



TO: Business Co-ordination Board

FROM: Chief Constable

DATE: 24th June 2013

REGIONAL ORGANISED CRIME UNITS (ROCU) UPDATE

1 Purpose of Paper

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the OPCC on the current position with ROC Units.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Board will recall that a paper was deferred from an earlier meeting to provide a more detailed paper which would provide a comparison in terms of costs/savings, of the delivery at a regional level, but with individual forces internally or through collaboration, providing continued delivery in some areas of business.
- 2.2 It was hoped that this information, broken down force by force, would enable Chief Constables to conduct discussions with Police and Crime Commissioners in order to decide how best to progress. It is clear that a 'one size fits all' approach is not necessary and various factors will impact upon how each individual force wishes to develop these matters.
- 2.3 Organised criminality refers to a range of issues which are helpfully set out in the appendix to this paper the further purpose is commented on below.

3 Matters To Note

- 3.1 A follow up detailed report was produced and presented to the Eastern Region Chief Constables meeting held on 23rd May 2013. It outlined the costs and savings associated with the recommendations emanating from the recent national report written by CC Mick Creedon (Derbys) – the Creedon report – contains proposals with regards to delivery of serious and organised crime investigation on a regional basis.
- 3.2 Since the last report a letter was received by the Herts Police and Crime Commissioner and other PCCs detailing the formal offer of a resource grant of

£2,124,918 for the Eastern Regional Organised Crime Unit. This had a number of conditions and specifications attached to the grant one of which is that within the £2.1m is £930k which is ring fenced for the Regional Asset Recovery Team (RART). In real terms this provides eastern region with additional funding of £486k for 2013/14.

- 3.3 The intention of the Home Office in supporting and developing ROCU's is to assist delivery of the Strategic Policing Requirement and to ensure that local policing can work with the National Crime Agency and other national law enforcement agencies.

4 Financial Position

- 4.1 Data was considered by the Chief Constables and the summary is as follows:

- Regional delivery of Creedon alone (proposal 1) provides for savings of £4.5 million for the region, inclusive of HO grant and £2.3 million of savings prior to grant.
- These figures address the Bedfordshire concerns around the disproportionate sharing of cost and are entirely based on NRE proportions.
- Proposal 1 data was the 'de minimis' position for delivery of Creedon with one exception as it regionalised the whole of financial investigation.
- Proposal 2 options, having been given the figures by forces, vary across the forces in terms of cost and savings, but overall show a cost to the region of £850k.
- Those forces that seek to retain virtually exactly the assets they currently have, even with Creedon in place will have a higher cost to bear, Hertfordshire being the highest.
- Those forces that minimise their delivery locally but retain some local delivery in specific areas are still able to make savings whilst maintaining this, Bedfordshire and Cambridge shire being case in points.
- The match funding issues were more than addressed by staff in both proposals and should not cause concern, indeed it can be argued that eastern region already match fund to the level required and any further collaboration in this arena will deal with this.

The Chief Constables meeting agreed that noting the need for further development of the Essex funding position the region was broadly in agreement with the recommendations. Furthermore it was agreed that the grant money should be drawn down from the Home Office and that all Chiefs would consult

their PCCs on this arrangement. The Hertfordshire Commissioner has subsequently responded to the Home Office on behalf of the Eastern Region Commissioners indicating a willingness to accept the offer of grant funding.

- 4.2 Furthermore the Chief Constables agreed that the ERSOU + project would be initiated. This would provide detailed business cases in the eleven areas specified, with service delivery specifications with a view to implementation of the recommendations surrounding the Creedon proposals. A small project team has been convened to start this work, and which will report into a Programme Board chaired by CC Bliss, who in turn will report into the six Chief Constables. The attached appendix outlines this work.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 The Board is invited to note the update.

Appendix 1

ERSOU+ Project

The imminent arrival of the National Crime Agency (NCA) in October 2013, has led to significant work being carried out nationally on how best ACPO regions support local, regional and national delivery of serious and organised crime investigation. As a result, a Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) core capabilities programme has been initiated nationally, supported by additional Home Office funding. This is led by the ACPO Crime Business Area.

Within Eastern Region our ROCU is known as the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU). On 23rd May 2013, the six Chief Constables of Eastern Region agreed to support the development of detailed business cases in the 11 areas of business identified within the programme, together with a supporting case as regards 'business support' for ERSOU. All this work will be undertaken with a view to implementation of the recommendations, subject to final agreement of the detailed service specification and business cases. The areas of business that this concerns are:

- The Regional Intelligence Unit
- The Regional Confidential Unit
- The Regional Covert Policing Unit
- The Regional Financial Investigation and Asset Recovery Unit
- The Regional Fraud Investigation Team
- The Regional Technical Support Unit
- The Regional Covert Protection Unit
- The Regional Cyber and e Crime Unit
- The Regional Operational Security Unit
- The Regional Government Agency Intelligence Network Coordinator
- The Regional Prison Intelligence Unit

There is an additional area of business around operational teams identified within the programme. It is considered that at this stage this area of business is covered by the already created Regional Investigation teams formulated as part of ERSOU.

Outside the areas of the Regional Intelligence Unit (RIU) and the Regional Asset Recovery Team (RART), where all six forces within the region (i.e. including Essex) contribute, it is anticipated that the work will only involve the five forces of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

This project will be known as the ERSOU+ project and a small regional team will be formed to carry out this work and prepare the business cases. The team will report into the DCS Head of ERSOU and thereby to Andy Bliss, Chief Constable of Hertfordshire and lead CC for Serious & Organised Crime in the Eastern Region. He will table the final proposals to the regional CCs for final agreement.