



Meeting: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Hertfordshire Alliance Summit (Dec 2013)

Agenda Item: 3a

Report of: Chief Constables

Title: Section 22A Agreement – Joint Protective Services

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The collaborated Joint Protective Services Command (JPSC) across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire delivers specialist policing assets and operations and is comprised of specialist investigators, uniformed operational teams and operational support units. It delivers an 'indemnity' for the three counties, providing both insurance and assurance for times when any or all of the Forces experience incidents or investigations that place unreasonable strain and demand upon them. The collaborated JPSC minimises disruption to 'business as usual' local policing, reassuring the Forces, their partners and the public through the excellent delivery of specialist services. Furthermore Joint Protective Services resources are routinely deployed in support of local policing when not directly engaged on their primary role.
- 1.2. The collaborated JPSC has achieved significant success within each Force area and across all of the operational domains by providing professional support to manage issues of significant threat, harm and risk. A report was presented to the Police and Crime Commissioners in June 2013 setting out the contribution given by the JPSC units in all three counties in order to manage threat, harm and risk, and to deliver support to Local Policing ambitions as set out in each of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.
- 1.3. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act inserted sections 22B and 22C into the 1996 Act, which place new duties on chief officers and policing bodies to keep collaboration opportunities under review and to collaborate where it is in the interests of the efficiency or effectiveness of their own and other police force areas. The JPSC continues to provide value for money for each of the three counties.
- 1.4. The collaborated JPSC provides Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire with the capability and capacity to enable the Chief Constables and the Commissioners to make their contribution to tackling national threats as set out in the Home Office Strategic Policing Requirement.
- 1.5. The purpose of this paper is to recommend the JPS Section 22A Agreement be signed to enable the existing collaborated JPSC to continue to deliver capacity, capability and cash savings for the benefit of the public in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire.



2. Next Steps

- 2.1. **Continuous Improvement and Performance Management Implementation Plan:** An Implementation Plan is in preparation for JPS to ensure continuous improvement takes place, ongoing cost-benefit analysis is undertaken and that a clear performance monitoring framework is in place. This plan and associated activity will report through the Change Portfolio Delivery Group through to the Joint Chief Officer Board (i.e. the Chief Constables' Management Board) and ultimately the Alliance Summit. Performance management governance will be refined as required by the Implementation Plan. The completion of the Implementation Plan will be passed to Bedfordshire, as Lead Force, with immediate effect and the plan will be ready in early 2014. The Implementation Plan will ensure ongoing effectiveness, efficiency and economy within JPS and will include benchmarking / baselining actions. The plan will cover how financial savings targets will continue to be met in the coming years. Bedfordshire have already commenced a strategic review, using external consultants with this then being followed up, in early 2014, by a College of Policing study. The Implementation Plan will be prioritised, actively monitored and be continually refreshed in light of activity.
- 2.2. **Lead Force Handover:** The Chief Constables will work to transition and hand-over JPS Lead Force responsibilities to Bedfordshire within one month of sign-off of the Section 22A. Arrangements will be put in place to ensure the smooth transition. It is anticipated the process of handover will be completed by 1st February 2014.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1. The Chief Constables recommend that Consortium members sign the Section 22A for JPS which is operationally fit for purpose.