



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Executive

Date: 25 February 2015

BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE LEGAL SERVICES – SECTION 22 AGREEMENT UNDER THE POLICE ACT 1996

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) with details of the rationale for the signing of a S22A collaboration agreement under the Police Act 1996 (as amended) with Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary for the sharing of legal advice.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to approve the signing of the S22A agreement to enable Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”) to share legal services with Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary.

2.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”) signs the Decision Notice for the Constabulary to sign the S22A agreement.

3. Background

3.1 At the meeting between the Police and Crime Commissioners for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire and the respective Chief Constables of those police forces (collectively known as “the Alliance”) on 19th January 2015 the members considered a proposal to share legal advice obtained in relation to collaborative functions. Advice from the Law Society is that for the six corporations sole (i.e the Alliance) to share legal advice relating to collaborative matters that a S22A agreement under the Police Act 1996 was required.

- 3.2 A draft S22A agreement was considered at the meeting. It is clear within the agreement that it is a technical arrangement to enable sharing of advice, it does not involve any transfer of direction and control of existing provision. There is no obligation on either the Constabulary or Bedfordshire Police to use the services of the Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Legal Services.
- 3.3 Legal advice has been obtained in respect of the agreement and Alliance members are assured that the Section 22A Agreement for Professional Standards Department is legally sound and in line with Home Office Statutory Guidance for Police collaboration (October 2012).
- 3.4 Where Hertfordshire Constabulary Legal Services Team provide the advice, this will be costed at an agreed hourly rate.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Board is recommended to approve the signing of the S22A agreement to enable the Constabulary” to share legal services with Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary.
- 4.2 That the S22A Agreement is signed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	
Contact Officer	Dorothy Gregson, Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner