

Agenda Item: 16

To: Professional Standards Committee

From: Chief Constable

Date: 12th February 2009

EXTENDING THE USE OF TASER DEVICES

1. Introduction

1.1 This report explains the background in relation to the wider roll out of Taser to Specially Trained Units (STU) within Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

2. Background

2.1 Following a successful trial in other Forces into the extended use of Tasers by STU's, on 24th November 2008 the Home Secretary authorised the Extended Use of Taser to STU's in all forces with effect from 1st January 2009.

2.2 The Home Office has recently made available £8M of capital funding to provide an additional 10,000 Tasers nationally which will significantly reduce the initial out lay for Forces. This is 'one off' funding provision with individual forces liable for subsequent revenue costs associated with equipment, training and servicing / replacement.

3. Matters to note

3.1 Tasers are viewed as a less lethal technology and therefore this should reduce the number of times that lethal force needs to be applied in potentially confrontational situations. Therefore Tasers are being accredited and rolled out across all Forces with full support of the Police Federation.

3.2 The January Force Executive Board took the decision to bid for a further 50 Taser devices and the Force has recently been made aware that this bid for funding has been successful.

3.3 The training regime to equip additional Officers with the appropriate level of skill regarding use of Tasers is being put in place and a small group has been convened to oversee the implementation of this project.

3.4 The implications on revenue spend will be confirmed within the project governance but it is anticipated that any additional spend will be met from current resources.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Committee is invited to note the content of the report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document (s)	Contact Officer	Location
	DCC John Feavour (01480) 422532	Cambridgeshire Constabulary Hinchingsbrooke Park, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 6NP.
<p>Originating OfficerDCC</p> <p>Is it considered that this report contains 'exempt information' and should be considered in private? No</p> <p>If the answer is "YES", please state the nature of the exempt information and the relevant clause in Part 1 of revised Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>The attached report has been cleared with the undermentioned Officers: (delete as appropriate)</p> <p>Deputy Chief Constable</p> <p>Others</p> <p>Submitted on5th February 2009.....</p> <p>A report will not be sent to the Authority unless this box has been satisfactorily completed and all necessary consultation carried out - the responsibility for which rests with the originator (except for consultation with the Chairman and this will be undertaken by the Chief Executive).</p>		