

From: Ann Barnes, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner
To: Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel
Subject: Commissioner's Key Decisions – October 2015
Item & Date: Item C1 17 November 2015

Decision: Approval for Kent Police to evaluate unmanned aircraft (commonly referred to as drones) to support policing activity.

Justification: Recognising the financial challenge and also developments in technology, the use of drones may enable the expansion of air operations in a safe and cost effective way, helping to further protect communities from harm. In particular, there may be benefits in using drones to assist officers in searching large areas quickly (e.g. locating vulnerable missing persons) using aerial photography and thermal imaging equipment.

Decision: To commence the procurement of a new Integrated Communications Control System (ICCS) for emergency call handling within the Force Control Room and allocate funding in the 2016/17 Capital Programme.

Justification: The Emergency Services Mobile Communications Project (ESMCP) is a national Home Office project which will replace the current Airwave technology with a new Emergency Services network combining voice and data functionality. One implication is the requirement for every force to upgrade their ICCS for emergency call handling to be ESMCP compliant.

Decision: To submit a response to the second round of consultation on proposed changes to the Home Office Funding Formula.

Justification: To challenge some technical aspects of the formula and on behalf of residents, promote their interests and seek to influence the funding Kent receives to ensure the best outcome for the future of policing in the county.

