



OPCC

Office of the Police &
Crime Commissioner
for Gloucestershire

AUTHOR: Peter Skelton

SPONSOR: DCC Stratford

DECISION NUMBER: 10/2020
(to be completed on approval)

SUBMITTED TO: Martin Surl, Police & Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire

SUBJECT: Mobile data usage – request for additional funding

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Constabulary uses mobile data when any of the below force issued devices are being used outside of a force building or whilst not connected to a WIFI network (MFLP devices - SN4's and now Note 9 mobile phones, Executive mobile devices, Tablets and Mifi's which creates a connectivity hotspot).

In June 2017, the Constabulary purchased a data bundle of 25 terabytes (TB) at a cost of £218,000 from our network provider.

Earlier this year, a review of our data usage was completed whilst we negotiated a new contract with EE/ BT who are our network provider.

This forecast showed 18 months of data remaining in this bundle from June 2017, if our average monthly usage remained the same. Consequently, the work to put a new agreement in place was postponed until Q4 2020.

Due to the sudden increase in home working and requirements for additional devices, another review of the usage was completed focusing on the start of Covid-19 pandemic. This showed usage triple in volume on average from March – August. This increase will result in the current data bundle being fully consumed within the month of September 2020. Whilst the Constabulary will still be able to operate (as the data stream would NOT be turned off), the cost would increase as we are out of contract.

This paper outlines the options and make a recommendation to purchase an additional 50TB of data at a cost of £350k which is predicted to last until 2023.

CGB (Sept 2020) agreed to this recommendation with the following points to note:-

1. Funding - £180k of the total £350k can be taken from existing budgets. The remaining £170k will need to be taken from reserves. There is a choice to be made about whether that is taken from general reserves or the ICT reserve.

2. Use of mobile devices – the Chief Constable has commissioned a review of the allocation of personal Mifi devices to ensure that they are provided only to those persons who need them and that wherever possible, devices are returned to the Constabulary. Where officers and staff are homeworking, they should use their own fixed broadband wherever possible rather than consuming the Constabulary`s mobile data allocation – messaging will go out in Bulletins to reinforce this point.

RECOMMENDATION:

PCC Governance Board is asked to support the purchase of the additional 50TB of data at a cost of £350k to enable business continuity.

This level of funding can only be approved by the PCC.

OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY:

Signature:



Date: 22/09/2020

Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire

Public Access to Information

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.

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.

Is this a decision of significant public interest?

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

Yes – due to the value of the contract - £350k

Is there a Part Two form?

This section should only include information that, if published:

- a) *would, in the view of the chief officer of the police, be against the interests of national security;*
- b) *might, in the view of the chief officer of police, jeopardise the safety of any person;*
- 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*
- d) *is prohibited by any enactment.*
- e) *breaches commercial sensitivity*

No

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	Comments including who has approved the report if applicable
Has legal advice been sought on this submission if required?	No
Has the Chief Finance Officer been consulted, if required?	Yes – author of the paper
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered, as appropriate?	Not applicable
How is the recommendation consistent with the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan?	Remote access to data systems is essential to the delivery of all aspects of the PCP.
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes – consultation internally and the paper has been presented at CGB in Sept 2020.
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media, community, staff or partner interest and how they might be managed?	Internal messaging about the usage of Mifi devices will take place.

Have all relevant implications and risks been considered?	Yes
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PART ONE – For publication

1. Purpose of the report

This report provides details regarding the un-forecasted growth in mobile data usage that has occurred over the last 6 months, resulting in a prediction that all allocated mobile data will be used by approximately 10 Sept 2020.

Our network provider (EE/ BT) will be continuing to provide us with access to mobile data after this point (up until the 30th Sept 2020), but contractual arrangements will need to be in place as soon as possible to ensure business continuity and reduce additional `out of contract` costs.

This paper outlines where and why the growth is being seen, acknowledging considerations that need to be made in relation to COVID consequence management and agile working moving forward.

This paper seeks urgent approval and funding to procure a new mobile data agreement, to ensure continued delivery of remote connectivity post September 2020.

Full details of the requirement and background can be found in the attached Issue Report.

2. Background

The organisation uses mobile data when any of the below force issued devices are being used outside of a force building or whilst not connected to a WIFI network:-

- MFLP devices (SN4's and now Note 9 mobile phones)
- Executive mobile devices
- Tablets
- Mifi's (creates a connectivity hotspot)

In June 2017, Gloucestershire Constabulary purchased a data bundle of 25TB at a cost of £218,000 from our network provider.

Earlier this year, a review of our data usage was completed whilst we negotiated a new contract with EE/ BT as our network provider. This forecast showed 18 months of data remaining in this bundle, if our average monthly usage remained the same.

Consequently, the work to put a new agreement in place was postponed until Q4 2020.

Due to the sudden increase in home working and requirements for additional devices, another review of the usage was completed focusing on the start of Covid-19 pandemic. This showed usage triple in volume on average from March – August. This increase will result in the data bundle being fully consumed within the month of September 2020.

3. Recommendation(s)

CGB has approved the following recommendation which is remitted to PCCG for support:-

- Option 2 (page 5 of the Issue report) – the purchase of an additional 50 TB of data at a cost of £350k.

It is predicted that this data bundle will last until 2023.

4. Financial and resource implications

A comparison of options has been carried out (page 7 of the Issue Report) – this analyses the current average monthly usage (1.09TB), and includes an estimate for growth which amounts approximately 1.5TB per month.

Costs used in the table (Issue report) have been provided by EE/ BT via the SWPPD team, and are calculated over a 33 month period to align the end of the data agreement with our contract renewal. All products can be procured via Lot 10 Direct Award.

The cost of this recommended option is £350k.

The Constabulary CFO has stated that £180k of the total £350k can be taken from existing budgets and that finance is already in place to support this.

The remaining £170k will need to be taken from reserves. A decision needs to be made about whether that is taken from general reserves or the ICT reserve.

5. Risk assessment

Whilst the mobile data allocation for the Constabulary is unlikely to run out, (unless we fail to act) we do risk significantly more cost if we operate and consume data out of contract.

Mobile data is now key to the daily operations of the Constabulary for both officers and staff – we cannot operate without it. Failure to provide appropriate remote access to data will have the potential to seriously compromise effective service delivery.

Associated with option 2 is some more work for the Constabulary in relation to effective monitoring controls being in place to assess data usage and an understanding of the detailed data usage by specialist units – these actions have been allocated to the DCC.

6. Equality & Diversity impact assessment

Not applicable to this specific issue.

7. Environmental impact assessment

Allowing access to systems remotely, minimises the amount that officers and staff need to travel – thereby reducing their carbon footprint. This is a key contributing factor to delivering on the PCP priority of Green and Pleasant County.

8. Consultation

The paper has been discussed at September CGB and remitted to PCCG for a decision as the funding request is outside of Constabulary limits.

9. Discussed with Communications & Engagement

C&E will be asked to carry out an internal communications campaign asking officers and staff to minimise, where possible, usage of mobile data.

10. Conclusion

Information is the lifeblood of the organisation – accessing data remotely on digital devices is now a part of everyday policing. The provision of an appropriate data bundles is key to the ongoing delivery of operational and support services for the Constabulary.

PCC G is asked to support the recommendation to purchase the 50TB data bundle and the associated work being undertaken to reduce unnecessary data usage.

SPONSORING BOARD MEMBER APPROVAL

Name: Jon Stratford

Job title: Deputy Chief Constable

Signature:



Date: 18/09/2020

CHIEF EXECUTIVE APPROVAL

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.

Signature:



Date: 18/09/2020

Appendix A – Issue Report attached.