

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Notice of Decision



Nottinghamshire

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Author:	DCS Gerard Milano
Telephone number:	310 2439
E-mail address:	gerard.milano@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk
For Decision or Information	Decision
Date received*:	27/02/2017
Ref*:	2017.012

TITLE: Application for use of Police Property Act Funds to finish Operation Mercury

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to request £55,000 to fund 4.2 FTE temporary staff at Grade A4A and a limited amount of overtime for 6 months from the Police Property Act Fund to provide 50% of the resources required to finish Operation Mercury. The remaining 50% funding will be provided by using existing Force Budgets/Resources.

Operation Mercury is an initiative which Nottinghamshire Police has progressed in 2016/17 as part of its Delivering the Future and Niche Technology Agendas, its objective to initiate a large scale reduction in superfluous exhibits/property holdings which are no longer required evidentially. The College Of Policing Guidance on the Management of Police Information (MOPI) has lengthened the periods of time some evidential items are required. The changes in the Forces Estates and reduction in overall buildings mean that existing storage needs to be managed closely.

To date, Operation Mercury has successfully reviewed over 275,000 exhibits with 212,000 exhibits approved for disposal, this has delivered on the objectives of the Project to rationalise the materials held by the Force so that the current storage capacity can be used in the most efficient and effective way to preserve those items required evidentially. However the timescale for the completion of the frontline officer reviews process has taken longer than original anticipated due to the demands on frontline officers from the thematic restructure of the Force and other operational activities. The frontline review process is now anticipated to be complete by March 2017. Therefore the phase of the Operation to action all the disposals and update Force systems is having to be extended until 30th September 2017.

Operation Mercury provides the Force with assurances around its compliance with legislation, reduce risk and ensure that live data needing to be transferred to new systems is minimised. Without Operation Mercury additional funding and resources would have been required in the coming years to manage the volumes of materials being held by the Force, so this is an invest to save scheme.

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF DECISION: (e.g report or business case)


Operation Mercury Business Case.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Funding was originally approved for Operation Mercury of £108k from the Police Property Act Fund (PPAF), actual spend for the financial year 2016/17 is anticipated to be £91k, a projected saving of £17k. The PPAF is an earmarked ring fenced reserve held by the Force under the Police Property Act 1897 and 1997 and can only be used to defray the costs of managing property or donated to charity. This fund sits outside the Forces Revenue and Capital Budget and the cash balance available in this fund for 2017/18 is anticipated to be £60k up to 30th September 2017 (£50k at the end of 2016/17 and an anticipated £10k of income for the first half year 2017/18). There are no additional revenue or capital costs directly associated with this report.

In addition to the cash sum held in the Police Property Act Fund, each year the Force donates significant volumes of unclaimed/unidentifiable property items to charitable causes which link to our Policing Priorities and any suitable items which are to be disposed of as part of Operation Mercury are being donated to our approved list of charitable schemes and being used for the benefit of Nottinghamshire communities.


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Signature: 	Date: 1 st March 2017
Chief Finance Officer	

Is any of the supporting information classified as non public or confidential information**?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please state under which category number from the guidance**	3, 5, 7 (Crime/Security)			

DECISION:
Approval for £55,000 of the funds held within the Police Property Act Fund Reserve to be used in 2017/18 in line with the Police Property Act legislation to fund the completion of Operation Mercury.


OFFICER APPROVAL
I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that the appropriate advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signature:  Date: 6th March 2017.

Chief Executive

DECLARATION:
I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and I take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any interests are indicated below:

The above request has my approval.

Signature:  Date: 7/2/17

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