



Reference No: 58-2014

## THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

### DECISION RECORD FORM

**REQUEST:**

To approve the addition of a Capital Scheme in respect of a Forensic Mobile Phone Examination System for use in crime investigations, at a cost of £109k, to the 2014/15 Capital Programme.

**Title:**

Forensic Mobile Phone Examination System

**Executive Summary:**

During 2012, Cleveland Police Mobile Phone Examination Unit (MPEU) received 359 phone devices for 'full forensic examination' having already been through an acceptance criteria based on a Home Office approved scoring matrix for prioritisation.

This year from Jan to August 2014, MPEU have already received 1,053 phone devices and are estimated to receive 1,579 phones this year. This represents an increase of 440 % in the past two years.

Consequently the backlog for mobile phone examination currently stands at approximately 130 phones of which 23 relate to priority investigations. It would take 2-3 months to clear this backlog at current rates of demand.

The system will implement touch screen forensic mobile kiosks which will form the basis of an 'accredited triage system' which will fast track key evidence and both reduce back-logs and pressure on the Force MPEU in order to cope with the predicted increasing and unprecedented demand for mobile phone device examination. This will enable 'authorised' operational and investigating officers 24/7 access to forensic phone examination services for the purposes of confirming the presence of incriminating or exculpatory intelligence and evidential data stored on the device when it came into police possession.

The risk to the force is that it will be unable to cope with the demand for forensic mobile phone examination services. Time critical intelligence and evidence will be lost in the current backlog of work which potentially could also damage reputation of the force through adverse publicity.

A full business case has been agreed by the Force.

**Decision:**

The PCC approves the addition of a Capital Scheme to the 2014/15 Capital Programme of £109k for a Forensic Mobile Phone Examination System

**Implications:**

| Has consideration been taken of the following: | Yes                                 | No                       |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Financial                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Legal  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Equality & Diversity                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Human Rights                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sustainability                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Risk   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(If yes please provide further details below)

**Decision Required – Supporting Information**

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's CFO where the decision has financial implications)

The PCC set an overall Capital Budget at the start of the financial year which was to be delivered on behalf of the PCC by the Chief Constable. Within that overall Capital Budget was the capacity, financially, for in year business cases. As at the end of August 2014 this provision stood at £507k. The funds for this capital scheme would therefore be transferred from this provision and would therefore not require an increase in the overall level of funds set aside for capital

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

There are no legal implications arising from the purchase of this system

**Equality and Diversity Implications**

There are no diversity implications arising from the purchase of this system

**Human Rights Implications**

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from the the purchase of this system.

**Sustainability Implications**

The Force will not be able to meet the demand for examining mobile devices without the purchase of this system.

**Risk Management Implications**

The risk to the force is that it will be unable to cope with the demand for forensic mobile phone examination services. Time critical intelligence and evidence will be lost in the current backlog of work which potentially could also damage reputation of the force through adverse publicity.

**OFFICER APPROVAL**

**Chief Executive**

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signed:  Date: 3 November 2014

**Police and Crime Commissioner:**

The above request HAS / ~~DOES NOT HAVE~~ my approval.

Signed:  Date: 3/11/14