

## **Mobile Data Technology**

### **Driver – Technology**

Related Drivers – Anti-Social Behaviour, Counter Terrorism, Collection and Storage of Personal Information, Neighbourhood Policing, Reducing Bureaucracy, Collaborative Working Between Forces, Procurement, CCTV, Facial Recognition, Compatibility, 2012 Olympics, Public Confidence in the Police, Stop & Search, Youth Crime

### **Background**

Papers such as *Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime*<sup>1</sup>, *Policing Green Paper*<sup>2</sup>, *Sir Ronnie Flanagan’s Review of Policing*<sup>3</sup> and the Home Affairs Committee reports *Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*<sup>4</sup> and *Police Funding*<sup>5</sup>, place an emphasis on mobile technology as key to streamlining police processes and reducing bureaucracy.

In 2007-08 the Government made available a further £50m to support the rollout of mobile data devices as part of the Mobile Information Programme.<sup>2,6</sup> Through the *Policing Green Paper* the Government announced a further £25m over the next two years to expand this opportunity to more offices and more forces. By March 2010, these two programmes will deliver a total of 30,000 extra devices for front line officers.

In Sir Ronnie Flanagan’s *Review of Policing*, the Chief Inspector commented that the police service have not acted corporately in the implementation of new technologies. At present, police IT procurement is disaggregated, with multiple trials of differing pieces of hardware currently underway across the service.<sup>3</sup>

Flanagan feels the cost of equipping a police officer with mobile IT would be driven down if the service took a joined up approach to business processes enabled by new technologies. This is highlighted as being the case in regard to mobile technology where the worry is that there could be 43 different approaches based on the same criminal law.<sup>2,2</sup>

The *Policing Green Paper* also suggests that mobile devices can only realise their full potential if they are used as part of a co-ordinated IT strategy for the whole service.

To progress this issue, changes will be made to the legal framework within which forces and the NPIA currently operate through the development of a mandate – a code of practice which will require forces to develop convergence plans under the leadership of the NPIA, and require sign off of new investment against compliance criteria relating to national standards, architecture and procurement policy.<sup>2,2</sup>

### ***Potential Skills Needs***

***Change management skills*** – manage change at both an organisational and personal level effectively

***Collaborative working skills*** – working effectively with colleagues and other forces in procurement of goods and services

**Contract management skills** – effective management of contracts throughout the contractual process

**Data collection and management skills** – recording and collecting data in line with a particular system

**IT process management skills** – ensure new technologies integrate with current systems to maximise effectiveness

**IT skills** – in the use of various types of mobile data technology

**Procurement management skills** – getting the best terms when procuring services, especially regarding IT products

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<sup>1</sup> [Casey, Louise \(2008\) \*Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime: A review by Louise Casey\*. London: Cabinet Office.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Home Office \(2008\) \*From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our communities together\*. Cm 7448. London: The Stationery Office Ltd.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Flanagan, Sir Ronnie \(2008\) \*The Review of Policing: Final Report\*. London: Home Office.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee \(2008\) \*Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century\*. Seventh Report of the 2007-08 Session. HC 364-I, London: The Stationery Office Ltd.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, \(2007\) \*Police Funding\*. 4th Report of Session 2006-07. HC 553, London: The Stationery Office Ltd.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Home Office \(2008\) \*From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our communities together – Summary of Green Paper consultation responses and next steps\*. Ref 291441. London: Home Office.](#)