



RECORD OF DECISION

TITLE: ANPR PROGRAMME RESTRUCTURING

Ref: PCC/D/2016/09

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An ANPR business case had been previously approved to:

- Deliver 89 fixed site locations
- Deliver 24 mobile ANPR assets
- Maintain the current ANPR infrastructure

Approval is sought to repurpose part of the capital funding from the approved capital project budget to invest in a Back Office Facility (BOF) and allow for the planned ANPR growth.

Funding for this can be serviced entirely from within the agreed project capital budget. There are no additional revenue cost implications to this proposal above those detailed in the original business case.

The funding can be secured from the original business case because in the time between the business case being submitted and now, technology has advanced. Originally hard wired civil engineered connections were required to link cameras to a network. The modern generation of cameras use 3/4g wireless connectivity, removing a significant element of the planned civil engineering costs.

RECOMMENDATION

To approve the adoption of a cloud based Macro BOF.

**APPROVAL OF
West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner**

I hereby approve the above proposal.

Signed

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL/EXEMPT FACTS AND FIGURES

SUPPORTING REPORT

1 Overview of Business Case

- 1.1. Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) allows a camera to read vehicle registration plates and record information in a database known as the Back Office Facility (BOF). Alliance ANPR forms part of a national ANPR network and is used for Counter Terrorism, Serious and Organised Crime and tackling the threat posed by travelling criminality.
- 1.2. ANPR use is embedded in daily business providing significant operational benefits in terms of: intelligence and investigation; 24/7 monitoring of high threat vehicles and ANPR operations. ANPR allows for the exploitation of technology to maximise opportunities for the workforce. On average 224 searches are conducted on the BOF system each day with the data that is captured proving critical in many high profile crime investigations.
- 1.3. Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police have historically adopted different approaches to deliver ANPR using a blend of fixed, redeployable and mobile ANPR cameras in addition to partnership funding streams, multiple contractors and complex ICT arrangements. Upon forming a Strategic Alliance the two forces developed a harmonised ANPR strategy to deliver sustainable ANPR capability in line with the National ANPR Strategy.
- 1.4. The Alliance ANPR Strategic Assessment, initially produced in July 2014, identified the need for critical investment into the ANPR infrastructure to reduce the risk posed by significant gaps in the Alliance coverage. This Strategic Assessment identified the need to upgrade aging and unreliable technology, rationalise contractors to prevent financial waste and provide a sustainable back office system capable of improved analytics and operational effectiveness.
- 1.5. The original approved business case commits to extend the fixed site infrastructure and provide more OPU vehicles with an In Car Media capability with some of these assets having a mobile ANPR capability.
- 1.6. The contract for the provision of the additional sites was awarded to Jenoptik UK in December 2015 and work has progressed to ensure the delivery of the ANPR business case in full. The contract for the provision of the In Car Media project was awarded to Civica in May 2016 but implementation of the ANPR element of this project is reliant upon an updated BOF solution being delivered.

2 National ANPR Service (NAS)

- 2.1. All forces currently run and maintain a local ANPR BOF holding their own force data. Forces also have access to national ANPR data via the National ANPR Data Centre (NADC) provided by the Home Office. The NADC is to be replaced by the National ANPR Service (NAS), a cloud based product available to all forces and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA). The proposed NAS will store all ANPR data in a single national collection and therefore

negate the need for separate Back Office Functions. The NADC was due to be replaced by NAS in March 2016, a timeline which coincided with the NADC End of Life and the expiry of contractual arrangements between the service providers and the Home Office.

2.2. The Home Office awarded the contract for the NAS in February 2015. Since initial contract award there have been a number of project delays. In May 2016 forces were advised that the delivery of NAS would 'not be before 1st September 2017' and that contractual arrangements should remain in place to support local ANPR BOF systems to that date at the earliest.

2.3. The Home Office have arranged an extension of the NADC contract to March 2017 with additional extensions required.

3 The Alliance Approach

3.1. The Alliance was due to upgrade both in house BOFs during 2014. The ANPR business case was reliant upon the delivery of the NAS to provide an effective back office solution. The significant delay in the delivery of NAS has placed the Alliance in a critical position whereby investment into an effective BOF solution is vital to allow for the continued provision of an ANPR capability and to facilitate ANPR infrastructure growth.

3.2. Had NAS gone live, the business case would have provided a smaller (micro) BOF, the main elements of the BOF being provided by the National solution. Without the national solution, a micro BOF is not suitable, because it would limit ANPR use to simply data handling with no analytical capability.

3.3. The continual slippage of the NAS delivery date means the Alliance must be in a position to support a BOF capability for a prolonged time period and there are no guarantees that that the NAS will deliver a fit for purpose product.

3.4. Both BOFs are near storage capacity and end of life with consequent faults increasing over recent months. The current Warwickshire BOF has limited capability compared to the West Mercia system. The limited Warwickshire BOF capability greatly hinders operational effectiveness in relation to crime investigations which rely upon ANPR data to provide key evidence.

3.5. Extensive technical work has been undertaken to identify all possible options available to the Alliance to ensure continued ANPR capability until the NAS is delivered in full.

3.6. The recommended ESSA Macro BOF solution is a mature off the shelf software product which is in use by a number of large UK Police forces. Investing now will place the Alliance in an advanced position with a greatly improved ANPR capability irrespective of when the NAS is delivered and what functionality it will provide.

3.7. An in depth analysis of the options available, their risks and consequences is set out in the confidential Part 2 report.

FINANCIAL COMMENTS

The capital money required is already available from within the project budget. The cloud based Macro BOF will allow for the delivery in full of both the fixed site ANPR and In Car Media Projects. The continual slippage of the NAS delivery date means the Alliance must be in a position to support a continued BOF provision for a prolonged time period. This proposal arguably offers the best value for money solution.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

By virtue of schedule 11, paragraph 14 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Police and Crime Commissioner may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of commissioner. That includes: entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not) and acquiring and disposing of property (including land).

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the West Mercia Commissioner's website. Any facts and advice that should not be made automatically available on request are not included in Part 1 but instead in a separate Part 2 report.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive Officer

Signature ... *Alex Chappell* Date ... 14th July 2016...