**Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2019**

**Report to: the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex**

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| **Title of Report:** | **TruCAM Evaluation** |
| **Agenda Number:** | **5.0** |
| **Chief Officer** | **T/ACC Wells** |
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| **Report from:** | **Essex Police** |
| **Date of Meeting:** | **30th April 2019** |
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| **Date of Approval:** | **8th April 2019** |

1. **Purpose of Report**

To provide an overview of the TruCAM pilot and inform the panel of future developments.

1. **Recommendations**

Report is for the board to note.

1. **Executive Summary**

This paper will provide the board with information about TruCAM and an evaluation of its use.

**4.0 Introduction/Background**

TruCAM is a hand held speed detection device used by staff and officers within Roads Policing. TruCAM is a robust and technological sound device that calculates speed. One of the distinguishing features of this device is that it has specific targeting, which enables officers to effectively distinguish the speed and direction of a single vehicle in multi-lane traffic. TruCAM not only calculates speed it produces video and still images of the offence.

Devices cost around £10,000 per unit. This cost includes the tripod and back office functionality that supports downloads from each deployment.

The current model of TruCAM used within Essex only allows for deployments within day light hours. Essex Police are in possession of 7 devices with 6 devices funded via the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) and 1 device by Tendring District Council.

Essex Police commenced using the device in May 2014. Initially officers and staff within (Roads Policing) were trained and found the accuracy and detail produced by the device to be of exceptional quality.

In (2016) the Chief Constable designated powers under S38 of the Police Reform Act 2002, to allow for Police Staff and designated persons to enforce speed limits on his behalf. The Casualty Reduction team then developed a training schedule for relevant people. Legislation training in TruCAM is completed by Road Safety Support (RSS) at a cost of £3k per course. Courses are for 3 days and can accommodate 12 students. Once students have completed the RSS course, they then have to attend a 2 day course on how to use the device. This course is conducted by a Roads Policing Special Constable who has been accredited by the manufactures to deliver the course on their behalf. At this time the SERP fund these courses. To date 28 people have been trained.

**5.0 Current Work and Performance**

In the last 12 months TruCAM has been used on 679 occasions resulting in 24,922 excess speed offences of which 20,596 have resulted in a prosecution (83%). Not all speed offences result in prosecutions and some may be subject to no further action. Reasons can include camera error or the user not activating the device correctly. Ongoing training by the Road Crime Team ensures that any common errors are addressed and further guidance is issued.

Upon the Chief Constable designating additional powers, Maldon District Council Community Protection Officers were the first outside of Essex Police to be trained for TruCAM. SERP funded a device for their use and all associated training. The pilot has proved so successful that they are looking to purchase their own second device. In the last 12 months Maldon Council have recorded the following activity:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Trained in TruCAM | Deployments | Excess speed offences | Prosecutions |
| 10 | 259 | 1563 | 1302 |

Tendring PCSO’s were the next area to deploy TruCAM outside of Roads Policing.

The device used by Tendring PCSO’s was funded from the OPFCC. They commenced deployments in May 2018. To date they have recorded:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Trained in TruCAM | Deployments | Excess speed offences | Prosecutions |
| 8 | 124 | 684 | 204 |

Uttlesford and Braintree Community Policing Team (PC’s and PCSO’s) trained in TruCAM in October 2018. SERP hold a pool of devices and one of these is now used by the CPT. Since their initial training other factors have hindered the regular use of the device, which have now been resolved so it is expected that the use of Trucam in their area will increase in the coming year. To date they have recorded:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Trained in TruCAM | Deployments | Excess speed offences | Prosecutions |
| 6 | 4 | 36 | 28 |

**6.0 Implications (Issues)**

The extension of powers to enable more than just warranted officers to enforce speed offences on allows for targeting of key areas across communities that Roads Policing officers may have not ordinarily been able to get to. This however does come with an increased work load for the Process Support Unit at Billericay. The additional prosecutions place extra demand on the staff and ultimately the courts.

There is currently 1 court per week. These alternate between Colchester and Southend. We have 165 court spaces at each court which run to capacity. Any additional speed enforcement that result in a prosecution could outstrip court availability. This is being monitored.

A further implication identified is that all TruCAM operators are responsible for completing an upgrade file should an offender wish to enter a not guilty plea. For operators outside of Essex Police, the Process Support Unit will be responsible for the completion of the file. An additional work stream that will require close monitoring.

For these reasons no further group outside of Essex Police, other than those mentioned in section 9 of this report, will be trained in the use of TruCAM until such time capacity within the Process Support Unit and through the judicial system has been established.

**6.1 Links to Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

The deployment of TruCAM /contributes to the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan, namely:

* More local, accessible and visible policing
* Crack down on anti-social behaviour
* Improve safety on our roads

Drivers who commit speeding offences can be considered anti-social and clearly are a danger to other road users. Excess speed is a contributory factor in many serious injury/fatal accidents. TruCAM deployments by Community Policing Teams, Local Authority representatives and authorised community groups increases visibility across the County and provides reassurance to law abiding citizens who report concerns in their local area.

**6.2 Demand**

Not applicable to this report.

**6.3 Risks/Mitigation**

No risks identified at this time.

**6.4 Equality and/or Human Rights Implications**

No identified impact on equality, diversity or human rights.

**6.5 Health and Safety Implications**

Deployments are subject to risk assessments being carried out. As stated earlier in the report, a further risk assessment is being produced for the Harwich Safer Essex Roads Partnership volunteers.

**7.0 Consultation/Engagement**

Relevant parties within the Safer Essex Roads Partnership have been consulted on the use of TruCAM.

**8.0 Actions for Improvement**

No actions identified.

**9.0 Future Work/Development and Expected Outcome**

Further expansion of the use of TruCAM across other areas is taking place. Brentwood Council Community Protection Officers have recently completed the 3 day RSS course. SERP will fund a device for their use. They have not yet deployed and are expected to go live in the next couple of months.

A new group, Harwich Safer Essex Roads Partnership Volunteers (HSERP) has been launched with 7 members of the public. They are also all members of local Community Speed Watch (CSW). Role descriptions and risk assessments are being developed at this time. Once complete and vetting has been approved, they will also deploy TruCAM within the Tendring District. This newly formed group will operate separate to CSW and will have identifiable uniform.

The Road Crime Team Manager is in early negotiations with Basildon District Council to identify if TruCAM is suitable for their Community Protection Officers and if this is something the Council would like progress.