

Approved By:Treasurer to PCC.....	Classification of Paper: Not protectively marked
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Report to PCC	Report reference number PCC /0070/16
Date of Decision: 27 th July 2016	Area of County/Stakeholders affected Countywide
Title of report: Body Armour 2016/17 Forecast Overspend	
Report by: Sarah Riddell, Management Accountant, Corporate Finance	
Enquiries to: Andy Jones, Stores Manager (andy.jones@essex.pnn.police.uk)	

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to the increase in the 2016/17 capital budget from **£0.071m** to **£0.197m** for Body Armour.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve an updated capital budget of **£0.197m** in 2016/17.

3. Benefits of Proposal

- 3.1 The increase in the capital budget for Body Armour by **£0.126m** (to **£0.197m**) in 2016/17 will ensure that all identified officers and staff are provided with the appropriate level of body armour / personal protection as mandated by the force (ref. Force Policy D0710), which will enable them to carry out their duties accordingly.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1 Whilst there is, and always has been a requirement to replace armour for existing officers and staff where appropriate, the majority of the capital investment is required to procure new armour for those officers and staff newly appointed to the force.

Recruitment

The updated bid for 2016/17 has increased significantly from £0.071m to £0.197m since the original bid was submitted back in the Autumn of 2015. This is due to a number of reasons, but in the main the increase in planned recruitment & training in key areas - as follows.

- Police – increase from 56 recruited in 2015/16 to planned recruitment of 178 in 2016/17 (numbers provided by HR monthly recruitment group).
- Special Constabulary – increase from 96 in 2015/16 to 160 in 2016/17 (numbers provided by Specials Co-ordinator).
- AFO's – increased training requirement from 25 in 2015/16 to 75 in 2016/17 due to loss of officers to the Met Police and a growth of 10 officers as a result of Home Office directive with no associated funding. (number provided by Weapons Training Sergeant)

Uniform & Equipment Review Group (UERG)

In addition to the above areas of increased spend a recent business case raised by the Dog Unit with the Uniform Review Group, who approve any amendments to uniform allocations (linked to uniform revenue budget), highlighted an anomaly in issue. This was due to a change in operational demands/requirements of the various Dog Unit teams. It has become apparent that any Dog Unit Handler can now be called to assist in Firearms incidents, thus leaving the potential for some officers attending the same incident with differing levels of protection in respect of body armour.

This will lead to a one-off spend as follows.

- 17 x Dog Unit Officers now requiring AFO body armour. One-off spend (unplanned and highlighted as an anomaly by the Uniform Review Group).

Body Armour Confidence Testing Programme

Another additional spend that could not have been foreseen at the time of the original bid submitted in Autumn 2015 is that of the 'Confidence Testing' programme for body armour. This is where forces withdraw sets of armour currently in use (and over 5 years since issue) and test to destruction via a programme provided by a body armour supplier. This will determine whether sets that are tested meet current CAST standards/guidelines in terms of the protection that the armour provides for our users. It also provides the force with a degree of confidence that the armour being worn on a daily basis remains 'fit for purpose' irrespective of its' age.

Back in Autumn 2015 it was widely anticipated that both Essex and Kent forces would not need to find additional funds via the Strategic Capital Board for this programme. This was due to both forces looking at sharing/utilising data from

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forces that had already tested the same manufacturers' body armour (as used by Essex and Kent). This data was thought to be sufficient to negate the need for Essex and Kent to proceed with spending funds unnecessarily.

However, having explored this further, Kent decided against this on behalf of both forces – as have other forces since. Kent have decided to implement their own confidence testing programme. They had not carried this out previously. Essex have carried out a degree of this testing previously but will now need to update the programme accordingly – as follows.

- To test (ballistic/stab) x 10 sets of existing armour to destruction (confidence testing).

5. Police and Crime Plan

5.1 The Police and Crime Plan has a number of key areas, this proposal will ensure appropriate protection for officers / staff, as mandated by the force, in the delivery of their operational responsibilities.

6. Police Operational Implications

6.1 As 5.1 above.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 Capital investment increase of **£0.126m to £0.197m** is required.

Funding requested for 2016/17		
Total funding requested:		
Activity - Procurement of Body Armour	Funding £	Capital/Revenue
Recruits - Police	57.3k	Capital
Recruits - Special Constabulary	51.5k	Capital
Increase in newly appointed AFO's	65.0k	Capital
Dog Unit officers (Uniform Review Group)	14.7k	Capital
Force Body Armour Confidence Testing Programme	8.4k	Capital
Total	196.9k	

8. Legal Implications

8.1 Not applicable

9. Staffing and other resource implications

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]


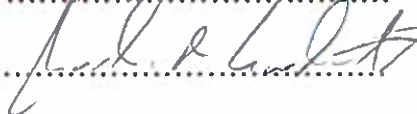
9.1 Not applicable

10. Equality and Diversity implications

10.1 Not applicable.


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. ^{Dep.} 
 Chief Financial Officer 
 PCC Legal Advisor (As necessary)

Decision

I agree the recommendations to this report

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PCC/Deputy PCC

Date signed 29/7/16 Location Chelmsford

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because

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PCC/Deputy PCC

Date signed..... Location.....

Publication

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

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Signed/Print name

Report for publication	YES	<input checked="" 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.

