



To: Joint Audit Committee

From: Chief Executive

Date: 10 December 2013

COLLABORATION PROGRESS REPORT

1. Purpose

1.1 To update the committee in respect to risk 3/3 on the joint strategic risk, i.e. ensuring the Constabulary and Commissioner achieve the benefits of collaboration agreements where it is in the interest of the efficiency or effectiveness of their own or another police force.

2. Background

2.1 Section 22A of the Police Act 1996 as amended, enables two or more Police and Crime Commissioners or the Chief Officers of one or more Police Forces to enter into a Collaboration Agreement. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 places an additional duty on Commissioners and Chief Constables to keep opportunities to collaborate under review and to collaborate if it is in the interests of the efficiency or effectiveness of their own or another police Force.

2.2 Risk 3/3 within the joint Constabulary and Commissioner strategic risk register identified a number of risks in respect of collaboration and this report seeks to reassure the Audit Committee that appropriate controls and controls assurances are in place.

3. Current Position

3.1 Cambridgeshire is involved in national (e.g National Police Air Service), regional (e.g Eastern Region Special Operations Unit for organised crime) and more local collaborations.

3.2 In recent years the focus of collaboration has been on local preferred partnership arrangements and in early 2011 Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Police Authority,

Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Police Authority, Hertfordshire Constabulary and Hertfordshire Police Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding which created the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Policing Alliance. The agreement has provided the foundation for significant collaboration.

- 3.3 This Memorandum of Understanding has recently been updated to capture the six corporations sole's aspirations with respect to joint protective service, operational support and organisational support.

4. Risk Controls and Controls Assurances

- 4.1 The Regional Strategic Alliance Summit between the twelve regional corporations soles meets regularly and monitors existing regional collaborations and continues to work to launch a new Regional Collaboration Strategy.
- 4.2 The Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Alliance (BCH) Summit, between the six corporations sole within the local preferred partnership also meets regularly and as set out above has recently refreshed its agreed strategic direction.
- 4.3 An internal audit has been conducted into Collaboration Governance of the local Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire preferred partnership. This has made twelve advisory recommendations to improve the control framework. The BCH Alliance Summit will monitor completion of the action plan to ensure a timely response to these audits recommendations.
- 4.4 Whilst collaboration is not a standing item on the agenda of the Cambridgeshire Business Coordination Board in practice updates are presented at most meetings.
- 4.5 The Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel asked for an update on collaboration, which they received on the 6th November 2013; the report can be found at <http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/s18350/8.%20Update%20on%20collaboration.pdf> .
- 4.6 Significant controls and controls assurances are in place to ensure collaboration progresses appropriately.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 To note the content of this report.