

**Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Resources Committee  
27 July Month 2005**

Open for the purposes of Freedom Of Information Act 2000  
Joint Report of Mr F Graney and the Chief Constable

---

## **Vehicle Utilisation**

**Recommendation(s):**

- (i) **It is recommended that the Committee note the report and receive a further progress report at the end of the financial year.**

### **Background**

1. Over recent years there has been a significant growth in the number of vehicles owned by the Devon and Cornwall Police. The increase has been a response to the vehicle needs arising from the significant increase in police officer numbers; and to make better use of financial resources by having more permanent pool vehicles rather than hiring. This increase has been funded from a combination of specific Government grants and devolved budgets and therefore from the Council Tax.

### **Issues**

2. Despite the growth in vehicles there have been ongoing issues of an inadequate number of vehicles available in some locations or sections, with criticism of other locations where vehicles appear to be parked for extensive periods.
3. These issues were recognised and the budget for vehicles devolved to Commanders to encourage better utilisation. For this to be achieved, the Commanders needed better management information and a new IT system, Transform, was implemented. Difficulties were experienced with the implementation and the improvements in information have only been available during the last year.
4. The information available from the system includes the total mileage for vehicles over a given period and can be broken down, for example, monthly to identify seasonal usage or trends. This has enabled some rationalisation of the use of the vehicle fleet, but the amount of benefit has been less than anticipated.
5. The information available depends on the mileage details submitted by the users. This comes from three sources: input at police fuel sites; input at petrol stations where the vehicles' fuel cards are used; and the vehicle log books. There are significant issues with the volume and quality of the data, particularly from the latter of these sources.
6. Action is being taken by the devolved budget holders to increase the volume and quality of the information being input into Transform, to enable them to make better informed decisions.

7. When the data input has been improved, this will enable lower utilisation of vehicles to be identified, based on mileage. This should facilitate significantly better management of the vehicle fleet. It will not however address the issue of the times when vehicles are used.
8. A detailed review of the vehicles at two police stations has been carried out within North and East Devon BCU. This has identified the complexity of factors affecting vehicle utilisation. For the time of use to be addressed, information must be gathered at regular times throughout each day. This would be a major manual task and based on the evidence of the log books would be difficult to maintain.
9. The Force is piloting vehicle data loggers in a small number of vehicles. The loggers gather information on vehicle movements and the use of the vehicles. The vehicle utilisation issues would only be able to be addressed fully if such equipment was installed in all vehicles. There is however a substantial cost. The report on the pilot will consider the cost/benefit of wider implementation.
10. These issues are being considered and monitored through the Force Vehicle User Group, chaired by ACC (O) and attended by Mike Nevitt as the Police Authority representative.
11. A further report will be submitted to the Committee at the end of the financial year after the result of the Data Logger pilot are available and further work has been done by the devolved budget holders.

Contact  
Frank Graney  
Director of Finance & Administration  
Telephone (01392) 452016  
E-mail [frank.graney@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:frank.graney@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)