

Commissioner's Key Decision – April 2014

Decision:

Decision to support three bids to the Police Innovation Fund, two of which are in collaboration with Essex Police & Crime Commissioner.

1. Collaborative Operational Vehicle Efficiency: in conjunction with Essex Police & Crime Commissioner
2. Visual Media Evidence: in conjunction with Essex Police & Crime Commissioner
3. Video Conferencing for Courts

Bids to the Police Innovation Fund require co-investment by Police & Crime Commissioners of between 30-40% and therefore the potential co-investment from Kent is: £641.65 over FY 14/15 and FY 15/16.

Justification:

The Police Innovation Fund enables Police and Crime Commissioners to invest in a range of innovative approaches that will improve policing and deliver further efficiency. In particular the focus of bids is on collaboration and improved digital working.

The operational vehicle efficiency is focused on implementing a telematics fleet system for the monitoring and tracking of fleet vehicles. This will allow for a number of opportunities and savings to be realised for example targeted driver reports which will support improved fuel economy through targeted driving training and freeing up officer time through automated mileage.

The visual media evidence has 5 distinct areas, visual media capture, visual media storage and linking, visual media enhancement and analysis, visual media evidence sharing and organisational embedding. This work has a number of potential benefits including removal of the need to copy evidence resulting in a reduction in administrative cost, possible reduction of specialist staff/officer attendance at court and improved management and security of sensitive data.

The video conferencing in courts builds upon existing good work in developing a network of video enabled courts. This bid focuses on the purchase of mobile court units and developing the live link in a further two courts in Kent. The benefits of this approach include savings in Police time, greater flexibility to manage vulnerable / intimidated victims or witnesses, improved court utilisation and swifter justice

Decision:

Decision to support the force by 'pump priming' the recruitment of three Legal Executives for 6 months to deliver Domestic Violence Prevention Orders (DVPO), at a cost of £67,250.

Justification:

Police forces are required to implement DVPOs by June 2014 and to initially manage the additional demand 'pump priming' has been provided for 3 Legal Executives. These additional posts will provide expertise and capacity to manage the anticipated volumes across 6 days a week. It is anticipated that in the long term these additional posts can be incorporated into the longer term restructure of Legal Services and savings made elsewhere.

DVPOs are a secure and co-ordinated approach across agencies to enhance the protection of victims and allow better management of perpetrators. They are aimed at perpetrators who present an on-going risk of violence to the victim. A DVP Notice is issued for a 48 hour period during which time the Police must apply to the Magistrates Court to make an

application Order, which if agreed, will be in place for between 14 and 28 days. A breach of DVPO is a civil contempt of court and can result in arrest and remand in custody and is also punishable by a fine and up to two months imprisonment.