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Originators:
Supt Tony Godwin/David Hawker/
Robert Vestey

Decision number: D40-2017

Submitted to: Martin Surl, Police & Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire

Subject:

Request to increase the number of Camera Enforcement officer posts within CJD.

Executive summary:

One of the Police and Crime priorities is 'safe and social driving' a principle aim of which is to reduce deaths and serious injury occurring on the County's roads. This can be achieved in many ways but a key contribution from the Constabulary is to identify offending drivers and then strike the right balance between educating to change their behaviour or where appropriate prosecuting them.

This request forms part of a wider strategy in support of the 'safe and social driving' priority. It seeks to enhance our ability to tackle anti-social behaviour in our communities. We aim to achieve this by providing additional resource centrally, diverting demand from local policing.

The new CJD Traffic Unit is a product of the CJD restructure and is working towards a cost neutral operating model. The overwhelming majority of speeding offences are detected by two mobile camera operators employed by the Constabulary. One of these posts is filled by a police officer, the other by a police staff member. The current business model provides little resilience for either community engagement or offence detection. Permission is now sought for two more police staff posts to be created.

The two police staff posts are required to:

- Support neighbourhood policing in addressing anti-social behaviour.
- Reduce demand on local policing resources.
- Support communities in reducing offending, by supplementing Community Speed Watch initiatives with enforcement.
- To widen the scope of our activities to provide more deterrence against mobile phone & seat belt offenders in line the Police and Crime Plan.

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- Provide resilience to current traffic offence detection capability.

The current national funding arrangements do not allow for capital purchases to be funded through the camera operation. Subsequently an additional request seeks authority for £80,000 of spend from the PCC 'spec' fund to cover the additional equipment requirement. We cannot move to recruit these individuals until this equipment funding has been secured and therefore this paper is requesting agreement for recruitment, contingent on these additional capital funds being secured.

Recommendation:

1. To employ two staff as enforcement officers – this will mean that the overall force establishment for enforcement staff will comprise of one police officer and three police staff.
2. To provide a separate contingent bid for £80k from the Commissioner's Fund to cover the equipment costs.

Outcome/approval by:

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MASI', with a horizontal line underneath.

Date:

27 November 2017

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<p>Public access to information</p> <p><i>Information in this form and associated reports is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011. Where it has been indicated that this is a decision of significant public interest, all of this form except Part Two will be made available on the website of the OPCC.</i></p> <p><i>Any information that should not be automatically available on request should not be included in Part One but instead on a separate Part Two form.</i></p>	
<p>Is this a decision of significant public interest?</p> <p><i>This includes a decision with any impact on the community, expenditure in excess of £50,000, or any decision that would be of obvious interest to the media or the general public</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Is there a Part Two form? <i>This section should only include information that, if published:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) would, in the view of the chief officer of the police, be against the interests of national security;</i> <i>b) might, in the view of the chief officer of police, jeopardise the safety of any person;</i> <i>c) might, in the view of the chief officer of police, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or the administration of justice; or</i> <i>d) is prohibited by any enactment.</i> <i>e) breaches commercial sensitivity</i> 	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Originator checklist (must be completed)</p>	<p>Comments including who has approved the report if applicable</p>
<p>Has legal advice been sought on this submission if required?</p>	<p>Not required</p>
<p>Has the Chief Finance Officer been consulted, if required?</p>	<p>The Chief Finance Officer has been present at meetings where these proposals have been discussed. A fuller business costing will be made available as</p>

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	part of the budgeting process.
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered, as appropriate?	We are not aware of any issues in this regard.
How is the recommendation consistent with the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan?	The recommendations are designed to fully support the safe and social driving element of the Police and Crime Plan, and specifically to support community groups.
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	We have consulted widely internally.
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media, community, staff or partner interest and how they might be managed?	This is currently premature. We will devise a communications strategy to launch this when the assets are in place.
Have all relevant implications and risks been considered?	Yes

Part One – For publication

1. Purpose of the report

Camera enforcement in Gloucestershire historically used three police officers in mobile camera vans. This was reduced to two in 2015 but this has severely impacted upon our ability to support community operations and our resilience in terms of speed detection.

The Constabulary has seen an overall reduction in traffic enforcement by operational officers resulting in difficulty in effectively supporting the PCC's safe and social driving priority.

New technologies in this area will allow for enforcement, in support of community concerns, by way of video evidence, branching out to include offences other than just excess speed. Mobile phone use is one key example.

2. Background

The new CJD Traffic Unit is a product of the CJD review and subsequent restructure. It has also become subject to funding formula changes arising from the Road Safety Partnership review 2015.

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The review of the Road Safety Partnership, undertaken by Chief Superintendent Avron, in 2012, recommended the “workforce modernisation” of two of the three officer posts employed in camera enforcement.

The review accepted that one officer was required within the unit to comply with the legal obligations contained within Section 75 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988.

The emergence of Home Office approved technologies now allow for video evidence to be used more widely in traffic offence detection. This allows for:

1. detection and enforcement without the need to stop vehicles to identify the driver,
2. offence administration via back office processes with no police officer involvement,
3. the offer of educational alternatives and
4. a process funded via a nationally agreed cost recovery model.

We currently have 51 community speed watch groups across the county and numerous parishes and individuals that are requesting the Police look at incidents of anti-social driving. We believe that the recruitment of two additional mobile officers can provide the level of engagement needed from these communities and individuals regarding initial enforcement capability.

We will be looking to offer a service level agreement to support community concerns and provide each community with an update on any enforcement in their area, where we anticipate that the majority of those offenders detected will be local drivers.

3. Recommendation(s)

Permission is now sought for agreement to employ two additional staff as enforcement officers; this will mean that the overall force establishment for enforcement staff will comprise of one police officer and three police staff.

4. Financial and resource implications

The operational budget and costs are discussed in part 2 below. Current legislation allows for cost recovery but capital requirements need to be funded separately.

There is a requirement to seek funding from the OPCC for the additional equipment required. We believe this to be in the region of £80,000 but additional work to narrow down the costs from existing HOTA suppliers will be required.

5. Risk assessment

Compliance with legislation must be maintained and that means that an officer must be available in the department to determine if a conditional offer is appropriate.

There remains a slight risk to organisational reputation when using police staff to detect offences. However, the legislation allows for this and the risk has been

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accepted by numerous other police forces already adopting this approach of using police staff.

6. Equality & Diversity impact assessment

We are unaware of any issues in this regard.

7. Environmental impact assessment

We are unaware of any issues in this regard.

8. Consultation

We have already discussed the concept at a previous PCC governance meeting and this paper is a response to governance request.

9. Discussed with Communications & Engagement

This has not been discussed with Communications and Engagement. We would expect that a full launch will be planned when the assets have been procured and the equipment is ready for launch. A strategy for Communication will be discussed and implemented as part of the overall project.

10. Conclusion

The overarching principle in this paper is to contribute towards reducing death serious injury on the County's roads by identifying offenders and either prosecuting or where appropriate educating them to change their behaviour.

It supports neighbourhood policing in reducing antisocial behaviour with vehicles.

It fully supports and compliments the Police and Crime Plan's safe and social driving priority and seeks to provide greater enforcement capability within our communities, releasing pressure upon local policing resources.