

SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY – 29 JULY 2010

SOUTH EAST REGION COLLABORATION PROGRAMME – AIR SUPPORT

REPORT BY CHIEF CONSTABLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TREASURER

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 15 April 2010, the Authority considered a detailed report on the viability of the creation of a regional air support consortium involving Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire. The Authority approved the development of a phased approach to collaboration by the three authorities. This report updates the Authority on amendments to the business case and seeks the Authority's approval to amended arrangements.

Resolution April 2010

- 2.1 At its meeting in April 2010 the Authority resolved that:

- (1) the formation of a three force, two air frame air support consortium, through the recommended phased approach be approved;
- (2) authority be delegated to the Chairman, Chief Executive and Chief Constable to sign a Section 23 Agreement formalising the collaboration; and
- (3) approval be sought from the police authorities of Hampshire and Surrey for the creation with Sussex of a South East Air Support Unit (SEASU).

- 2.2 Further investigations have concluded that to secure the desired level of operational effectiveness whilst maximising the financial benefits, a three Force, two rotary wing aircraft consortium (rather than the one fixed wing and one rotary wing airframe) should be implemented through the use of assets operating currently from Hampshire (RAF Odiham) and Sussex (Shoreham Airport).

- 2.3 The financial consequences for Sussex are no less beneficial than those formerly described to the Authority.

- 2.4 The Vice-Chairman of the Authority had highlighted the need for clarity in the Section 23 Agreement regarding ownership of assets and possible capital receipts which might accrue from the sale of existing assets. Legal advice has been obtained from the Authority's Solicitor and he will ensure that the Authority's interests are safeguarded in the Agreement.

Conclusion

3. Surrey and Hampshire agreed these amended proposals at their meetings on 15 and 20 July respectively. The formal approval of this Authority is now required to enable the project to go ahead.

Recommended – that

the participation of the Authority in the amended proposal for a South East Regional Air Support Consortium be approved and the Chairman, Chief Executive and Chief Constable be authorised to enter into the necessary legal agreement.

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Chief Constable

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