



REPORT TO: Police Authority
DATE: 8 July 2008
SUBJECT: Mobile Data Funding
SPONSOR: ACC (Crime)

1. PURPOSE OF PAPER

- 1.1 To inform the Authority of the funding secured from the Home Office for Mobile Data and the arrangements in place for delivery of new devices.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2007 the Former Prime Minister announced that 10,000 mobile data devices would be made available to police forces by September 2008. This announcement followed the publication of the interim report by Sir Ronnie Flanagan, part of which focused upon steps to maximise police visibility.
- 2.2 The Flanagan report made reference to mobile data devices and drew heavily on the experiences of a number of police forces engaged in pilot projects, including British Transport Police (BTP).
- 2.3 £50m in Home Office funding was announced and police forces were invited to submit bids. A strict criterion for evaluation of those bids was established, with oversight from the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA), ACPO and the APA.
- 2.4 Credit was afforded to bids from police forces that were able to demonstrate experience and effective processes in the deployment of mobile data devices. BTP's bid was highly regarded because of the previous deployment of 550 devices on the London Underground.



-
- 2.5 BTP bid for 800 devices, together with supporting hardware and equipment, licences, development costs, training and implementation resources. In addition, BTP sought funding for development of a miniature fingerprinting device capable of use with our existing mobile equipment.
- 2.6 At the beginning of June, the NPIA announced that 25 police forces were to receive funding, including BTP to the level of £1.984m. The bid was heavily oversubscribed and many police forces did not receive any allocation of funds, making the successful BTP bid even more significant.
- 2.7 A formal Memorandum of Understanding has been developed between BTP and NPIA. This requires deployment of the 800 devices by 30 September 2008. A requirement of the funding is for the Police Authority to provide oversight to the implementation plan. A project board has been established to manage the project, chaired by ACC Crowther. Following discussions with the Clerk and Chief Executive, Police Authority oversight is planned via that project board through the attendance of Peter Haddock the Deputy Clerk.

3. BUSINESS BENEFITS

- 3.1 The project board has considered the deployment of the 800 devices to Area and operational teams. Neighbourhood Policing Teams are identified as a key target group for the devices, as it will significantly enhance their visibility. The devices are to be allocated to Areas as follows:

Scotland	70
WW, NE, NW	100 each
LN & LS	200 each
Counter Terrorism Unit	30

- 3.2 Evaluation by NPIA of the earlier deployment of PDAs by BTP identified an average of 51 minutes (10.6%) of additional visibility per day per officer. The potential additional visibility delivered from the deployment of 800 further devices is therefore the equivalent of that



delivered by 85 police officers. The funding allocation is subject to detailed evaluation of benefits with NPJA. BTP has already commissioned work to establish a comprehensive benefits realisation review, including the collation of baseline comparative data.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The £1.92m funding is sufficient to deliver 800 devices and all set up costs. It also provides for a back up server, data usage and GPRS link changes and development costs to deliver small, mobile fingerprint devices.

4.2 Revenue costs :

There are a number of running costs associated with the use of mobile data, including:

- GPRS data usage
- Additional PNC transactional costs
- Bluecheck support
- Technology support staff

On an annual basis these amount to:

Year 1: £236,885

Year 2: £374,251

Year 3: £377,618

The life expectancy of the mobile devices is three years, and a phased replacement programme will be factored into the medium term financial strategy.

5. RISKS

5.1 Clearly, a key imperative is that 800 new devices are deployed by 30 September. A robust monitoring process through the project board (fortnightly meetings) will manage that risk.



6. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Full risk assessments and working practices for the deployment of this equipment are already in place.

7. DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Deployment approaches have considered diversity issues in respect of issue and carriage of equipment.

8. RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 That the authority notes the receipt of funding and the project plan for deployment.