

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

PAPER MARKED

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Meeting **DIVERSITY COMMITTEE BUSINESS DAY**

Date **MONDAY 9 MAY 2011 – 9.00 A.M.**

Report of **CHIEF CONSTABLE**

Subject **INTER-CULTURAL EVENING**

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members with an overview of the purpose and costs involved in the Intercultural evening. This event is held on a yearly basis and has been held for the past 5 years. The evening demonstrates a personal commitment by the Chief Constable to local communities. Guests to the event represent a cross section of the cultures and faiths within Leicester Leicestershire and Rutland. This is an opportunity for people to have personal access to their Chief Constable. The cost of the event last year was £2303 with 216 guests accepting invitations. A larger number attended the event. Many in attendance expressed their thanks to those present and later by letters and e-mails of thanks to the Chief Constable, the purpose of the event is to be considered.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Committee notes the intention to continue with the event in a refreshed format.

Background

3. The Inter-cultural evening was established 5 years ago with the purpose of developing relationships between policing and the different cultural and faith communities within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Originally the evening was considered a social event allowing different groups to meet and converse with a view to forming new working relationships. Over the past 5 years it is acknowledged that both multi-cultural and interfaith work has developed greatly with a number of social opportunities existing throughout the year for the various groups to meet with each other. There is no other police led event that captures such a wide attendance. The original costs for this event were higher with hot meals and entertainment being provided.

Purpose

4. It is proposed that the purpose of the intercultural evening should be revised on a yearly basis. This would allow the opportunity for a two way conversation on current issues of concern to the community or changes to policing. The format of the evening should include inputs on particular policing issues that are current to the Constabulary which by sharing with the wider community would increase confidence in local policing. This was evident last year when it allowed the opportunity for the Chief Constable to address communities prior to Operation Pennant (Demonstrations by EDL and UAF.)

5. The intercultural evening is the only event that allows BCU Commanders and management teams to meet with a cross section of community and cultural leaders outside of a time of crisis. This event will allow dialogue with individuals who do not have regular contact with the police but who none the less are important representatives of our community. An example of this would be PAGRE members, who are key contacts for a BCU but who do not have regular contact with management teams. Through consultation with the BCU Commanders it is felt that were the Intercultural evening to cease there would be a need for them to formulate a localised equivalent.

Attendance

6. The guest list for the intercultural evening has not been revised in the last few years and therefore it is questionable whether there is currently the right attendance at the event. A small group headed by our Awards Co-ordinator will meet to review invitations to ensure attendance is representative of our changing community. This process would take place each year to ensure membership remains representative. The attendance at the event should be linked to multi-cultural issues therefore maximising the benefits of the evening.

Cost

7. The cost of the intercultural event was reviewed last year with a reduction in cost of £1039 being achieved. The cost of the event last year was £2303. The costs were as follows; Food £2125; Postage for invitations £100; Invitations £54; Envelopes £21; Sundries £3. It is anticipated by the Awards Co-ordinator for the Constabulary that this cost could be further reduced by a movement to reduced catering and electronic invitations where possible.
8. This event is welcomed and well attended by the community and is believed to be reflective of the Constabularies commitment to understanding the community and its diverse nature. Concern has been raised by the BCU Commanders that to withdraw from this event would have a community cost to the Constabulary.

Implications

Financial: Anticipated yearly cost for this event is approximately £2000

Legal: None

Diversity:

Risk Management:

Background Papers

None

Officer to Contact

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