

## PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

<b>Report reference number:</b> 040-21
<b>Classification:</b> Official
<b>Title of report:</b> The Purchase of 3-Truvelo 'Laser Cam 4' Speed Enforcement Devices
<b>Area of county / stakeholders affected:</b>  Countywide Roads Policing Units in partnership with Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP)
<b>Report by:</b> T/Supt Matt Cornish  <b>Date of report:</b> 24/02/2021  <b>Enquiries to:</b> T/Supt Matt Cornish

### 1. Purpose of the report

The following report provides the necessary details seeking approval to procure three Truvelo Laser Cam 4's' handheld enforcement cameras, as part of a structured replacement program planned over 2 financial years.

We currently have 7 Truvelo cameras that are reaching end of life that will need replacing, due to age and a lack of spare parts. The decision is to replace these 7 cameras with 6 'newer models' and split the purchases over 2 financial years to reduce budgetary impact. This bid is seeking authority for phase one, the purchase of the first 3 devices. Further reports seeking authority to purchase the final 3 will be submitted at the beginning of the 22/23 financial year.

It is worthy of note that these new devices provide additional functions not available with our current devices; they allow for low light/night-time enforcement capabilities, as well as the ability to 'remotely deliver' the data securely, which will speed up the administration process.

## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that 3 x Truvelo - Lasercam3 devices should be purchased.

The reasons for this are

- The 'Truvelo' devices are the only Home Office type approved handheld video equipment for speed enforcement.
- Purchasing 3 provides and ensures there will be a level of 'force wide' coverage of this equipment even if some of the older devices start to fail.
- Due to the 'DashCam' project, a large proportion of the 21/22 budget has been provisionally allocated, leaving insufficient funds available to purchase replacement cameras if any fail. There are sufficient funds to make this purchase from the 20/21 RPU budget, and this will ensure we have sufficient equipment to take us to the 22/23 financial year when we can complete the final phase and replace the remaining equipment.
- This purchase supports KSI delivery and reduction targets by providing improved/increased enforcement opportunities to Essex Police due to its low light/night time capabilities that are not currently available.

## **3. Benefits of the proposal**

### **Financial planning**

The current Truvelo cameras are reaching end of life, with servicing proving tricky due to limited availability of spare parts. There is a strong likelihood that some of our devices will fail over the next 12 months which will reduce our enforcement capability and therefore our ability to deliver against the agreed KSI targets.

This proposal mitigates this risk, as well as providing a structured approach to aid financial planning by spreading the replacement costs over 2 financial years.

### **Low Light Capability**

Road Policing has no effective low-light/night-time handheld video recording speed enforcement capability at this time. The only alternative currently, is for an officer to use the SL700 equipment and physically stop the vehicle (on foot). This presents a high risk to the officer due to stepping in front of a vehicle in low light conditions and is rarely used as a result.

This lack of capability significantly impacts on the forces' ability to enforcement at all times of the day, particularly in the winter months, and in areas where light levels are poor and the consequential increased risk of KSI's exists. Truvelo Laser Cam 4 is currently the only home office (HO) type approved device with low light/night-time capability.

## Further Efficiencies

Lasercam4's are the only HO approved device currently that is capable of using 4G data transfer. This means the equipment can download offence data remotely (via 4G) and deliver it immediately into the back office. This significantly improves processing time.

The existing equipment used by officers requires the data once captured on an 'SD'card to be physically sent via the internal mail process or driven to Billericay for processing, this impacts on revenue costs in transporting and delays in processing. On occasions the cards can take several days to arrive with the process team, which has historically led to the offence being 'written off' because the NIP cannot be serviced within the legally required timescale.

The table below shows a summary of the non-cashable saving this proposal will achieve.

Table 1 Non Cashable Saving

Estimated Cost Saving		Totals						
	Year 1 QTR 4 (2020/21)	year 1	year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Direct Transport costs fuel, etc		0	1	1	1	1	4	
Indirect savings staff time		0	6	6	6	6	24	
<b>Total Non Cashable savings</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>	

Should the project not proceed Essex Police will continue to have no night-time or extended day capability for enforcement, and any non-cashable saving will not be realised.

## 4. Background and proposal

While recording handheld speed devices have been used since 2004, the last 10 years has seen increases in their use. Until now the hand held technology had advanced from DVD storage to SD card storage, all options required the data to be physically sent to the back office processing unit, Table 1 shows the estimated costs that are involved in the current process as possible savings.

The existing process has led on occasions to offences failing to be processed due to the time taken in the delivery of the card to the back office. Originally all duties for this type of enforcement saw officers working from the back-office site at Billericay returning at the end of the shift returning the card directly.

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In addition to the logistical issues around the data cards, a further area of weakness for enforcement has been in an officer's ability to enforce speed at night or in low light levels conditions, this is particularly an issue in the winter months.

Last year the Home Office gave approval to the UK's first handheld device that has 2 key capabilities low light/night time level, and remote data downloading, the equipment being the Truvelo lasercam4. The company are already a key manufacturer of safety camera equipment, with their previous equipment operating in many forces across the UK.

In order to ensure we can continue to support KSI's reduction, whilst allowing financial management, and becoming more effective and efficient, this proposal recommends the purchasing of 3 handheld units.

Given the benefits this equipment provides, and the benefits in Essex Police's ability to reduce KSI's, the Safer Essex Roads Partnerships have agreed to support the proposal by investing in the back-office in-station unit that is required to be installed in Billericay. The 3 units would allow for a unit to be allocated to cover the North and the South of the County with the third to be used for strategic Road Policing deployment purposes.

**5. Alternative options considered and rejected**

Currently this equipment leads the field in handheld speed enforcement video devices, as it is the only Home Office type approved device with such capabilities.

**6. Police and Crime Plan**

The capabilities this equipment provides will support 3 key areas within the Police and Crime plan, and would also support the PFCC focus on Improving Road Safety in the County.

The need to reduce inappropriate speeds and reduce anti-social use of the roads, to improve road safety, is achieved with the ability to extend enforcement into night or early mornings periods. The purchasing of the equipment will support Road Safety and Casualty Reduction (KSI) in the County. In terms of what support this proposal provides focusing on the Police and Crime plans are given below

Prevention	A number of incidents occur each year in which inappropriate speed and anti-social behaviour is a factor. While they can occur at any time current handheld speed camera technology limits when officers are able to enforce, this equipment will extend the enforcement periods available to officers and include extended days in the winter, which is currently not possible.
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<p>Communication and Engagement</p>	<p>The use of handheld devices by Local policing team has been steadily rising over the past few years, this includes many more remote areas of the County. There is a growing request from many Essex residents for greater enforcement against those who drive irresponsibly and in an antisocial manner. The local policing teams have been training to use the existing equipment. Going forwards as local teams replace the existing old equipment, many of the data transfer issues they currently experience would be eradicated. The use by Roads Policing of the equipment will provide valuable knowledge and experience when training local teams on its use.</p>
<p>Partnership</p>	<p>Working with and supported by the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) the equipment will also support the SERP's Vision Zero, an aspiration to reduce KSI's in the County to Zero. which is why they have supported this proposal.</p>

This also support the Force Plan priorities focusing on Safety on the Roads, as well as supporting and protecting the County's communities, the deployment of the equipment will also lead to increased visibility of officers, which in turn provides reassurance and shows positive action to the public in dealing with their concerns and complaints around poor driving.

## 7. Police operational implications

The equipment will provide an additional tool to the existing Road Policing section, for night time, and low light level enforcement capability, plus increased support as part of the wider SERP group. Going forwards the existing SERP funded handheld equipment is reaching its end of life. SERP plans next year to begin to replace the old SERP equipment, and this may see the Truvelo Lasercam4 as a possible option, extending the impact enforcement has on KSI reductions and provide Road Policing with a county wide network of handheld devices that could be utilised to increase in a positive way the impact in areas and at times when the current options cannot be used.

## 8. Financial implications

Table 2 Financial Overview

		Totals						
	Year 1 QTR 4 (2020/21)	year 1	year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
<b>Capital Costs</b>								
3 x Laser Cam 4	48985	48985	0	0	0	0	48985	
<b>Revenue Costs Set Up</b>								
SIM Card x 3 @£62/month	186	186					186	
Calibration x 3 @ £595/annum	1785	1785					1785	
<b>Revenue Costs Recurring</b>								
SIM Card x3 @£62/month			2232	2232	2232	2232	8928	
Calibration x3 @£595/Annum			1785	1785	1785	1785	7140	
<b>Total Capital / Revenue costs</b>	<b>50956</b>	<b>50956</b>	<b>4017</b>	<b>4017</b>	<b>4017</b>	<b>4017</b>	<b>67024</b>	

The initial capital cost of the equipment £48,985 will be financed through the 2020/21 OPC revenue budget; this will require a revenue contribution to capital in 2020/21.

This proposal is also support by SERP who will be responsible for the other associated revenue costs. With the SERP Governance board as part of the overall equipment revenue budget having approved the proposed revenue expenditure for 2021/22.

The future revenue and operating costs of the equipment will be absorbed into the ongoing SERP revenue account.

SERP have already allocated and approved the funding for the associated back office receiving station which is a separate element.

## 9. Legal implications

There are no legal issues, the equipment having Home Office type approval will be accepted in Court as meeting legal requirements for such equipment to be used for the purposes of enforcement by a constable or Chief Constable authorised person.

## **10. Staffing implications**

There are no direct staffing implications training into it use will be covered by the exiting training team after which it will be used in normal day to day enforcement activities, with the additional benefits around data transfer after enforcement, the extended operational opportunities that are not currently available with the existing equipment to officers.

## **11. Equality and Diversity implications**

None

## **12. Risks**

This proposal carries no risks given the equipment meets all required Home Office standards and is accepted by the courts as such. Failure to purchase the equipment will however result in an inability to enforce during significant periods when light levels are low or at night, period when risks of KSI's can increase due to poor or anti-social driving issues.

## **13. Governance Boards**

Originally the proposal was put before the SERP Governance Board which consist of a number of Senior organisational members from ECC the Police, Unitary Authorities in Essex, Highways England and other County/Regional Organisations. While Essex Roads Policing see the significant benefits of this new technology. The proposal would see the Capital expenditure met from the Road Policing fund. The SERP Board have also recognised the benefits and will as part of the partnership arrangement, fund the Back office in station and the ongoing costs of the system.

The strategy was discussed at the Essex Police Strategic Board on 11 March and was recommended for approval.

## **14. Background papers**

A stage 2 business case has been completed and is attached as Appendix A.

**Report Approval**

The report will be signed off by the OPFCC Chief Executive and Treasurer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Deputy M.O.

Sign: 

Print: Darren Horsman

Date: 17 March 2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: .....

Print: Julia Berry

Date: 17 March 2021

**Publication**

Is the report for publication?

YES

NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)

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

**Redaction**

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet? YES

NO

2. Of Appendix? YES

NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

Appendix not to be published as it is commercially sensitive.

Date redaction carried out: 17 March 2021

**Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only**

If redaction is required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign:  .....

Print: Julia Berry .....

**Treasurer**

**Date signed:** 17 March 2021

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

**PFCC**

**Date signed:** 18 March 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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.....  
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Sign: .....

Print: .....

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:** .....