

Committee(s): City of London Police Authority Board Safer City Partnership	Dated: 23 rd September 2021 27 th September 2021
Subject: City of London Police-Acquisitive Crime Electronic Monitoring Project	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1- People are safe and feel safe
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Commissioner of Police	For Information
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Summary

With reference to localised crime, the Force is taking part in an acquisitive crime electronic monitoring project. This involves the compulsory tagging and monitoring of serious acquisitive crime offenders which fit certain eligibility criteria.

As part of the Government's ambition to reduce neighbourhood crime, the focus has been placed on acquisitive crime because acquisitive crime has a high reoffending rate coupled with a low rate of detection/prosecution.

The City of London Police is due to join phase 2 of this project, with this phase due to 'go live' at the end of September.

Recommendation(s)

Members of the Board are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. As part of the Government's ambition to reduce neighbourhood crime, the Minister requested a substantial programme of GPS trail monitoring for adult offenders convicted of acquisitive crimes.

2. There were originally 6 path finder Forces and now 13 further Forces are joining the project under Phase 2, including the City of London and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). This phase is due to 'go live' at the end of September 2021. The project was specifically set up with a test and learn approach and was rolled out initially with the 6 pathfinder forces, with a view to understanding and adapting the service based on feedback.

Current Position

3. The Project involves the compulsory tagging and monitoring of serious acquisitive crime offenders. Why the focus on Acquisitive Crime? It is because Acquisitive Crime has a high reoffending rate coupled with a low rate of detection/prosecution.

Eligible offenders:

- have committed acquisitive neighbourhood crimes - burglary, robbery, theft from the person of another, theft from vehicles or theft of a motor vehicle;
- have been sentenced as an adult to a Standard Determinate Sentence of 12 months or more, and;
- will live within the geographical range of one of the eligible police force areas; and;
- are deemed suitable for electronic monitoring.

4. The premise of the project is summarised below:

- All serious acquisitive crime offenders released with 12 months or more of their sentence remaining, will be electronically tagged and monitored as a condition of that early release. The monitoring is done by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Probation Service.
- Forces involved in the project will provide details of all their serious acquisitive crime offences to the MoJ on a weekly basis. (There are ambitions for this to move to a daily process).
- The MoJ will overlay this data with their own monitoring data. They will send back proximity alerts to forces where an offender maps close to a crime.
- MoJ assess that the current pilot forces get alerts from about 1% of crimes analysed.
- Forces will assess the data and provide responses to the MoJ as to how the alert information has been resolved.
- The location data is not of sufficient accuracy to evidentially confirm an exact location of a subject.
- The returns will come via our Integrated Offender Management team. There are existing links with the MPS and Probation Service in order to share information.

5. A number of lessons have been learned from the pathfinder forces which have been fed into this next phase of the project. These are mostly process issues such as Forces were using different longitude/ latitude standards, resulting in discrepancies in the crime vicinity coordinates and different crime codes for offences which made it difficult to compare data with Home Office offence codes. Solutions have been developed to feed into phase 2.

City of London

6. Given the City's relatively small, residential population it is expected that mapped offenders are likely to be from out of the Force area. At this stage, CoLP is not aware of any opportunity for forces to "bid" to have people included in the project.
7. In terms of results, these are not expected to be significant in terms of numbers. The project is intended to enhance detection opportunities but is also focused on reducing reoffending.
8. Since April 2021, the participating forces have had only a handful of arrests and have only just had their first charge from a proximity report. It is anticipated that smaller forces may receive around 5 proximity alerts a month, with larger forces up to 10. The MPS estimation is for around 55 proximity reports a month. It will be interesting to see what the CoLP get in terms of alerts, given the economic and leisure attractions of the City and the potential for committing acquisitive crime.
9. At present, a mapped offender would need to be within 150m of a crime (the project is looking to reduce this to 100m), within a certain time frame. As Members will appreciate, the City can have a large number of people concentrated within 150m of any location. Given that a lot of the City's acquisitive crime is in public places and social venues, it is quite possible that offenders mapping close by will be a person of interest at first, rather than a clear suspect.
10. CoLP do not anticipate that this project is likely to lead to a significant number of detections on its own, but it does have the potential to be a really good source of information/intelligence, especially around series offences. In any case, CoLP does currently have a high detection rate compared to other forces nationally which is of note (at the end of Quarter 1 it was 31%, with the national average being around 13%).
11. In more rural areas, it will be of significant interest if a known offender is mapping near to a rural burglary, for example. The City of London is obviously a different environment so the results will be interesting, but the information may still be developed into intelligence, inform other investigative options or be used as a basis for informed arrests.

Corporate & Strategic Implications –

Strategic implications – This project will support the delivery of both the City of London (CoL) and City of London Police (CoLP) Corporate Plan. (CoL 1- People are safe and feel safe; CoLP- making the city the safest in the world). It also supports the City of London Policing Plan 2021-23 in terms of the focus on the potential to reduce acquisitive crime.

Financial implications- N/A

Resource implications- N/A

Legal implications- N/A

Risk implications-N/A

Equalities implications – There is no evidence to suggest that this project will adversely affect individuals under the protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity)

Climate implications- N/A

Security implications- N/A

Conclusion

12. The Force is optimistic about joining this project and it is anticipated that it will have an impact in managing acquisitive crime offenders, particularly those who fit the eligibility criteria who frequent the City of London to commit this type of crime on a regular basis.

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