

Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey – Decision Making Record

Title: Future of ‘Siren’
Decision number: 020/2013
Author and Job Role: Alison Bolton, Chief Executive
Protective Marking: Part One

Background

In the financial year 2005/6, Surrey Police began scoping to replace its ageing criminal intelligence system with a new, fully integrated system, linking together all recorded information and intelligence within the Force. At the time, no national system or preferred “off-the-shelf” product existed and those which were available offered limited flexibility to meet the demands of individual forces. Surrey Police and Surrey Police Authority therefore decided to develop a new system.

The procurement process for this new system began in 2008, with a contract eventually awarded in May 2009. The new system is known as Siren (Surrey Integrated Reporting Enterprise Network). In the years following the award of the contract, Surrey Police – overseen by Surrey Police Authority – worked with the supplier to develop the system.

PCC Review

In November 2012, the Chief Constable reiterated her view to the Commissioner that the on-going programme to replace Surrey’s Criminal Intelligence System may no longer represent the best long-term option for the Force and the public.

The Commissioner then requested an independent report and sought further operational advice from the Chief Constable to consider whether Surrey Police should continue with the Siren project, or bring it to an end and instead look to examine the costs and feasibility of switching to the systems now being implemented by a number of other forces in the region.

The Commissioner has determined that the benefits of collaborative working with other regional forces are potentially so great that Surrey Police should withdraw from the Siren project and immediately begin to work up a fully costed proposal for an alternative solution. The Commissioner believes this is in the best interests of both Surrey Police operationally and the public from a value for money perspective.

The decision will now be scrutinised by the Police and Crime Panel and Grant Thornton (the Audit Commission’s appointed external auditors). A full inquiry into a project of this scale is likely to take some time and the Commissioner has recognised that it would not be proper to comment further at this stage.

The current crime management system remains operational and the decision to withdraw from the Siren project will not impact on day-to-day policing which continues as normal.

Recommendation

That, given the potential benefits of collaborative working with other regional forces, Surrey Police should withdraw from the Siren project and immediately begin to work up a fully-costed proposal for an alternative solution.

Police and Crime Commissioner Approval

I approve the recommendation(s):

Signature: 

Date: 09/04/2013

Areas of consideration

Consultation

In addition to operational advice from Surrey Police, the Commissioner's decision is informed by an independent report into the Siren project.

Financial implications

The financial implications of this decision have been reviewed by the Commissioner and are set out in the independent report. Grant Thornton will also be reviewing the financial implications.

Risks

The Commissioner has considered a range of operational, financial and reputational risks before making his decision.

Equality and diversity and Human Rights

No issues arising.