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Report to: Police Authority

Agenda item: 8

Date: 2nd November 2011

Subject: ICT Disaster Recovery Centre

Sponsor: Chief Executive

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For: Information & approval

1. Purpose of paper

1.1 To provide the detail on the proposals to develop a Disaster Recovery as considered at the British transport Police Authority (BTPA) Strategy Group Meeting on 26th October 2011.

1.2 Following detailed review by the Strategy Group to now recommend that the full Authority approves the proposals set out in the paper attached at Appendix A.

2. Background

2.1 The risk posed by the lack of a back-up facility in the event of the loss of the Force Head Quarters (FHQ) server room was recorded on the British Transport Police (BTP) Strategic Risk Register on 16th February 2010 and progress against mitigating this risk has been monitored by the BTPA Audit Committee since March 2010.

2.2 At its meeting on 20th September the BTPA Audit Committee urged the resolution of the issue ahead of the Olympic Games and recommended that detailed proposals be brought to the full Authority for approval.

3. Proposals and BTPA observations to date

3.1 At its meeting on 26th October the BTPA Strategy Group received the paper attached at Appendix A which sets out proposals to establish a Disaster Recovery capability (DR) at the Birmingham Axis building. This is the facility currently occupied by BTP's Wales & Western Area Head Quarters and outer London Control Room. As set out in detail at section 4.3 of Appendix A, the total 'whole-life' (10 year) cost of the facility is £1321k.

3.2 Members were broadly supportive of the proposals, noting the timescales, costs and interdependencies set out in the supporting paper. During their discussion of the proposals the Group sought further clarity on the following issues;

- ***What are the total timescales for initiation and delivery of the project?***

  Subject to final approval by BTPA the project will be initiated immediately and delivered by May 2012

- ***Is Birmingham the right location for the facility?***

  Taking into account time and cost considerations and existing communications and security capabilities, BTP is sure that co-location with existing BTP accommodation in the Birmingham Axis building is the right location

- ***Who owns the proposed location and, if not BTP, what are the leasing arrangements?***

  BTP currently leases the Birmingham Axis accommodation from a commercial landlord and is in the process of negotiating a 20 year lease

- ***Had other locations been considered?***

  Yes, as set out in the attached paper a number of options were explored during the development of the proposals. [During the meeting BTPA colleagues from Network Rail offered to explore the possibility of providing suitable accommodation for the facility from within its estate – an update on the outcome of this work will be provided at the Authority meeting]

- ***While BTP sets out that it has the right resources to deliver the project, does it have the right skills sets available to deliver on time and to budget?***

  This issue has been identified by the Director of Corporate Resources and appropriate additional support for the duration of the project will be arranged

4. Recommendations

4.1 That the full Authority reviews the detail of the proposals set out in the paper attached at Appendix A.

4.2 Subject to any further questions, that the Authority approves the proposals set out at Appendix A.