

<b>Approved by:</b> Mark Gilmartin, Director of Essex & Kent Support Services	<b>Classification of paper:</b>  Not Protectively marked
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<b>Report to PCC</b>	<b>Report reference number</b> PCC/0027/13
<b>Date of decision</b>	<b>Area of county/stakeholders affected</b>
<b>Date of report</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2013	All Essex Officers and Staff
<b>Title of report</b> Establishment of an Athena Project completion reserve	
<b>Report by</b> Debbie Martin, Chief Finance Officer of the Chief Constable	
<b>Enquiries to</b> Debbie Martin, Chief Finance Officer of the Chief Constable	

### 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the setting up of an earmarked reserve, to be funded from 2012/13 revenue budget underspending.

### 2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve the setting up of an earmarked reserve to complete the Athena project in Essex, in accordance with Financial Regulations B.10.10.

### 3.0 Benefits of Proposal

- 3.1 The reserve will allow the completion of the Athena project in Essex.
- 3.2 The Athena vision remains as follows: 'A suite of integrated and refined common business processes, underpinned by a common ICT solution that will provide a more cost effective system and an increasingly effective operational delivery platform for the Police and its criminal justice partners'.

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3.3 The full benefits were contained in the original Athena Business case. In summary, these are:-

- a) A replacement for the current Essex Intelligence, CrimeFile, NSPIS Case/Custody, PROTECT, Foreign Nationals, Property and SWARM (Warrants) systems and an IT platform for continuing expansion.
- b) From 2013/14, revenue costs for supplier support & maintenance will be less than that incurred across IT systems that Athena will replace.
- c) The reduction in continuing system development costs & upgrades.
- d) The potential reduction in staff costs for system management function.
- e) Economies of scale achieved by procuring and implementing a single IT system for multiple Forces.
- f) The potential to replace 3rd party systems in future and to eliminate annual fees for support and maintenance.
- g) Compliance with Government guidelines and strategies.
- h) A platform to support collaboration between Forces.
- i) Introduction of fully electronic case file management, which will provide significant cost and time savings.
- j) Data sharing between participating Forces, enhancing intelligence capability and reducing operational risks.
- k) Enhanced data searching which will create operational efficiencies.
- l) Enhanced resilience for business continuity.
- m) Enhanced and additional interfaces to 3rd party systems creating significant efficiencies.

#### 4.0 **Background and Proposal**

4.1 The timetable for the Athena project implementation slipped beyond the 2012/13 financial year for reasons that were beyond the control of the Essex Police project team.

4.2 The project team have identified a requirement for £400,000 of revenue funding in 2013/14 to complete the project. It is requested that £400,000 is carried forward into 2013/14 for the Athena project.

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- 4.3 A further £200,000 is required to deliver Athena training, which could be funded from other underspending during the 2012/13 financial year.
- 4.4 Therefore, the proposal is a request for a total £600,000 carry forward into 2013/14. The additional funding requirement is a result of slippage on the Essex implementation and hence there is no scope for increased contributions from other partners. There are numerous revenue underspends across the whole spectrum of revenue budgets (in addition to the Athena budgets). The net effect is a general bottom line revenue underspend of approaching £2million. It is recommended that the total carry forward is funded from the 12/13 Athena underspends and the general revenue underspend.
- 4.5 The PCC's financial regulations do not allow the automatic carry forward of unspent revenue budget funds, where there has been slippage on a project that is outside the control of Essex Police staff (although the former Essex Police Authority's regulations did cover this type of event).

#### **5.0 Police and Crime Plan**

- 5.1 The Police and Crime Plan includes 'Increasing efficiency in policing through collaborative work and innovation' as one of its key areas of focus. Completion of the Athena project and use of 2012/13 underspent funds through the proposed reserve will contribute to achieving this objective.

#### **6.0 Police Operational Implications**

- 6.1 The success of the Athena project would be diluted if the funds could not be carried forward for the purposes outlined in this report.

#### **7.0 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 Covered in section 4.0.

#### **8.0 Legal and Contractual Implications**

- 8.1 None

#### **9.0 Staffing and Other Resource Implications**

- 9.1 Training for Police Officers and Staff could not be completed if the funds could not be carried forward for the purposes outlined in this report.

#### **10.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

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[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

10.1 None apparent.

**11.0 Background Papers**

11.1 The former Essex Police Authority approved the Athena business case and funding on 21 November 2011.

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**Report Approval**

The report will be signed off by the Chief Executive and CFO and the PCC Solicitor where legal implications arise.

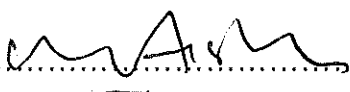
Chief Executive/M.O ..... 

Chief Financial Officer .....

PCC Legal Advisor ..... (as necessary)

**Decision**

I agree the recommendations to this report

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**PCC/Deputy PCC**

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because

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**PCC/Deputy PCC**

**Publication**

**Reasons for non-publication** (state 'None' if applicable)

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Signed/Print name

Report for publication

YES

NO

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

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