023/24	Paid	<i>Paid 2024/25 - COPS 3rd of 3 year agreement</i>		2,500								2,500	87,293	84,793	
	Proposed	<i>PTC</i>					30,000					30,000	84,793	54,793	
		<i>Northumbria Police Charity Fund</i>	6,000									6,000	54,793	48,793	

NPCF	Northumbria Police Charity Fund
C O P S	Care of Police Survivors
NUM	National Ugly Mugs
PTC	Police Treatment Centre
RHS	Royal Humane Society
PAMT	Police Arboretum Memorial Trust

## **1. Northumbria Police Charity.**

### **Background**

The Northumbria Police Charities Trust was created in 1974 and has been a registered charity under the terms of the Charity Commission since 1998 as the Northumbria Police Charities Fund.

The charity aims to help any vulnerable, disabled, disadvantaged or deprived individuals, charities, people or community groups across the Force area. The fund is not available for personal applications from serving or retired officers or staff of Northumbria Police or the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Funding for the charity comes from two sources:

1. From the PCC from the disposal of monies obtained under the Police Property Act 1997
2. Charitable donations to the police from individuals or organisations – Donations tend to be fairly small in numbers and value.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

It currently has 6 trustees that include a Chair and Treasurer that cover the 6 Local Authorities and Area Commands areas of the Northumbria policing area. Secretarial duties are currently shared across the Trustees. It holds Quarterly Committee meetings including AGM. An officer of the OPCC (Dean Lowery) also attends these meeting.

Trustees are serving officers or staff within Northumbria Police who volunteer or are nominated to support the Charity and are formally appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Requests for small donations from the Charity are managed locally by trustees. Any requests that are likely to exceed more than £750 or that require further advice are taken to the next Charity meeting or via email for discussion and agreement.

### **Objectives and Activities:**

The Northumbria Police Charity Fund aims to provide assistance for vulnerable, disabled, disadvantaged or deprived groups of people or individuals within the Northumbria Police area as well as supporting community groups and small scale local charities

Trustees ensure demand can be managed and that any awards provided should have some longevity.

## **2. Police Treatment Centre**

The Police Treatment Centres are a long-established and respected registered charity. Founded in 1897 with the aim of supporting Police Officers in need, The Police Treatment Centres is a charity committed to helping the serving police workforce and retired police officers recover from injury, illnesses or health conditions (sustained on or off duty) and promoting the wellbeing of the policing profession.

They operate two Centres in Auchterarder and Harrogate, with state-of-the-art facilities, and a multidisciplinary team of experts including physiotherapists, fitness instructors, nurses, counsellors and complementary therapists.

In addition to their residential physiotherapy and psychological wellbeing programmes, they deliver a range of online programmes, including specialist support for women's health issues and officers taking job related fitness tests.

The charity has been providing rest and recuperation for police officers since the late 19th Century, and currently welcome around 4,000 members of the policing profession to their treatment Centres each year.

They are supported by voluntary contributions from Police Officers and the policing profession.

Forces have no obligation to provide donations to the PTC but the PCC did agree in May 2022 to donate to the police treatment centre £10,000 per annum for three years, 20/21, 21/22 and 22/23 from the police property fund. The request for a further £30,000 has been received by the Chief Constable and is attached.

## **3. CARE OF POLICE SURVIVORS (COPS)**

- Care of Police Survivors is a UK registered charity dedicated to helping the families of police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, rebuild their lives. It aims to ensure that survivors have all the help they need to cope with such a tragedy, and that they remain part of the police family. COPS is independent of the police service and was founded in March 2003 by Jim McNulty and Christine Fulton (MBE). Jim was a retired police officer from Strathclyde Police. Christine is the widow of PC Lewis Fulton who was murdered on duty in Glasgow in 1994.
- COPS offers Police Forces the following services
  - Contact with new survivors through an agreed protocol
  - A monthly survivors letter
  - 3 newsletters a year to wider stakeholders
  - An Annual report
  - The Maintenance of the website
  - An input to FLO training as required
  - The survivors weekend
  - Specific events for siblings, parents and children
  - A process to manage the transition from intensive force support to lifetime COPS engagement.

- COPS has asked all Forces in the past all Forces if they could make small annual contributions to assure the future of COPS and allow its own fundraising activity to focus on the provision of additional services, such as counselling and bespoke support.
- COPS were paid £2,500 in January 2025 as the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final payment in a three year agreement authorised by the PCC in 2023.