



<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Police and Crime Panel</b>
<b>Report from:</b>	<b>The Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> April 2015</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Mobile Policing</b>

**Recommendation:** That the Panel notes this update on mobile IT within Sussex Police.

### **Introduction**

The Police and Crime Panel discussed the precept options and the Chief Constable's Local Policing Model (LPM) at its meeting held on 23 January 2015. One element of the investment proposal is funding the on-going revenue costs associated with the roll out of the mobile policing project. The Panel asked for more information on the development of the project. This paper provides further background and explains how the current mobile IT project will support the delivery of the LPM.

### **Mobile IT in Sussex**

The Mobile project will provide an operational capability to Sussex Police that allows police officers and staff to receive, retrieve, update and process policing information required to complete their duties via a smartphone, without the constraint of physical location. Supported by just under a million pounds worth of Innovation Funding from the Home Office, mobile policing will allow officers to work more flexibly. Devices will be issued to all Neighbourhood Policing and Neighbourhood Response officers across the Force up to Inspector rank. The device, a Samsung Galaxy Note 4, was selected because it is large enough to input data into using a separate keyboard, whilst being small enough to carry in a pocket and be used as a phone, obviating the need for both smartphones and tablets. Selection of these devices follows user testing with officers, and feedback has been very positive.

In time the mobile solution will provide access to research and update vital core policing systems, supporting the Police and Crime Plan to maximise officer productivity by ensuring that front-line officers spend more of their time in the community instead of frequently needing to return to police stations. It will also reduce duplication, as for many activities information will be entered only once, direct to the device - rather than being written longhand in a pocket note book and later re-entered onto a computer (sometimes more than once, into different applications) as is currently the case.

Specifically the solution will enable access to view and update our command and control, and core crime and intelligence systems, complete electronic witness statements, and complete stop and search checks, amongst other functionality.

This technology will fundamentally modernise the way the Force works with its introduction representing one of the biggest changes to how the Force operates out and about since computer systems replaced written reports. As the Force moves towards fewer and more integrated systems, officers will have access to a range of information held in one place, and accessible at the scene of an incident. This will ensure officers and staff are better able to use their professional judgement to deliver service, informed by a much richer assessment of the situation and of the issue that needs to be resolved.

The quality of data in policing systems should also increase, as officers will input data directly at the scene, eliminating the errors associated with data re-entry back at the station.

The increased officer productivity and efficiency and ability to do much work without returning to police premises (thereby eliminating much wasteful time and cost in travel) are essential to the successful delivery of the Local Policing Programme (LPP) and smaller workforce. The changes also support work being led by the Estates and Future Workplace Team to have fewer and less costly police buildings (and to improve working conditions across the Force) and support more flexible ways of working.

Officers will spend more time in public, and will therefore be more visible and accessible. They will more often be able to deal with victims and witnesses in a single visit, as they will be prompted for the information they need as they collect it. Other officers will be able to see information as soon as it has been entered. Specialists and supervisors can review information whilst officers are still at the scene which will enable them to assess and direct investigations from an earlier stage. With relation to victim support measures; where lines of enquiry are identified, other officers will be able to act on them immediately, and will be in full possession of the relevant information, rather than having to wait until the attending officer has returned to a station and make another report or another system. These elements will mean that individual members of the public will receive a better, more professional service, and investigations should become more effective.

### **Project Delivery**

Around 100 devices are already in use, with a 'change network' of officers trialling them on an interim infrastructure. It is currently envisaged that the permanent infrastructure which enables the mobile devices to connect to the Sussex Police IT environment will be completed by the end of May. Following this there will be a short interval for testing/identification of any issues, before roll-out of devices to all NRT and NPT officers begins in June.

The policing applications and functionality for the devices are being developed. Some will be available at the point of device roll-out and the remainder will be rolled out over the following months.

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### **Background Papers**

None