

# Implementing Athena on the Connect Platform

## WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

The Athena programme brings forces together to connect information, align processes and share costs. Through a shared investment in the CONNECT platform and infrastructure, Athena helps forces to shift resources from the back office to the front line.

By stripping out time-consuming manual processes and connecting easily with police, court service and Crown Prosecution Service systems, it means forces can work faster and achieve more.

**Methods has worked with Kent and Essex Police to implement this solution.**

## Here are some top hints and tips!



### DON'T

underestimate the mapping!

#### Connect/Athena contains over 1000 fields.

These fields are a mix of mandatory, conditional mandatory and optional data objects which will need populating. Not all of these will exist in your source systems, and some data within your source systems may not have an obvious target field in Athena to map to. CV lists will also need to be mapped and the business analysis effort involved can be extensive.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Plan to dedicate at least 1 or 2 full time Police subject matter experts who are extensively familiar with your source system(s) to this task.



### DON'T

get stuck in the weeds

The scale of the mapping challenge can be daunting which can delay getting going with the development required to produce the required XML for BRC.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Consider confirming the mapping as you go. One way to overcome this risk is to start small and break down the BRC into manageable chunks. We used Agile methodology for this, which was an effective way to make progress quickly.

### PLAN

#### for change

New versions of Connect/Athena will be rolling out during the timeframe of your BRC migration and you will likely want to make changes to certain business logic once you see the data surfaced in the test instance of Connect/Athena.

### STORE DATA

#### Using CLOB fields

To store data which has no straightforward mapping. CLOB fields are large unstructured text fields which give you the freedom to enter any pattern of text you wish, with some character restrictions. This can be a place to put any data which does not have a logical 1 to 1 map with a Connect / Athena data field. You can also attach documents such as PDFs as another method for storing such data.

### WATCH OUT FOR

#### "Analysis paralysis"

There can be the temptation to make sure the data is 100% perfect and everything is migrated and represented in the true likeness of the way it was originally stored and presented in the source system. This may not always be possible, **be prepared to compromise** - early recognition of this will save time and money.