

<b>Approved By:</b>  Mark Gilmartin, Director of Essex & Kent Support Services	<b>Classification of Paper:</b>  Restricted
<b>Report to PCC</b>	<b>Report reference number</b> KEJAB020811 PCC/0010/13
<b>Date of Report</b>  21/03/13	<b>Area of County/Stakeholders affected</b>  <i>County Wide</i>
<b>Title of report Suspects' Interview Recording –          Contract award &amp; Capital Programme budget provision</b>	
<b>Report by</b> <i>Mark Gilmartin</i>	
<b>Enquiries to</b> Jamie Brooks MCIPS, Contracts Manager	

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To advise the outcome of a collaborative tender exercise undertaken to provide digital interview recording equipment in custody suites across both Essex and Kent.
- 1.2 To seek approval for the award of a contract to Damovo UK Ltd.
- 1.3 To clarify the nature and value of all capital projects that have been carried forward from the 2012/13 and earlier years' approved Capital Programmes.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To approve spending of ██████████ from the current 2011/12 capital programme for the technical project to implement Suspects' Interview Recording in custody suites (total approved capital budget provision of ██████████).
- 2.2 To award a contract to Damovo UK Ltd. on the basis that they were the top ranked supplier after the evaluation process. The award of this contract is supported by the Deputy Chief Constable in Kent and ACC Wortley in Essex.
- 2.3 To delegate authority to sign the contract award letter to the Head of Procurement.

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### **3. Benefits of Proposal**

- 3.1 The use of digital interview files is in line with the national "Digital Evidence Platform" keeping Kent and Essex at the front of innovative and efficient technology.
- 3.2 The system is required because the current tape recording system in Essex has reached the end of its life and individual devices are failing. The proposed option will also help to 'future proof' suspect recordings as they will be recorded directly onto a server thus reducing the need for any media to be produced, unless specifically required or requested. The new solution will also aid collaborative working between Essex/Kent and other police forces and stakeholders.
- 3.3 Essex Police are running obsolete hardware that is increasingly expensive to maintain and suffers a high failure rate, this could mean that valuable evidential statements from victims/witnesses and suspects cannot be recorded. There are also concerns as to delays and accuracy for transcription as tapes have to be replayed. The media used to record interviews is also more likely to break when recovered from long term storage.
- 3.4 For Kent the principal risks are failure to realise the benefits of a networked solution, which will make collaborative working harder.
- 3.5 The maximum total value of the framework for all UK Police Forces is [REDACTED]. If we delay contract award there is a risk that there will be insufficient scope within the framework for Kent Police and Essex Police to award this contract. This would require us to go back to market but without the benefit of a national framework.

### **4. Background and proposal**

- 4.1 Kent Police use DVD/CD discs to record both suspect, voluntary and victim interviews. Essex Police are still recording interviews to cassette tape which is now considered to be obsolete due to limitations of the analogue format as well as the inability to purchase new tape recording equipment and media.
- 4.2 There is an opportunity to provide an innovative and cost effective alternative by using a centralised digital interviewing and storage system. This will make a significant contribution to the Crown Prosecution Service target of producing a fully electronic case file, an aspiration that is fully supported other Criminal Justice agencies and the Ministry of Justice.
- 4.3 Interview rooms in both Forces will be networked and fitted with a Digital Recording Unit with a touch screen/keyboard. This will capture relevant information such as participant details, time & date and will lead Officers through the recording process. Completed interview data will be stored and then sent to a central data repository, available for other police staff and CJ partners to access on-line for transcriptions and further copies etc. It will provide instant DVD copies in the suites if required.
- 4.4 The NPJA has already entered into a procurement framework arrangement with three specialist companies to deliver this technology.

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- 4.5 The proposal is that Essex will take the networked solution before Kent to mitigate the risks associated with continued tape usage and failing equipment in ABE suites whilst Kent have moved onto using DVD's.

## 5. Police and Crime Plan

- 5.1 The same hardware and software will be installed across both Kent and Essex. Back end storage and third party access will be delivered jointly. Use of the same technology in both forces may provide opportunities to share interviewing facilities and enable officers that work across both forces to use the equipment seamlessly.

## 6. Police Operational Implications

- 6.1 Over the past 2 years, Essex has experienced problems with tapes in that recordings are more frequently of a poor quality. Tapes retrieved from long term storage break and those that do play the recordings are barely audible. More recently, a number of the devices in the ABE suites have started to fail and require urgent replacement.

## 7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 Budget provision for this project was included in the former Essex Police Authority's approved 2011/12 capital programme. At their final meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012, the former Authority's Finance & Audit Committee received a report showing the results of a review of all outstanding 2012/13 and earlier years' capital projects to test whether their continued inclusion within the capital programme was justified.

- 7.2 There have been a number of reasons for the significant delay to this important project. These were a) agreeing a technical specification with Kent colleagues for an appropriate solution; b) high project and technical staff turnover and c) seeking reduced costs associated with some of the current Kent & Essex building layouts.

- 7.3 The total approved 2011/12 capital programme provision for Essex is [REDACTED]. The tendered capital cost of hardware from the preferred supplier will be [REDACTED] for Essex Police. The remaining capital costs for completing the project (mainly building works) will be contained within the current approved capital budget.

- 7.4 There will also be an annual maintenance charge, currently [REDACTED]/pa which can be met from the existing budget. Future payments will be linked to RPI and payable annually in advance. Tendered costs for Essex & Kent are summarised in the table:

Force	Capital Cost £	Annual Maintenance £	Total Payable £
Kent	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Essex	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

- 7.5 There is flexibility within the contract to allow either force to implement fewer or greater numbers of devices based on operational/estate needs.

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**8. Legal Implications**

8.1 The terms and conditions of contract are as per the NPJA framework. These are known and there are no areas of concern.

**9. Staffing and other resource implications**

9.1 None.

**10. Equality and Diversity implications**

10.1 None.

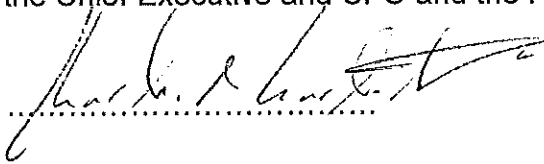
**11. Background papers**

11.1 The attached Contract Award Recommendation supports this report.

**Report Approval**

The report will be signed off by the Chief Executive and CFO and the PCC Solicitor where legal implications arise.

Chief Executive/M.O



Chief Financial Officer

PCC Legal Advisor

(As necessary)

**Decision**

I agree the recommendations to this report

**PCC/Deputy PCC**

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because

**PCC/Deputy PCC**

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**Reasons for non-publication** (*state 'None' if applicable*)

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Signed/Print name

Report for publication	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

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