



## Forensics Case Management System

### MOPAC Investment Advisory & Monitoring meeting 2nd April 2024

Report by Ian Bryant on behalf of Chris Porter

**Part 1 – This section of the report will be published by MOPAC. It is classified as OFFICIAL – PUBLIC**

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*In March 2022, MOPAC approved the original Business Case for a Forensics Case Management System. The original estimates identified a budget of £2,205,000 Capital expenditure and £4,470,000 Revenue expenditure, totalling £6,675,000.*

*The paper seeks approval to drawdown on the capital allocation associated with the Forensics Case Management System project to address inflight project revision to scope and unforeseen supplier delivery costs, which were in scope of the project.*

*The revised scope requirement will address the identified change request for the system to be able to exchange data between MO4's Forensics Operational Support team and Eurofins, a key supplier. This is a change in scope and will require a drawdown from the Transformation Capital Plan of £350,000.*

*To address increased supplier delivery costs, identified as a potential issue in the original Business Case and forecasted overspend of existing project scope; reported at project board since August 2023 will require a drawdown on the Transformation Capital Plan of £241,000*

#### Recommendations

1. The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, via the Investment Advisory and Monitoring meeting (IAM), is asked to approve:
  - a. Capital funding allocation, which is within the Transformation Capital Plan for additional work, consisting of £350,000 to cover the costs attributed to the new scope items.
  - b. Capital funding allocation, which is within the Transformation Capital Plan to cover the forecasted project overspend of £241,000 in regards to the delivery of existing scope.

2. This constitutes an increase of £591,000 over the existing approved budget. However, the funding is available and this is not new money.
3. If approved the total budget will be £7,466,000, an increase of 9%.

### **Time sensitivity**

4. A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor by 14 April 2024. The anticipated timeline to deliver the change in time for the project's scheduled Go Live date in July 2024, is predicated on an assumed supplier (Black Rainbow) development start-date of April 2024. The actual start-date for development cannot be confirmed until approval by the Deputy Mayor.

### **Introduction and background**

5. The purpose of this paper is to request additional budget to increase the scope of the inflight project to address change requests regarding the exchanging of data between the MO4 Forensics Operational Support team and Eurofins. This is a change in scope and will require a drawdown of the Transformation Capital Plan of £350,000 additionally, this paper is seeking approval to drawdown on the Transformation Capital Plan of £241,000 to address increased supplier delivery costs identified as a potential issue in the original Business Case and forecasted overspend of existing project scope.
6. In March 2022, MOPAC approved the original Business Case for a Forensics Case Management System. The original estimates identified a budget of £2,205,000 Capital expenditure and £4,470,000 Revenue expenditure, totalling £6,675,000.
7. The objective of this project as approved in March 2022 is to procure and implement an End-to-End CoTS Case Management System which will enable the digital submission of forensic examination requests into a single system via a portal and allow forensic practitioners to effectively prioritise their workloads to meet the needs of investigations and the criminal justice system. It will provide visibility of submissions and forensic outcomes to investigating officers and enable more effective use of resources.
8. The data captured will drive continuous improvement, providing the evidence base for future decision making, truly 'seizing the opportunities of data and digital tech to become a world leader in policing'. CMS will provide a single scalable forensic evidence workflow repository through which accurate information can be retrieved quickly to improve data-driven decision-making by Police Investigators.
9. This data will then be accessible within the system for Investigating Officers to use in their casework but also in the form of reports for Forensic SLT. This will ensure the digital management of forensic case work from case creation and submission of exhibits, through any required examinations and to

reporting of results both internal to the MPS with investigative colleagues and also externally for the preparation of court documentation etc.

10. CMS will replace an in-house Quality Management System (QMS), which is an amalgam of insular databases and spreadsheets. The need for a CMS has intensified with the introduction of legislative requirements on forensic science providers (within policing and the commercial sector) to have systems in place to demonstrate robust scientific and data integrity. The chosen CMS has an integrated QMS which will facilitate compliance with the legislative and regulatory requirements

### **Issues for consideration**

11. The strategic case for the Forensics Case Management System (CMS) has not changed and remains as stated in the original Business case.
12. The MPS currently utilises a high number of applications, each forming an independent data source. Many of these legacy applications are outdated and reside on archaic infrastructure that are unreliable and no longer cost-effective to run. It is against this challenging backdrop that the organisation is trying to achieve compliance with existing legislation such as MoPI and regulatory requirements set out in the Forensic Science Regulators' Codes of Practice.
13. The Forensic CMS will provide the right data and tools to manage and monitor and optimise operational effectiveness. This is in support of the operational priorities of New Met for London and the enabling priority of 'seizing the opportunities of data and digital tech to become a world leader in policing'. CMS will provide a single scalable forensic evidence workflow repository through which accurate information can be retrieved quickly to improve data-driven decision-making by Police Investigators.

### **Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2022-251**

14. The Forensic Case Management System supports two key priorities of the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan: reducing and preventing violence; and increasing trust and confidence.
15. The system will support the reducing and preventing of violence as it will be the principle system for managing exhibits for investigators investigating violence against women and girls, violent crime and drugs offences. Forensic evidence will support prosecutions in these areas leading to offenders being removed from the streets and creating a safer London.
16. Forensic Case Management will increase trust and confidence as it provides a single auditable transparent system for the management of Forensic exhibits, whilst also supporting the new Forensic Regulations.

### **Financial and Commercial Comments**

17. This paper is requesting £350,000 in additional capital spend which is

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<sup>1</sup> [Police and crime plan: a safer city for all Londoners | London City Hall](#)

available against the project profile within the approved Capital Plan. The paper can be delivered within the existing commercial agreement with Black Rainbow.

18. This paper is also seeking approval of Capital funding allocation to cover the forecasted project overspend of £241,000, which is available against the project profile within the approved Capital Plan, in regards to the delivery of existing scope.
19. The Forensics CMS Project is an in-flight project, with the core contract being the MPS Case Management System contract awarded to Black Rainbow Ltd via G-Cloud 12. The contract was awarded for an initial two year term until 30 September 2024 with two twelve-month extension options. £2.4m of the awarded contract value of £3.9m remains.
20. Contract variations are permissible under clause 32.1 of the G-Cloud 12 contract as long as the variation does not constitute a material change. The proposed variation of £210,000 complies with that clause. A variation will be raised by the project team via Commercial Services.

### **Legal Comments**

21. The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime ("MOPAC") is a contracting authority as defined in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations"). All awards of, and modifications to, public contracts for goods and/or services valued at £214,904 or above shall be procured in accordance with the Regulations.
22. Regulation 72 permits MOPAC to modify a contract in limited circumstances. Specifically, regulation 72(5) provides MOPAC may modify a contract where the value of the modification is below both of the following values:
  - (a) "214,904 (being the relevant procurement threshold), and
  - (b) 10% of the initial contract value for services;provided that the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract or framework agreement.
23. This report confirms all of the above are met and so on that basis the modification shall be compliant with the Regulations.
24. Paragraph 7.24 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides the Director of Commercial Services has consent to approve all variations and extensions for contracts, not elsewhere approved. Paragraph 4.14 provides the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime reserves the right to call in all variations and extensions to contracts with an original value of £500,000 or above.
25. Paragraph 7.4 provides the Director of Commercial Services has consent to approve business cases within the approved MPS budget for revenue or

capital expenditure below £500,000, with the exception of expenditure proposals of an exceptional nature.

### **Equality Comments**

26. This BJP for additional funds presents no implications for equality and diversity and has not impacted the Equality Impact Assessment.

### **Privacy Comments**

27. The MPS is subject to the requirements and conditions placed on it as a 'State' body to comply with the European Convention of Human Rights and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. Both legislative requirements place an obligation on the MPS to process personal data fairly and lawfully in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.
28. Under Article 35 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Section 57 of the DPA 2018, Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) become mandatory for organisations with technologies and processes that are likely to result in a high risk to the rights of the data subjects.
29. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the project meets its compliance requirements.
30. The DPIA for Forensic CMS has been reviewed but no changes are required because the additional work funded by this BJP does not use personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no GDPR issues to be considered.

### **Real Estate Implications**

31. There are no changes to the estate.

### **Environmental Implications**

32. There is no impact to delivering the Mayor's London Environment Strategy<sup>2</sup>.

### **Background/supporting papers**

33. Forensics CMS Business Case 2 – Additional Funding (v1.2)

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### **Part 2 – This section refers to the details of the Part 2 Business Justification Paper which is NOT SUITABLE for MOPAC Publication.**

34. The Government Security Classification marking for Part 2 is:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/environment/environment-publications/draft-london-environment-strategy>

- a. OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [COMMERCIAL].
35. Part 2 of Forensics CMS Business Case 2 – Additional Funding is exempt from publication for the following reasons:
- b. Exempt under Article 2(2)(a) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011.
  - c. Commercial Interest Section 43.
36. For review post contract cessation 1st October 2026