



PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 020-22

Classification: OFFICIAL

Title of report:
Body Worn Video and Mobile First Essex Special Constabulary Stage 2 Business Case

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Jenny Brouard (Citizens in Policing Commander)

Chief Officer: ACC Nolan

Date of report: 01/02/2022 (resubmitted 05/05/2022)

Enquiries to: Jenny Brouard (Citizens in Policing Commander)

1. Executive Summary

This proposal aims to procure 328 Mobile First devices to equip the Special Constabulary (540 Specials). This is in addition to the redeployment of Body Worn Video (BWV) devices previously agreed.

To date only Special Constables that are of Independent Patrol Status have access to Mobile First. Currently all Special Constables that are not of Independent Patrol Status do not have a Mobile First device when on duty. Consequently, the level of service quality in terms of Special Constables' operational effectiveness and efficiency is restrictive in comparison to regular officers who are able to function more effectively with this equipment. In the absence of Mobile First, the Special Constable is reliant on the capacity of a regular officer to assist and left more vulnerable and open to complaints especially if they get separated from their tutor / supervisor during an incident. This proposal is to ask that consideration for funding be given for all Special Constables to have a Mobile First device, the same as their regular colleagues. This

will ensure transparency and efficiency across the force especially when undertaking first contact investigations, as well as protecting the Special Constable in terms of resolving public complaints and operational accuracy, and quality of service delivery.

2. Recommendations

This business case seeks approval of £111.5k capital in 2022/23 and £111.5k in 2025/26, and £84k recurring revenue funding in 2022/23 through to 2026/27. The stage 1 funding requirement was included in the 2022/23 budget.*

It also seeks the approval of the appropriation of £120k from the Specials Reserve Fund to contribute towards both the capital cost of £223k and revenue cost of £420k over the life of the project.

The net funding requirement is £103k capital and £395k recurring revenue over the five years of the project.

SUMMARY OF COSTS						
	Year 1 2022/23 £000	Year 2 2023/24 £000	Year 3 2024/25 £000	Year 4 2025/26 £000	Year 5 2026/27 £000	TOTAL £000
Capital	111.5	-	-	111.5	-	223.0
Revenue Recurring	84.0	84.0	84.0	84.0	84.0	420.0
Total Investment	195.5	84.0	84.0	195.5	84.0	643.0

SUMMARY OF FUNDING						
	Year 1 2022/23 £000	Year 2 2023/24 £000	Year 3 2024/25 £000	Year 4 2025/26 £000	Year 5 2026/27 £000	TOTAL £000
Specials Reserve-Capital	111.5			8.5		120.0
Specials Reserve-Revenue	25.0					25.0
Capital Programme				103.0		103.0
Revenue Consequences	59.0	84.0	84.0	84.0	84.0	395.0
Total Investment	195.5	84.0	84.0	195.5	84.0	643.0

* Stage 1 ringfences the funds; stage 2 confirms the actual requirement. Stage 1 included £46k one-off revenue in 2022/23 and 2025/26 that is no longer required.

The Year 4 capital requirement is a representative figure of the expected replacement cost based on the lifespan of the equipment.

3. Background to the Proposal

This proposal aims to procure 328 Mobile First devices to equip the Special Constabulary (540 Specials). To date only Special Constables that are of Independent Patrol Status have access to Mobile First. Currently all Special Constables that are not of Independent Patrol Status do not have a Mobile First Device when on duty. Consequently, the level of service quality in terms of Special Constables' operational

effectiveness and efficiency is restrictive in comparison to regular officers who are able to function more effectively with this equipment. In the absence of Mobile First, the Special Constable is reliant on the capacity of a regular officer to assist and left more vulnerable and open to complaints especially if they get separated from their tutor / supervisor during an incident. This proposal is to ask that consideration for funding be given for all Special Constables to have a Mobile First device, the same as their regular colleagues. This will ensure transparency and efficiency across the force especially when undertaking first contact investigations, as well as protecting the Special Constable in terms of resolving public complaints and operational accuracy, and quality of service delivery.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

By providing Specials with the 328 additional Mobile First devices requested in this business case, Essex Police would generate £261k non-cashable efficiency time savings in 2022/23 and £783k non-cashable efficiency time p.a. from 2023/24 onwards. These non-cashable savings were calculated based on already approved and utilised Mobile First benefits methodology and assumptions.

The benefits and opportunities it will afford Special Constables associated with the quality and effectiveness of our service delivery are clear. Appropriate investment and subsequent use of Mobile First devices will permit officers to maximise their operational efficiency and therefore victim and public service.

When allocated, these devices provide benefits including:

- Tracked user activity including police national computer (PNC) searches and pocket notebook (PNB) entries
- Electronic PNB reduces risks of data breaches
- Allows the radio channels to be used for higher priority transmissions
- Reduces the number of people involved in an evidential chain

5. Options Analysis

The alternative option would be that only Special Constables that have received Independent Patrol Status would benefit from having a Mobile First device. This would mean that Non-Independent Special Constables would not be in a position to undertake certain tasks to support their regular colleagues and could be left in a vulnerable position in terms of completing crime reports, as well as Athena and PNC checks for example.

6. Consultation and Engagement

The following parties have been consulted, internal to Essex Police:

- Information Security
- Mobile First Strategic Board

- Digital Transformation Oversight Board (DTOB)
- 7 Force Procurement
- Corporate Finance
- Strategic Change
- Estates
- Learning & Development
- Professional Standards Department (PSD)

7. Strategic Links

This proposal supports the below Police and Crime Plan priorities:

- Further investment in crime prevention
- Reducing drug driven violence
- Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reducing violence against women and girls
- Improving support for victims of crime
- Protecting rural and isolated areas
- Preventing dog theft
- Preventing business crime, fraud and cyber crime
- Improving safety on our roads

8. Police operational implications

This project will fit within the Chief Constable's Force Plan and the PFCC's strategy around the ambition to grow the Special Constabulary. Essex remains the second largest force with the largest number of Special Constables second to the Metropolitan Police.

It also links in with the force Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Strategy which shows we are inclusive of everyone within the organisation.

The proposal will also assist the force around investigating crime and anti-social behaviour as well as the various operations that the force undertakes in which the Special Constables have an integral part to play.

The project will support our strategic aims and along with various portfolios around hate crime, violence against women and girls, Protect and Prevent and assist our Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigative Opportunities, Vulnerability and Engagement (THRIVE) Plan.

Fundamentally, the proposal will ensure the Essex Special Constabulary is skilled, equipped and enabled to carry out its duties and responsibilities in line with our regular officers. The benefits include assisting in investigating crime and anti-social behaviour, Op Hampshire and complaint investigations etc. and supports our Diversity, Equality and Inclusion strategy application.

9. Financial implications

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This is a Stage 2 Business case requesting total funding of £643k over the life of the project with Stage 1 indicative capital and revenue funding submitted by the Local Policing Support Unit (IT Services bid) as part of the budget setting process. As detailed in the table below, in the Stage 2 business case there is a reduction in the funding requirement of £92k compared to the Stage 1 bid. The Business Case seeks approval of £223k capital (£111.5k in 2022/23 and 2025/26), and £84k recurring revenue funding requirement for the life of the project totalling £420k. It should be noted that the proposal is to fund £120k of capital costs from the Specials Reserve Fund and that £25k of the revenue costs is already budgeted for and included in the 2022/23 budget resulting in a net funding requirement of £498k.

FUNDING SUMMARY	CAPITAL	REVENUE	REVENUE	Total
(ESSEX ONLY)		SET UP	RECURRING	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
STAGE 1				
Year 1 (2022/23)	111.5	46.0	84.0	241.5
Year 2 (2023/24)	-	-	84.0	84.0
Year 3 - 5 (2024/25- 2026/27)	111.5	46.0	252.0	409.5
Total funding requirement	223.0	92.0	420.0	735.0
FUNDED BY :				
Specials Reserve fund	(120.0)	(25.0)		(145.0)
NET FUNDING SURPLUS / DEFICT	103.0	67.0	420.0	590.0
FUNDING SUMMARY				
(ESSEX ONLY)	CAPITAL	REVENUE	REVENUE	Total
STAGE 2		SET UP	RECURRING	
Year 1 (2022/23)	111.5	0.0	84.0	195.5
Year 2 (2023/24)	0.0	0.0	84.0	84.0
Year 3 - 5 (2024/25- 2026/27)	111.5	0.0	252.0	363.5
Total funding requirement	223.0	0.0	420.0	643.0
FUNDED BY :				
Specials Reserve fund	(120.0)	-	-	(120.0)
Included in 22/23 base budget		0.0	(25.0)	(25.0)
NET FUNDING SURPLUS / DEFICT	103.0	0.0	395.0	498.0
VARIANCE Stage 1 to Stage 2: FUNDING (SURPLUS) / DEFICT	0.0	(67.0)	(25.0)	(92.0)

Mobile First non-cashable benefits have been calculated and assured by the Finance and IT Benefits Manager, and suggest that, if the stage 2 business case is approved, Essex Police would generate £261k non-cashable efficiency time savings in 2022/23 and £783k non-cashable efficiency time p.a. from 2023/24 onwards. These non-cashable savings were calculated based on already approved and utilised Mobile First benefits methodology and assumptions.

The funding for this project was included in the 2022/23 capital programme budget setting position, with the corresponding financing costs also included in the budgeted MTFs. As the detailed business case for this project has resulted in less funding being required than originally anticipated at budget setting, there are no concerns in respect of funding this expenditure

10. Legal implications

Essex Police has a duty of care to ensure that Special Constables are supported and protected with the appropriate uniform and equipment in order to undertake their duties.

11. Staffing implications

The Specials Team within Citizens in Policing would ensure that the roll out of all Mobile First devices to all Special Constables was adhered to within the policy and procedure of Mobile First. Training will be provided if required for existing staff and included in the induction process.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

Fundamentally, this proposal will ensure the Essex Special Constabulary is skilled, equipped and enabled to carry out its duties and responsibilities in line with our regular officers. The benefits include assisting in investigating crime and anti-social behaviour, Op Hampshire and complaint investigations etc. and supports our Diversity, Equality and Inclusion strategy application.

Specials face the same risks and challenges whilst on duty as their regular counterparts. Currently Special Constables are allocated Mobile First capable devices when they meet the following criteria:

- The officer is of Independent Patrol status
- The officer has met their monthly hours for at least four out of the last six months
- The officer is on active duties

The proposal will increase Special Constables’ feelings of being valued and treated the same as PCs

13. Risks and Mitigations

Risks	Mitigations of the proposal
1. The force is moving away from paper documents as everything is going onto Mobile First. This means non-independent Specials will be unable to support regular colleagues with completing / updating tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracked user activity including police national computer (PNC) searches and pocket notebook (PNB) entries

Risks	Mitigations of the proposal
2. Special Constables feeling undervalued compared to regular colleagues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases the feeling of Special Constables being valued and treated the same as PCs
3. Existing kit and equipment is open to potential security breaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic PNB reduces the risks of data breaches
4. Non-independent officers left vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows the radio channels to be used for higher priority transmissions Reduces the number of people involved in an evidential chain
5. No evidence when dealing with the public, which leaves the force open to scrutiny in relation to complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will significantly reduce the length of time taken to complete an internal complaint investigation Allows for more objective feedback during debriefs

14. Governance Boards

This paper has been approved at Chief Officer level and has been discussed at the following boards. Please see the timeline below.

Review / Board	Meeting Date	Notes
Technology Prioritisation Meeting	06/01/2021	Meeting completed
Digital Technology Oversight Board	03/02/2021	Approved 3 rd February 2022
Chief Officers Group (COG) Essex	09/02/2022	Business Case presented and supported
Essex Police Strategic Board	08/03/2021	Business Case approved in principle subject to the clarification of financial details, as set out above

15. Links to Future Plans

The Special Constabulary will be an integral part of the Strategic Co-ordination Group within LPSU which will support the mobilisation of all Specials to local operations within their local district

16. Background Papers and Appendices

Please see embedded document which documents the background and rationale for this paper.



Special_MF 202223
budget setting Stage I

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the PFCC's Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign: 

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 6 June 2022

Chief Financial Officer

Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 01 July 2022

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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.....None.....

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Of Appendix?	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

.....
.....N/A.....

Date redaction carried out:

Chief Finance Officer / 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:

Chief Executive / Chief Finance Officer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Jane Gardner

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 11 August 2022

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: