

Chief Constables' Council

ESMCP and NLEDP Update

14 July 2016 /Agenda item: 4.3.1

Security classification:	Restricted - Commercial
Disclosable under FOIA 2000:	No
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Force/organisation:	Operational Communications in Policing
Date created:	15 June 2016
Coordination Committee:	Information Management
Portfolio:	Communications
Attachments @ paragraphs:	

1. INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

- 1.2 The purpose of this paper is to update Chief Constables on the programmes overseen by the Operational Communications in Policing Team (OCiP), these being the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) and the National Law Enforcement Data Programme (NLEDP). This is a paper for information only, with no decisions required.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Chief Constables agreed in 2015 to the establishment of OCiP, a national team in a lead force model, as a means of ensuring effective police representation on ESMCP. Chiefs also established a 'Reference Group' of senior colleagues to provide direction to OCiP and to oversee progress towards ESN on Council's behalf. The ESN Reference Group meets bi-monthly, chaired by Chief Constable Francis Habgood.
- 2.2 In April 2016, Chiefs agreed the extension of the OCiP remit into NLEDP (and in due course the Home Office Biometrics Programme (HOB)), recognising the inter-relationships between the different Government-led programmes. The role of the team is to focus on operational requirements,

assurance and business change on forces' behalf, as opposed to 'owning' particular systems.

3. PROGRAMME UPDATE - ESMCP

- 3.1 ESMCP is still on track to deliver the Emergency Services Network from September 2017 (starting in the North West region) on a phased timetable based on regional transition groups, concluding with complete national coverage and all users transitioned by December 2019.
- 3.2 All Transition Groups now have a police regional strategic lead at chief officer level. There is a fortnightly teleconference meeting for OCiP to liaise with all the strategic leads on progress of ESMCP and to discuss any local issues of concern. Each transition group either has recruited, or is in the process of recruiting, a Regional Implementation Manager (RIM), in partnership with OCiP, to assist forces in the work of mobilisation and transition, in addition to local force and regional project teams.
- 3.3 A series of 'transition readiness events', one in each transition group, has just concluded. These meetings provided an opportunity for briefing users from across the emergency services on the programme, and to take and respond to questions. Stakeholder communications are being reviewed in order to ensure swift and effective engagement continues between Programme, OCiP and forces moving forward.
- 3.4 There remain issues of concern to police, and these are subject of continuing scrutiny by Reference Group. Principal concerns and ongoing agenda items for Reference Group remain coverage; security and resilience of the network; and device availability. However, the police requirements as stated at the time of ITT and contract award remain unchanged (with one exception at 3.5 below), as does the Programme's commitment to deliver. The police position – accepted by the Programme – remains that forces will not willingly transition unless and until the ESN solution is demonstrated to be at least as good (and coverage as effective) as that currently provided by Airwave.
- 3.5 Reference Group has agreed to a clarification of a transition commencement criterion relating to national coverage. This agreement in effect gives more time for the Programme to deliver 'extended area services' in Scotland (building additional masts and coverage solutions in remote areas) prior to Scotland transitioning. There will still be complete national coverage by December 2019, and an effective interworking and interoperability solution

throughout the transition period. The reason for the agreed change, from the police perspective, is to avoid unnecessary spend on interim solutions (with a recognition that even north of the border, a majority of ESMCP funding comes from police grant). Further details on this, and access to all ESN Reference Group papers, can be made available on request.

- 3.6 There is increasing focus on ESN exploitation, and maximising the benefit from the new network when it arrives. OCiP have, for example, established an operational user group of officers to advise on the development of 'apps' for use on ESN. Work continues, jointly sponsored by Home Office and NPCC, to ensure synergy between the three Home Office-led programmes (ESMCP, NLEDP and HOB) and the police-led digital programme of work.

4. PROGRAMME UPDATE - NLEDP

- 4.1 NLEDP is at an earlier stage than ESMCP, and OCiP work to date has been focused on establishing sufficient resource to allow the police to engage effectively within the Programme. Existing police resources dedicated to the Police National Database have joined OCiP, and a new Chief Superintendent Business Change and Assurance Manager has been appointed. A 'Reference Group' of chief officers to oversee OCiP interaction on NLEDP and HOB will meet shortly; CC Debbie Simpson has agreed to chair the group. Membership will include the current NPCC leads on PNC; PND; ANPR; and biometrics, as well as a representative selection of Chief Constable colleagues. Discussions on this continue.
- 4.2 The Programme held its first Business Design Authority meeting in June. The BDA, chaired by the Home Office, assesses requirements of the new NLEDP platform, and prioritises the transitioning of data onto it. OCiP are the key participants, but there is also representation from Borders, Immigration and potentially other user organisations.

5. DECISIONS REQUIRED

- 5.1 No decisions are required in relation to this paper. Colleagues with particular views or concerns on ESMCP are encouraged to speak to CC Francis Habgood or to DCC Richard Morris, head of OCiP. Colleagues with a particular interest in joining the NLEDP / HOB

Reference Group should speak to CC Debbie Simpson or to DCC Morris.

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