

For Information	
Public	
Report to:	Strategic Resources and Performance
Date of Meeting:	15th July 2019
Report of:	Chief Constable
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Agenda Item:	6

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Transforming Forensics

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Police and Crime Commissioner about Transforming Forensics programme with a particular focus on any regional performance effects and their business case.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 For the Police and Crime Commissioner to note the update in this report.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure that the Commissioner is fully up-to-date with regards to the most recent performance from a regional perspective and to stimulate a wider debate in relation to local benefits, funding and direction.

4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 Transforming Forensics is a National two year programme at a cost of around £30 million. The programme vision is to provide high quality, specialist Forensic capabilities that not only protects communities and the vulnerable but is sustainable and meets future demand. The Forensic Capability Network (FCN) is based on four pillars of Science, Quality, Commercial and Operations and is designed to join up the National infrastructure. It is thought this will require separate funding to the programme, of which several proposals of this have been produced, however there is no indication as to what the costs to our region would be. The FCN will become separate to the TF programme which has focussed on 4 main projects of Fingerprints, Standards and Accreditation, DNA Futures and Digital Forensics. Assistance has been provided to forces around collaboration cases and accreditation as well as a National Capability Maturity Model (CMM) being produced benchmarking where forces are.
- 4.2 The East Midlands Forensic Collaboration is regularly seen as a template which some (but by no means all) forces can learn from. The current TF Programme is at risk of a funding cliff edge given its temporal nature. It regularly sees East

Midlands resources utilised to further its aims which mainly now benefit other forces much more than our own.

- 4.3 Future plans would hopefully see efficiencies as the FCN should provide digital workflows and note taking as well as automation in Digital Forensics. Investment in Research and development including future validation would be required which is a further unfunded cost.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 Funding is available for the TF programme for another year and will require further funding to achieve all of its objectives. Separately to that the FCN will also require funding on a permanent annual basis.

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 A number of personnel have been seconded from EMSOU to the TF programme, of which their home force salaries have been covered to allow EMOSU to backfill their posts.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 This report is for nothing and does not have any equality implications.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 The largest risk is around timescales and funding. Slippage has already been seen on the Fingerprint deliverables and is now, in the first instant a scaled down version. For reasons outside the programmes control certain aspects still require a huge amount of working through and detail adding. Funding has also not been agreed past the initial 2 years for the programme and the FCN funding hasn't been approved or the proposed vehicle for this agreed.
- 8.2 The programme has no mandate and all forces/regions find themselves at a varied level of maturity. Consequently both operationally and politically there are a number of mixed viewpoints which inevitably impact upon the vision and deliverables.
- 8.3 Some forces cannot release the required Subject matter experts to resource the programme and its requirements as they are struggling with their own local workloads and projects.
- 8.4 Certain other National programmes eg Home Office Biometrics and organisations eg PITCO simply cannot deliver to what is asked of them by this programme.
- 8.5 The over-arching programme fails to catch up in a timely and cost effective manner with the East Midlands Region, its own plans and its IT capabilities. As we are currently ahead of the proposal there is a serious risk of we are paying twice for the same capability.

9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

- 9.1 The TF vision links into the 2025 Policing plan and the national thinking around Specialist Capabilities.
- 9.2 protecting and safeguarding the vulnerable and our communities

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 A National Section 22 would require agreeing and signing

11. Details of outcome of consultation

- 11.1 Regular communication and presentations from TF to Chief Officers and PCC's, including workshops and engagement events with users and Forensic managers.

12. Appendices

- 12.1 There are no appendices attached with this report

13. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

NB

See guidance on public access to meetings and information about meetings for guidance on non-public information and confidential information.