

<b>CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 5</b>
<b>18 July 2013</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

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### **Police and Crime Plan Update - Collaboration**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To send a draft variation to the Police and Crime Plan on collaboration to the Police and Crime Panel to enable the Panel to review the draft variation.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. The Panel is asked to review the draft variation to the Police and Crime Plan and make a report or recommendations on the draft variation to the Commissioner.

#### **3. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- 3.1 Item 1, To review and make a report or recommendation on the draft Police and Crime Plan, or draft variation, given to the Panel by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

##### **POLICE AND CRIME PLAN**

- 4.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 places a responsibility on Police and Crime Commissioners to issue a Police and Crime Plan within the financial year they are elected. Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Plan was published by 31 March 2013.
- 4.2 Under the Act, before issuing or varying a Police and Crime Plan, the Commissioner must send the draft plan or variation to the Police and Crime Panel. The Panel must review the draft plan or draft variation and make a report or recommendations to the Commissioner.
- 4.3 The Commissioner must have regard to any report or recommendation, give the Panel a response to any such report or recommendation and publish his response.

##### **COLLABORATION**

- 4.4 Cambridgeshire is involved in national (e.g National Police Air Service), regional (e.g Eastern Region Special Operations Unit for organised crime) and local collaborations.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 The agreement has provided the foundation for significant collaboration. Currently collaboration with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire covers the armed policing unit, automatic number plate recognition, central ticket and collisions administration, counter

terrorism and domestic extremism, delegation of authority (on call arrangements), dogs section, major crime unit, operational planning and support unit, road policing unit, scientific services unit and procurement.

4.6 Collaboration remains high on the local and national agenda. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act places new duties on chief officers and policing bodies to keep collaboration opportunities under review. It also places a duty on them to collaborate where it is in the interests of the efficiency or effectiveness of their own and other police force areas. Where collaboration is judged to be the best option they must collaborate. Collaboration has generated significant savings for Cambridgeshire and these savings are now embedded within our budget.

## 5. KEY ISSUES – NEXT STEPS ON COLLABORATION

5.1 Within the Police and Crime Plan the Commissioner pledges *“to improve efficiencies and make cost-reductions by more co-operation with neighbouring forces over and above the Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire Strategic Alliance.”*

5.2 The Plan also stated *“Strategic Collaboration - The strategic alliance is set to save between £15-£20 million by the end of 2015/16. While at its heart collaboration is about saving money it will also deliver equal or improved effectiveness and resilience for the three forces. It is anticipated that collaboration will meet future demands for the next three to ten years, taking account of new and emerging developments. It will cover all aspects of:*

- *Protective services (dogs, roads policing, counter terrorism and domestic extremism)*
- *Organisational support services (joint working opportunities within a number of departments)*
- *Operational support services (contact management, criminal justice and custody)*

*An established three-force programme team is responsible for researching, designing and implementing collaborative approaches to areas of work agreed by the force executives and Police and Crime Commissioners. The team will also be responsible for ensuring that each implementation is followed by an effective evaluation process – to include a rigorous assessment of benefits realisation/return on investment.”*

5.3 These sections highlight that the main focus of local collaboration was the three force collaboration across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire for all areas of protective services, (specialist policing) organisational support and operational support.

5.4 In April 2013, Hertfordshire signalled its desire for the major focus of the three force strategic alliance going forward to be on protective services. In June 2013 a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed to secure the future of the Joint Protection Service and Professional Standards. The new focus of the three force collaboration on protective services has opened the door to move forward quickly with two force collaboration with Bedfordshire and explore wider collaboration in line with other forces in line with the Commissioner’s pledge.

5.5 The general references and substantive section on strategic collaboration therefore need to be amended to reflect this change. The substantive section (page 16) now reads:

*“Strategic Collaboration - Work will continue with local, regional and national partners to maintain the momentum on collaboration. It will be ensured that any work not only enables the budget to be balanced, but also successfully contributes to the delivery of an efficient and effective police service while protecting local policing. Building on historical success, future collaboration across operational and organisation*

*support services will be used to generate significant savings. While at its heart collaboration is about saving money it must also deliver equal or improved effectiveness and resilience for forces compared to what they could deliver on their own.”*

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 It should be noted that entering into a collaborative arrangement with other forces requires a formal decision by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the establishment of any new collaboration will therefore be reported to the Police and Crime Panel.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The original draft Plan was published on the Commissioner’s website on 26 February and accompanied with a press release stating that public feedback was invited. The press release was also tweeted to more than 500 followers on Twitter. Articles subsequently appeared in local newspapers. The public engagement described is in addition to the feedback Sir Graham received from members of the public during his election campaign which has already helped shape the draft Police and Crime Plan.
- 7.2 It should be noted that the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act places 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 of effectiveness of their own and other police force areas. Where collaboration is judged to be the best option they must collaborate.

## **8. NEXT STEPS**

- 8.1 The draft variation will be reviewed by the Panel on 18 July. The Commissioner must have regard to any report or recommendation, give the Panel a response to any such report or recommendation and publish his response.

## **9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- 9.1 Police and Crime Plan 2013-16 [www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan](http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan)  
Strategic Policing Alliance - Memorandum of Understanding Between: Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Hertfordshire Constabulary and Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner

## **10. APPENDICES**

- 10.1 None

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