

RECORD OF DECISION

TITLE: Body Worn Video for Specials

Ref: PCC/D/2019/21

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 2017/18 the Police and Crime Commissioner invested heavily in mobile technology including the introduction of Body Worn Video for over 2,100 front line officers and staff on a personal issue basis. At that time resources prohibited the issue of equipment to Specials and other occasional users. However, the success of the project has led to Chief Officers expressing a desire to the Police and Crime Commissioner to implement a new programme to provide Body Worn Video equipment to Specials serving across West Mercia.

PROPOSAL

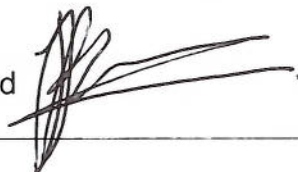
That the Police and Crime Commissioner authorise funding for the implementation of Body Worn Video for 182 Specials across West Mercia to help protect and support them in carrying out their vital roles to support the force in protecting communities from harm.

The purchase of the equipment and other associated costs including licenses, storage and other IT related support costs is estimated to be £220,000. A maximum draw down from reserves of £220,000 will be required to finance the project.

**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

West Mercia Police is the fourth largest geographic police force in England and Wales. Sparsely populated rural areas account for a large proportion of this geography.

Maintaining a healthy, visible police presence in isolated communities is challenging for policing teams and the role of Specials to support the work of Officers, police staff and PCSO's is vital to protect communities from harm. .

The introduction of body worn video equipment, along with other mobile technology, for front line staff and officers throughout 2017/18 has been a success across the force. It records both audio and video at the simple push of a button and recorded material is then automatically downloaded to a secure server where the material can be retained for use in prosecutions or for the review of policing matters where necessary.

There are currently 182 Special Officers across West Mercia. A full business case has been prepared and reviewed to evaluate and cost the options available to implement such a project for those Officers. The preferred option is for personal issue equipment as opposed to a pooling system. This approach will bring the Specials in line with other front line staff and officers. The anticipated benefits include Specials having the ability to record evidence to support prosecutions, to feel personally better protected and able to deal with incidents and to demonstrate transparency in respect of their actions when attending policing incidents, which in turn will enable communities across West Mercia to feel safer and better protected.

This further investment will complete the roll-out of body-worn video to all front line personnel, as part of the commitment to deliver "new fit for purpose technology and make best use of it", made in the Safer West Mercia Plan. This will require a maximum level of funding available for the project of £220,000. As with all projects there will be an express requirement to demonstrate value for money and to demonstrate efficiency and economy specifically when implementing the project.

FINANCIAL COMMENTS

This proposal sits outside the current capital and revenue budget.

The purchase and associated costs to a maximum of £220,000 for implementing Body Worn Video for Specials are to be drawn down from reserves in 2019/20.

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 Police and Crime 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 the separate Part 2 report.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive Officer

Signature *Andy Chapman* Date 28th June 2019

