

<b>Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision</b>	
PCCG-2015-061	Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision Session
Subject	Police Commissioner's Community Safety Fund
Summary	To record the decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the allocation of funding from the Community Safety Fund to support the establishment of a horticulture unit at Prescoed Prison to assist the Rehabilitation element of the Commissioner's Strategic Commissioning Intention.

## **DECISION**

1. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides under sections 9 and 10 that the Police and Crime Commissioner for a police area makes crime and disorder grants and acts in co-operation with responsible authorities and makes arrangements with criminal justice agencies for the exercise of functions so as to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for the area.
  
2. HMP Prescoed is a category D open prison situated outside Usk in Gwent with two hundred and sixty adult male prisoners. The prison is a designated resettlement prison with the aim of supporting the rehabilitation and resettlement of prisoners in the final stages of their sentence. Each day up to a hundred prisoners work out in the local community in both voluntary and paid positions helping them gain valuable experience and training in a work environment.  
  
One such project which facilitates this activity and which supports the Rehabilitation strand of my Strategic Commissioning Intentions is the proposed establishment of a horticulture unit at Prescoed which will utilise land that is part of the prison estate along with an existing glasshouse on site. The unit will produce edible crops which can be sold to local restaurants and hotels as well as the local community enabling a commercial aspect to the proposal and stimulating revenues for re-investment. Further information is attached at Annex A.  
  
Over 50% of the costs associated with the unit have been met by the prison service so far with a total cost of just under £40k. I received an application to fund the remaining £16,141,00 for the purchase of necessary equipment and the erection of polytunnels integral to the wider project.

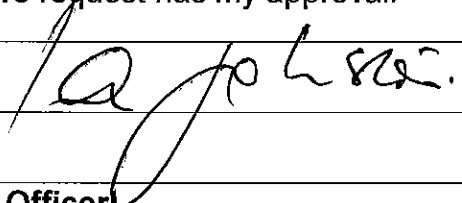
3. Having assessed the application, I have decided to award funds to the value of £16,141.00 to the project to purchase necessary equipment and for the erection of polytunnels integral to the wider project.

**Ian Johnston QPM, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent**

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signed



Date

24. 8. 15

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<b>Background papers</b>	Original application provided

## HMP Prescoed - Horticulture unit proposal

### **Introduction**

HMP Prescoed is a category D open prison situated outside Usk in Gwent with two hundred and sixty adult male prisoners. The prison is a designated resettlement prison with the aim of supporting the rehabilitation and resettlement of prisoners in the final stages of their sentence. Each day up to a hundred prisoners work out in the local community in both voluntary and paid positions helping them gain valuable experience and training in a work environment.

The open prison estate at Prescoed includes Cilwrgi farm – a modern working dairy farm with a pedigree herd of Holstein cattle. There is also a commercial woodland enterprise and a sawmill based on the farm which employs up to 26 prisoners daily.

### **What is the proposal?**

The proposal involves the establishment of a horticulture unit at Prescoed which will utilise land that is part of the prison estate along with an existing glasshouse on site. The unit will produce edible crops which can be sold to local restaurants and hotels as well as the local community enabling a commercial aspect to the proposal and stimulating revenues for re-investment.

### **What will it achieve?**

Horticulture provides many benefits including a sense of wellbeing, support for physical and mental health. Engaging in horticulture is a major source of physical activity with tangible and measurable results. The unit will employ up to fifteen prisoners each day offering the opportunity to gain experience, training and qualifications in production horticulture. The skills developed and qualifications obtained will support prisoners for release into paid work. Currently 41% of the Welsh prisoners based at Prescoed originate from the Gwent area and so the largest proportion of prisoners come from the local communities of Gwent. This proposal will inevitably support more prisoners from the Gwent and surrounding areas than other areas of England and Wales.

The proposal will give prisoners the opportunity to study formal horticultural qualifications which will develop their skills and support them to gain employment in the horticultural industry on release. The production horticulture sector in the UK is made up of 7700 businesses employing 95,000 people contributing £3 billion to the economy (Lantra SSC).

The proposal will build on existing links with Clink restaurant (Cardiff Prison) and seek to develop further links with local hotels and restaurants for the supply of fresh herbs and vegetables. By working in conjunction with Prescoed Community Placement Team these links will help to generate work placement opportunities for prisoners in the Gwent area. In addition to this by working with Working Links, (the Community Resettlement Company) job opportunities may be generated for after release. The proposal will also develop links with horticultural businesses in the surrounding area and it is hoped that the same work placement opportunities will be created which will contribute to the resettlement of prisoners. Currently up to 50% of prisoners released from Prescoed enter employment or self employment.

Finally the establishment of a “pop-up shop” to sell produce will provide a service to the local community as well as employ prisoners to gain skills in customer care, marketing and basic accounting skills.

#### **How will it deliver towards police and crime targets?**

The proposal will deliver towards police and crime targets for Gwent through facilitating the development of skills, creating work placements and potential job opportunities for ex-offenders in the Gwent area. All of these key aspects contribute to the resettlement of prisoners into their local communities and reduce the risk of re-offending. Prisoners employed in the proposed horticulture unit will learn lifelong skills that can be employed in both professional and amateur gardener roles. Prisoners will benefit from the proposal by developing work ethics, skills in literacy and numeracy, building responsibility and giving them ownership and independence key aspects in their rehabilitation. There are well documented therapeutic benefits associated with horticulture which can change perception and attitude in ex-offenders which also reduces the risks of re-offending.

#### **How will it be self sustaining?**

After the initial set up costs have been found the unit will operate at zero cost to the prison service. As a commercial horticulture unit the sale of produce will generate revenue to re-invest in the running costs of unit. The cost of formal training will be met from the learning and skills budget. The long term goal of the horticulture unit is to become a Social Enterprise whose aim is to generate monies to support prisoner’s resettlement needs and to contribute to victim support groups. The unit will benefit from links with Cilwrgi farm for the supply of timber, farmyard manure and from the recycling unit at Prescoed for the supply of composted food waste. The unit will also benefit from links to the woodworking workshops at Usk prison for support

#### **What will it cost?**

The set up costs for the horticulture unit include the development of multi-span polytunnels to extend the growing season and enable the growth of a wider range of crops, this will better enable the unit to cater for the training needs of prisoners all year round. Other key set up costs include the supply and installation of the greenhouse heater which will help to regulate the growing conditions in the glasshouse during the winter months and can be fuelled by the waste wood generated during recycling operations at Prescoed and Usk Prisons. The remainder of the costs are associated with the purchase of tools and equipment needed by the unit for the daily operations.

Horticulture Unit Project	Cost
<b>Garden Rotovator</b>	<b>£700</b>
Forks, Spades & Hoes	£620.00
Small Hand Tools	£120.00
<b>Compact tractor rotovator</b>	<b>£1,200.00</b>
Greenhouse Heater (wood fired)	£5,379.00
Supply of multi-span Polytunnel	£17,261.22
<b>Erection of Polytunnel</b>	<b>£10,971.00</b>
<b>Ground works / Site levelling</b>	<b>£1,500.00</b>
<b>Greenhouse vent controller</b>	<b>£1,770.00</b>
Total Cost	<u>£39,521.22</u>
<b>Funding required</b>	<b>£16,141.00</b>

When including the staff time element of setting up a horticultural unit, well over 50% of the costs associated with the unit have been met by the prison service so far with a total cost of just under £40k. We are applying to Gwent P.C.C. for the remaining £16,141.00. The highlighted items above indicate the breakdown of where the funding will be allocated. The sum of money requested for the proposal is minimal when considered against the £32k it is estimated to cost the tax payer when just one prisoner re-offends.

