

DMPC Decision – PCD 536

Title: Met Trace

Executive Summary:

MetTrace is the MPS flagship crime prevention project to reduce residential burglary. The MPS mission is to focus on crime that matters to Londoners and take more of a preventative stance. MetTrace is a corporate response to a crime trend that has a significant impact on Londoners. It also focusses on supporting vulnerable and repeat victims in line with MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan. Based on the success of the first project it will continue to reduce burglary in areas that are identified as most at risk.

Recommendation:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to:

- Approval to commence and award a tender for a new phase of MetTrace for 5 years
- Note that £5.6m cost over 5 years is included within existing approved MPS budgets.

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Edna Under

Date

19/7/19

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. MetTrace is a unique, invisible to the naked eye, property-marking solution that enables almost any stolen item of property to be identified. The liquids show up under UV light. The approach should be viewed as an overarching strategy that creates both a more difficult environment and has a psychological impact, to alter offender behaviour. All deployments are supported by signage within and surrounding the designated area, press coverage, the targeting of second hand stores and scanning of prisoners and property, and covert deployments. A key part of the strategy is achieving intense saturation of product in the target area (typically 85%). If households were to take up the product on a self-funded and ad hoc basis the strategy would not deliver the equivalent crime reductions.
- 1.2. The overarching principle of MetTrace is to change offender behaviour through fear that stolen property would be identifiable and traced back to the owner. To achieve maximum impact the project must reach out to as many London households and communities as possible. The higher the saturation across London the greater the impact. For example, an offender in one part of London who offends in another is more likely to know of the project and the risks of entering a MetTrace protected area.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. The number of MetTrace kits is flexible and is dependent on cost per unit. It cannot be finalised until tender. The proposal is for a minimum of 440,000 MetTrace kits over 5 years, but this could be substantially higher if the kit price remains at a similar level to the previous contract. These will be distributed geographically, with a primary focus on high-risk burglary areas. Based on the successes to date and a linear trend, this is predicted to reduce 7,652 residential burglaries, which equates to 109,567 police hours saved.
- 2.2. The primary resources used to deliver MetTrace kits are DWOs [restricted to their own wards] and the 60 dedicated Prevention PCSOs [5 per BCU] funded by MOPAC. This will maximise engagement opportunities at a local level. The Prevention PCSOs will be conducting a 'prevention role', with an emphasis on delivery of MetTrace kits and wider support of the project e.g. conducting visits to second hand retailers.

3. Financial and Commercial Comments

- 3.1. £1.12m has been set aside in the Frontline Policing budget to cover the annual costs for 5 years (total cost £5.6m over 5 years). £1.12m is already in the current financial years' (18/19) budget and is therefore baselined. MetTrace expenditure will be contained within this annual budget.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1. The MOPAC is a contracting authority as defined in the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (the PCRs). All awards of public contracts for goods or services valued at £181,302 or more must be procured in accordance with the PCRs. This report confirms that the request exceeds the £181,302 threshold and therefore the PCRs are engaged.

- 4.2. Paragraph 4.13 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides that the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) has delegated authority to approve all requests to go out to tender for contracts of £500,000 or above.
- 4.3. There are no significant legal implications. The proposed project extension does not deviate from the general principles in place under the current contract.

5. GDPR and Data Privacy

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the project meets its compliance requirements.
- 5.4. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units has been consulted to ensure the project meets its compliance requirements.
- 5.5. A Data Sharing Agreement is in place between the MPS and the existing supplier (SmartWater) and similar agreement will be implemented for the new contract. The statement of requirements used for the tender process includes a section on compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR.

6. Equality Comments

- 6.1. This business case has undergone initial equality screening. Due regard has been taken to the Equality Act's Public Sector Equality Duty.
- 6.2. Suppliers will be assessed prior to entering into agreements to ensure they comply with relevant legislation and the procurement process will meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the public sector equality duty.

7. Background/supporting papers

- 7.1. None

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and will be made available on the MOPAC website following approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered as likely to be exempt from disclosure under the FOIA should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a **Part 2** form – YES

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION	<i>Tick to confirm statement (✓)</i>
Financial Advice The Strategic Finance and Resource Management Team has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
Legal Advice The MPS legal team has been consulted on the proposal.	✓
Equalities Advice: Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓
Commercial Issues The proposal is in keeping with the GLA Group Responsible Procurement Policy.	✓
GDPR/Data Privacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report. • A DPIA is not required. 	✓
Director/Head of Service The Chief Finance Officer has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.	✓

Chief Executive Officer

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

Signature

R. Lawrence

Date

18/7/19



MET TRACE

MOPAC Investment Advisory Board JULY 2019

Report by Insp Matt Turner on behalf of the Deputy Commissioner

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MetTrace is the MPS flagship crime prevention project to reduce residential burglary. The MPS mission is to focus on crime that matters to Londoners and take more of a preventative stance. MetTrace is a corporate response to a crime trend that has a significant impact on Londoners. It also focusses on supporting vulnerable and repeat victims in line with MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan. Based on the success of the first project it will continue to reduce burglary in areas that are identified as most at risk.

Based upon the success to date, MPS Management Board took the decision to continue MetTrace for 5 years and a budget has been secured in order to do this.

Recommendations

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, via the Investment Advisory Board (IAB), is asked to:

- 1. Approval to commence and award a tender for a new phase of MetTrace for 5 years**
- 2. Note that £5.6m cost over 5 years is included within existing approved MPS budgets.**

Non-confidential facts and advice to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Introduction and background

- 1. MetTrace is a unique, invisible to the naked eye, property-marking solution that enables almost any stolen item of property to be identified. The liquids show up under UV light. The approach should be viewed as an overarching strategy that creates both a more difficult environment and has a psychological impact, to**

alter offender behaviour. All deployments are supported by signage within and surrounding the designated area, press coverage, the targeting of second hand stores and scanning of prisoners and property, and covert deployments. A key part of the strategy is achieving intense saturation of product in the target area (typically 85%). If households were to take up the product on a self-funded and ad hoc basis the strategy would not deliver the equivalent crime reductions.

2. The overarching principle of MetTrace is to change offender behaviour through fear that stolen property would be identifiable and traced back to the owner. To achieve maximum impact the project must reach out to as many London households and communities as possible. The higher the saturation across London the greater the impact. For example, an offender in one part of London who offends in another is more likely to know of the project and the risks of entering a MetTrace protected area.
3. Pro-active operations have also been conducted under the MetTrace project, leading to 10 arrests. Additional pro-active work is currently taken place. This covert activity is part of the wider strategy to raise awareness amongst criminals and prevent further offences. This work will continue in the new contract.
4. MetTrace is the MPS flagship crime prevention initiative and helps to keep London safe. The Met's Direction: Our Strategy 2018-2025 has a strong focus on crime prevention, as well mobilising partners and the public, and MetTrace will help the Met achieve this.
5. The MPS needs to work creatively and constructively with partners and the public. MetTrace has partnered with a private company (SmartWater) utilising technology to tackle crime together. It also empowers and encourages members of the public to take proactive action to protect themselves and deter burglary.
6. The MPS mission is to focus on crime that matters to Londoners and take more of a preventative stance. MetTrace is a corporate response to a crime trend that has a significant impact on Londoners. It also focusses on supporting vulnerable and repeat victims in line with MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan. Based on the success of the first project it will continue to reduce burglary in areas that are identified as most at risk. Spreading the project reach will also help increase public confidence as the MPS will have a strategy to combat burglary and it will send a clear message to criminals that the MPS is being proactive to deter offences.
7. MetTrace is a key part of the 4P Burglary Plan and crime prevention activity across London. MetTrace will help deter P2W crime by marking scooters in sheds, garages and outbuildings. Covert MetTrace tactics will also be utilised to deter this crime.
8. There have been technological advancements as well as cultural changes since the project started. For example, reductions in police officer numbers and MPS structural changes have affected rollout capabilities and these will be factored into the new MetTrace project. The project will deliver a minimum of 88,000

MetTrace kits per year over 5 years - 440,000 in total. A funding BID for an additional 60 PCSOs [5 per BCU] has been supported by MOPAC and this additional resource will have a positive impact on rollout capability.

9. London is home to approximately half a million businesses, representing almost a fifth of all businesses in the UK. Business crime is currently under-reported, but still equates for approximately 16% of total offences across London. Often the most effective way to address crime is to improve the links between businesses and the police, allowing them to work together to reduce risk, prevent crime and to respond more effectively when a crime has occurred. The strength of the MetTrace brand has already demonstrated this approach through engagement with communities and households in high risk residential burglary areas and has seen significant crime reduction with higher levels of confidence and satisfaction.
10. It is proposed therefore in addition to residential burglary MetTrace will also focus on small and micro businesses, which often do not have the resources or expertise required to deal with the complex issues linked to business crime. The intention is that MetTrace will provide up to 10,000 kits to these businesses but that this will become self-funded by the Business Community through work and sponsorship with the London's Business Crime Reduction Partnerships and Business Improvement Districts. The roll-out of MetTrace to small businesses across this community will raise confidence and satisfaction in the police response to this issue and has the potential to make a significant impact on crime reduction. This scheme will help to address demand reduction, safeguarding the most vulnerable and improve prevention and partnership work.

Issues for consideration

11. The number of MetTrace kits is flexible and is dependent on cost per unit. It cannot be finalised until tender. The proposal is for a minimum of 440,000 MetTrace kits over 5 years, but this could be substantially higher if the kit price remains at a similar level to the previous contract. These will be distributed geographically, with a primary focus on high-risk burglary areas. Based on the successes to date and a linear trend, this is predicted to reduce 7,652 residential burglaries, which equates to 109,567 police hours saved.
12. The primary resources used to deliver MetTrace kits are DWOs [restricted to their own wards] and the 60 dedicated Prevention PCSOs [5 per BCU] funded by MOPAC. This will maximise engagement opportunities at a local level. The Prevention PCSOs will be conducting a 'prevention role', with an emphasis on delivery of MetTrace kits and wider support of the project e.g. conducting visits to second hand retailers. If the budget allows additional kits to be purchased above 440,000, local SLT would need to decide to either flex additional resource to the high risk areas to assist the DWOs and dedicated PCSOs, or distribute the additional kits to lower risk wards on the BCU using the DWOs in those areas. Although it would potentially result in some higher risk areas not receiving kits, wider geographical distribution of additional kits would have the benefit of reaching more households, and achieving greater public and criminal awareness.

Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2017-2021¹

13. MetTrace kits are distributed to high risk burglary areas and have helped to protect some of the most vulnerable households in London from a particularly impactful crime. The preventative nature of the project helps to reduce demand and allow resources to tackle other issues of high risk and high harm across London.

Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments

14. £1.12m has been set aside in the Frontline Policing budget to cover the annual costs for 5 years (total cost £5.6m over 5 years). £1.12m is already in the current financial years' (18/19) budget and is therefore baselined. MetTrace expenditure will be contained within this annual budget. The current MetTrace contract has produced significant burglary reductions (20.4% in MetTrace areas) and savings in officer hours (87,166). Similar savings are envisaged in the new project. The project will build on the existing methodology and apply learning from the current project to ensure value for money. Cost details are commercially sensitive and this information is contained in the restricted section of the report.

Legal Comments

15. The Mayor's Officer for Policing Crime is a contracting authority as defined in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations"). All awards of public contracts for goods and/or services valued at £181,302 or above will be procured in accordance with the Regulations.
16. Paragraph 4.13 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides that the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) has delegated authority to approve all requests to go out to tender for contracts of £500,000 or above.
17. There are no significant legal implications. The proposed project extension does not deviate from the general principles in place under the current contract.

Equality Comments

1. Suppliers will be assessed prior to entering into agreements to ensure they comply with relevant legislation and the procurement process will meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the public sector equality duty.
2. Individual households are not selected for MetTrace. MetTrace areas are part of a Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) and selected based on the burglary risk. These LSOAs are ranked met-wide based on burglary figures over a 3 year, 1 year and 6 month period.
3. Some people living outside MetTrace areas become aware of the scheme and want kits. If this happens, householders are advised about alternative ways to obtain an equivalent MetTrace kit e.g. through Neighbourhood Watch discounted arrangements or direct from the supplier. Budget constraints mean MetTrace kits cannot be made available to all free of charge.

Privacy Comments

4. 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

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

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.

5. 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.
6. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units has been consulted to ensure the project meets its compliance requirements.
7. A Data Sharing Agreement is in place between the MPS and the existing supplier (SmartWater) and similar agreement will be implemented for the new contract. The statement of requirements used for the tender process includes a section on compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR.
8. Householder data is registered with the supplier and not the MPS. Householders do get the option to be kept up to date with local policing issues. If they opt into this then their details are added to the MPS Airspace database. This database is regularly reviewed to ensure their details are correct and to confirm they consent to continue to 'opt in' for further contact.
9. Anonymous statistical data is recorded and reviewed by the MetTrace team and supplier.

Real Estate Implications

10. There are no real estate implications connected with this report. MetTrace kits will be purchased on demand and large storage facilities are not required.

Environmental Implications

11. In line with the Mayor's London Environment Strategy², the potential suppliers will be requested to work with the MPS to reduce unnecessary single-use plastic in the MetTrace kits. We will also ensure use of recycled content and recyclable packaging where possible.

Background/supporting papers

12. None.

Report author: Matt Turner, MetTrace Inspector, 07464492521

Part 2 – This section refers to the details of the Part 2 business case which is NOT SUITABLE for MOPAC Publication.

The Government Security Classification marking for Part 2 is:

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

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [COMMERCIAL]

Part 2 of MetTrace is exempt from publication for the following reasons:

- Exempt under Article 2(2)(a) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 (Data Protection Section 43 – Commercial Interests).

The paper will cease to be exempt on 01/04/2024, the completion of the proposed contract.