

**DECISION NOTICE**

**Decision author and proposer: Dom Coleman**

<b>Subject:</b>
Funding for Night Vision Goggles

<b>Type of decision:</b>			
<b>Deputy Mayor's decision</b>		<b>Chief Officer's decision</b>	<b>X</b>

**In all case this will need to be approved by the Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire.**

<p><b>The decision is that:</b> Funding of £8099.28 is approved to be spent by GMP to purchase 60 sets of infra-red night vision goggles to support enforcement.</p>
<p><b>The reasons for the decision are:</b></p> <p>GMP has seen high risk drivers evading camera detection and drivers having vehicle licence plates doctored so that camera systems will not be able to read the plate.</p> <p>Evasion from cameras occurs when a film/coating is applied to a number plate. Enforcement cameras – both handheld and static cameras – work by using infra-red light to read a plate.</p> <p>Where a coating is applied to characters on the plate this causes the cameras to fail to read the correct registration for the vehicle.</p> <p>The driver can avoid detection and continue dangerous driving behaviours thanks to their “ghost plate.” These devices will be deployed across several teams each with a particular focus.</p>
<p><b>This decision will contribute to priorities of the Greater Manchester strategy in the following ways:</b></p> <p>This offers a significant capability to GMP and partners as we look to target dangerous driving behaviours as part of the commitment to Vision Zero.</p> <p>There is a joint ambition of working towards zero fatalities and life changing injuries on our roads by 2040.</p>

Both GMP and GMCA are members of the Safer Roads Greater Manchester Partnership (SRGMP). A safe system approach is being adopted (in this case around safe streets, safe vehicles, safe speeds and safe road users) with the aim of this bid to increase compliance enforcement.

Another police force carried out an exercise where 5% of all plates tested were found to be illegal. As an example, using this ratio for Greater Manchester's 1.1 million registered cars, this could total up to 55,000 illegal plates on our roads if this estimate was applied. If all were enforced, this would generate £5,500,000 in revenue for the Government.

After the initial outlay there are no further anticipated costs. The night vision goggles do not require software updates or subsequent upgrades. Evidential requirements are met by existing software that GMP uses for handling this information.

**Procurement comments:**

No Procurement concerns. It is understood that GMP Procurement Team will be carrying out a compliant procurement process for the items.

**Financial comments:**

This will be funded from GMPs existing funding. There are sufficient funds available.

**Legal comments:**

N/A

**Risk Assessment:**

Licence plates themselves are not the direct issue. It is how people avoid being prosecuted for driving dangerously through excessive speed. If unchallenged, their ability to continue to do this and be a risk of causing harm to others.

Speed is a crucial factor in collisions in approximately 27% of all fatal collisions and a quarter of all collisions.

GMP do not currently possess the necessary equipment to check compliance.

There is a host of associated criminality associated with number plate offences. There is also evidence that minor offences can lead to the detection of major offenders.

Information from ghost plates will be recorded on GMPs intelligence system to record what the read of the plate was and the actual plate it relates to. Officers will then notify the DVLA of the plate and where necessary recall the plate.

**Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:**

All activities undertaken in connection with the funding will be in accordance with the relevant safeguarding policies of the agencies involved.

**Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:**

All activities undertaken in connection with the funding will be in accordance with the relevant safeguarding policies of the agencies involved.

**Agreed by Director – Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire**

Signed 

Date 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**Agreed by Treasurer**

Signed.....

Date.....

Contact Officer: Dom Coleman, Senior Policy and Partnership Officer,  
Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire Team,  
[Dominic.coleman@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Dominic.coleman@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)