

Agenda Item No. 4(d)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER - HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

17 May 2018

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

GRANT FOR COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SOFTWARE

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek Cabinet Member approval to make a grant to the Derbyshire Constabulary to enable CREST to purchase software to facilitate the management of Community Speedwatch schemes.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Over recent years in Derbyshire, officers have seen consistent and impressive reductions in the number of people killed and injured on Derbyshire's roads: in 2016 (the latest full years data), a reduction of 46% compared with the average of 2005-2009.

This reduction has been brought about by the cumulative effect of many initiatives, but speed remains one of the single biggest causes of collisions: in Derbyshire, 32% of all killed and seriously injured (KSI) collisions involve speed as a key factor.

At the same time, speed remains one of the most consistent community concerns related to Derbyshire's roads. Members of the public continue to express their concerns over speed in their communities to both the Highway Authorities and the Police, using many avenues of communication directly or through elected members and bodies.

To address these concerns and enable a more effective, efficient and transparent response to speed complaints, Derbyshire County Council, as part of the Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership (DDRSP), is developing with Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary, a Speed Management Protocol (SMP).

An important element of the SMP is that every complaint will receive an appropriate response, at the lower end of the scale Community Speedwatch is a popular and effective response to community concerns of excess speed which do not justify the introduction of engineering or enforcement measures.

Where there is local demand, Community Speedwatch enables volunteers from the community to be trained and equipped to check the speed of vehicles. Those that exceed the limit receive an advisory letter and, if this is ignored, may receive appropriate advice from the Police.

As these schemes have grown up dependent on local demand, they are managed locally by the Police and the administrative burden involved in the 'back office' managing the letters and records is onerous. In addition, there is little co-ordination between separate schemes which allows drivers to potentially be checked over a number of schemes without raising any concerns over the dangers and anti-social impact of their driving.

Therefore, it has been agreed that the back office support and management of all Community Speedwatch schemes will be the responsibility of CREST. CREST is the team in DDRSP, managed by the Police, which operates speed cameras across Derby and Derbyshire. This function can be managed by a software package which works alongside its current StarDome software that manages the process of fixed penalty tickets for road traffic offences. This automation will both remove the onerous and limiting administrative burden but also identify those drivers that consistently pose a risk to other road users, allowing educational advice to be given without resorting to legal process.

The software will not enable fixed penalty tickets or other court processes to take place.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The cost of the software, installation and training is £4,731.65 in the first year. This cost can be met from DDRSP reserves.

After the first years use officers will be able to evaluate the growth of Community Speedwatch with the intention that future costs will be absorbed in the CREST budget.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property, social value and transport considerations.

(4) **Key Decision** No.

(5) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(6) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Matt Pickard, extension 38657.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member approves the award of grant of £4,731.65 for the purchase and installation of Community Speedwatch software to the Derbyshire Constabulary.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment