

To: Finance and Resources Committee

From: Chief Constable

Date: 20th January 2010

PROJECT ATHENA – THE REGIONAL PROCUREMENT OF JOINT IT SYSTEMS

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief the Committee on Project Athena.

2. Information

2.1 Athena is a joint project between the police forces of Cambridgeshire, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Kent and the City of London Police to procure a common single Information Technology (IT) solution for managing crime, handling intelligence, case file preparation and managing custody records.

2.2 The project aims to go beyond joint IT procurement, and plans to produce a common set of business processes for each Force to work to. In other words staff in each of the Forces involved will deal with crime recording in exactly the same way, using exactly the same IT system. The same will be true for intelligence recording; custody record management and case file preparation.

2.3 This is a ground breaking collaborative enterprise which has considerable support from the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA), and has received firm support from the Police Authority Chairman.

3. Background

3.1 In February of 2008 the Home Secretary commissioned the NPIA to conduct an in depth review of police IT systems. The recommendations which came from this review were subsequently incorporated within the policing Green Paper "From the Neighbourhood to the National; Policing our Communities Together".

Chapter 2 of the Green Paper makes it abundantly clear that NPIA will be given a lead role to work with Police Forces nationally to ensure that:

- IT convergence plans were developed whereby any new procurement would require sign off against national standards, architecture and procurement contracts.

- NPIA should look to identify, where possible, the savings to be made through improved procurement methods.
- NPIA should engage proactively with Police regions to actively drive the convergence programme.

To deliver against these objectives NPIA have now developed the Information Systems Improvement Strategy (ISIS) Programme.

- 3.2 During the early part of summer 2008, Cambridgeshire Constabulary started working with Essex and Hertfordshire police to consider agreeing a common crime and intelligence recording / management system. This became known as the CMIS (Crime Management and Intelligence System) Project and attracted significant interest from both NPIA and the other regional Forces. The core values of the CMIS Project were seen to be consistent with the ISIS programme.

Work undertaken within the CMIS Project clearly indicated that a common IT platform was technically possible and would offer a number of advantages over and above improved operational benefits, including procurement, licensing costs, business process convergence and organisational resilience.

- 3.3 Considerable effort was put into the CMIS project by the Forces involved. Notwithstanding a tender process, a review of the tender evaluation in late 2008 led to no contract being awarded.
- 3.4 In early 2009 Chief Officers again met and decided on a new procurement process, with the direct involvement of NPIA. This has become Project Athena.

4. Scope

- 4.1 The Athena Project is intended to provide a single application for the business functions of crime management, handling intelligence, custody records and case file preparation. This will enable the efficient inputting, searching, distribution and transfer of information relating to these business areas. In essence this single system will generate "The Golden Nominal" – that is a single person record, with unique reference number which will be used by all systems within the suite. This will be a significant step forward for all Forces involved, where different (non-linked) entries exist independent of each other on our current systems.
- 4.2 The Project will also ensure that business processes are agreed and are aligned so that forces are able to realise the maximum operational benefits as well as those from a single IT system in terms of resilience, performance improvement and shared training delivery on core systems (with cost savings).

- 4.3 To maximise the cost savings from collaboration the Project will look to implement a centrally hosted / managed solution with a second installation for resiliency and disaster recovery. That is to say only one physical system will be installed together with one backup system, rather than all eight Forces having a full copy of the new system. This has considerable potential in terms of cost saving. It is a genuinely new approach for collaboration and will be seen as a pathfinder project nationally.
- 4.4 The Project will deliver a training package, based on the agreed business processes, as the central tool for the region-wide education on the new system.
- 4.5 The system will be designed to produce key management information outputs that are timely, accurate and capable of transfer to other systems, to enable effective analysis of the raw data in the combined system.
- 4.6 The system will be designed to produce data capable of being shared with other Forces and other partner agencies where required, in alignment with the NPIA ISIS programme.
- 4.7 In summary the added value comes from:
- Improved data sharing capability between the collaborative forces.
 - Increased skills resiliency across forces by way of similar resource skill sets.
 - Shared process, training materials, training etc designed for re - use by the other Forces.

5. Budget

- 5.1 Indicative costs will emerge once the project enters the competitive dialogue phase of the procurement process. It is a substantial project. Capital provision for the CMIS project has been withdrawn and further work to identify existing costs for Crimefile, Intrepid (intelligence system), case and custody systems is ongoing.
- 5.2 The Police Authority are asked to note that Cambridgeshire Constabulary are committed to working as part of this programme to ensure that the final product meets the needs of our Force and our communities, however any final decision with regards to purchasing the preferred application will be a matter for the Force and Police Authority to decide once detailed costs are known.

6. Timescales

Timescales for delivery are as follows:

- Pre-procurement to mid February 2010
- Procurement February 2010 to end July 2011
- Implementation phase July 2011 to January 2012
- Testing January 2012 to end February 2012
- Regional staged training rollout starts Feb 2012.

7. Summary

- 7.1 The Athena Project aims to provide a common IT platform together with common business processes for eight forces, in the areas of crime recording and management, intelligence management, case file preparation and custody record management.
- 7.2 Procurement of the IT platform will be undertaken with a significant involvement from NPIA, and will form part of the National ISIS programme.
- 7.3 A common IT platform together with agreed business processes will streamline the way we work; increase resilience (through mutual aid) and permit cost effective trailing delivery.

8. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note this report and to endorse the further development of Project Athena.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document(s)	Contact Officer	Location
	Detective Superintendent Walter Hadow Director of Intelligence	Cambridgeshire Constabulary Chord Park Godmanchester
<p>Originating Officer: DCC</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 <u>and the relevant clause(s)</u> 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>Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Treasurer</p> <p>Submitted on7th January 2010</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>		