

**POLICE AND CRIME  
COMMISSIONER FOR  
THE WEST MIDLANDS**

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

**NOTICE OF DECISION**

020/2017

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**Pooling the Risk to Support the Digital Policing Programme**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Digital Policing Programme is a national programme to ensure policing services will be delivered effectively in the digital age. The programme is supported by the Police Transformation Funding (PTF) through the Home Office. Similar to other projects supported by the PTF there is a continuity of funding issue due to the timing of the general election and the resulting purdah.

All Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) have received a request from the National Police Chiefs' Council to underwrite and pool the risk to support the Digital Policing Programme which has been adversely impacted by the timing of the General Election. Unfortunately, the request for the Programme's ongoing funding from 1 April 2017, from the Police Transformation Fund, did not receive Ministerial approval prior to the announcement of purdah.

This leaves the Digital Portfolio with an unforeseen short term funding gap which the Board and the Digital Programme team have been working to resolve. While the Portfolio had requested £4.5m to cover the next 4 months, the Board have asked to them to arrive at a 'pared down' proposal. The Digital Portfolio have carefully reviewed their plans and propose that £3.3m will ensure that vital work continues to deliver the Programme without significant slippage. This will also ensure certainty to those officers and staff on secondment, forces who have taken risk on behalf of others' and maintaining ongoing contractual relationships with stakeholders and suppliers.

The Board has approached the Home Office and they have agreed to provide (£1.9m) over the four-month period until full Ministerial consideration can be given to the original request following the election period. This leaves a shortfall of approximately £1.4m.

The Police Reform and Transformation Board discussed this issue and all agreed a pragmatic solution would be for the £1.4m to be collectively underwritten by PCCs using force funding formula to spread the risk. While the Digital Portfolio could operate at a skeletal capacity at £1.9m, securing the additional £1.4m commitment would ensure it

maintains a greater degree of tangible delivery and ensure the continuity of a vital national programme from which we will all stand to benefit.

No money is requested and each PCC is only asked to underwrite a proportion of the £1.4m. This risk will only materialise if, following the election, Ministers do not agree to the funding for the Programme recommended to the Home Secretary by the Board following its 1 March 2017 meeting.

Using the West Midlands share of police funding (disregarding the element relating to council tax) the potential risk to the Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands of underwriting the digital programme is up to £84,000. In the unlikely event of this amount being required to be paid it will be funded through either an underspend or reserves.

### **DECISION**

Approval is given for the Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands to underwrite the national Digital Policing programme in proportion to the police funding formula. This will only be required to be paid if Ministers do not agree to the programme being funded from the Police Transformation Fund.

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### **Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands**

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Police and Crime Commissioner of the West Midlands. Any interests are indicated below.

Signature.....

Date.....05.05.17.....