

## **SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY MEETING - 3 JUNE 2010**

### **COLLABORATION PROGRAMME UPDATE**

#### **REPORT BY CHIEF CONSTABLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TREASURER**

#### **Background**

- 1.1 The South East Region Collaboration Programme involves the forces of Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and Thames Valley. Although Kent are a member force of the South East ACPO region, they continue to pursue collaborative opportunities with Essex and remain partially involved with the South East in respect of developing a new model to tackle serious and organised crime.
- 1.2 The purpose of collaboration between police forces and police authorities is to achieve more effective and efficient delivery of policing services. This process is governed by Section 23 of the Police Act 1996, as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009. The principal developments of the South East Region Collaboration Programme are as follows.

#### **Forensic Services**

- 2.1 Regional collaboration opportunities for the provision of forensic science services are being led by Thames Valley Police as the lead force. The collective spend on forensic services by the four SERCP forces is in the region of £40m, early scoping work has identified that as much as 15% may be saved from collaboration opportunities.
- 2.2 Options for regional collaboration in the area of forensic submissions, chemical treatment services and fingerprint services will be presented to the Oversight Board in July. Good practice has already identified cash saving benefits such as blood trace evidence retrieval saving the region approximately £400,000 per annum.

#### **Air Support**

- 3.1 On 27 April 2010, the Oversight Board agreed that a Regional Air Support Unit should be created as a three force, two airframe model with the ambition to achieve one site at Shoreham, Sussex and one site at Odiham, Hampshire. Further analysis is being carried out with the National Air Review Team on the possible constraints caused by cloud base and Heathrow Air Traffic Control limitations around operating fixed wing and rotary from Odiham.
- 3.2 The creation of a South East Air Support Unit has the potential to save up to £9m over five years for the region. Sussex Police under ACC Pinkney continue to lead for the region on this collaboration.

- 3.3 Legal advice is being sought on a draft Section 23 Agreement, with particular emphasis on the need for assets and liabilities to be clarified in relation to the ownership and disposal of air frames.

### **Witness Protection/Covert Unit/Technical Support**

- 4.1 The first three regional units under a Section 23 agreement went live on 1 April 2010. Whilst full implementation is yet to be achieved, single governance on behalf of the region is now being delivered with Witness Protection led by Hampshire Police, Covert Policing led by Surrey Police and Technical Support led by Thames Valley Police.
- 4.2 A conference of the new Unit Managers indicated that the collaboration was progressing successfully. The central programme team have devised a reporting template to monitor the anticipated benefits of cost savings and performance delivery which will be reported back through the Oversight Board and future authority meetings.

### **South East Region Serious and Organised Crime Directorate**

- 5.1 At the South East Regional meetings on 27 April, it was agreed to create a dedicated investigation unit alongside the Regional Asset Recovery Team (RART) and the Regional Intelligence Unit (RIU) combining to form a new South East Serious and Organised Crime Directorate. This decision was taken in line with national expectations arising from the Home Office report "Extending Our Reach" for regions to create effective structures to tackle organised crime.
- 5.2 The meeting agreed to allocate £2m of existing revenue funding from within the region to form the investigation unit, that the unit would focus on tackling organised crime groups impacting on the South East from London and that it should be operationally viable by 1 September 2010.
- 5.3 Recruitment of police officers and police staff into the RART is progressing well and it is starting to instigate financial investigations into serious criminal matters.
- 5.4 It was agreed at the South East ACPO Meeting that the Chief Constable of Sussex Police, Martin Richards, would take the regional lead for serious organised crime and that ACC Olivia Pinkney would continue to take the lead for the Serious and Organised Crime Directorate.
- 5.5 HMIC are currently carrying out a thematic review into serious and organised crime and the results of this are due to be published in the summer.

### **Finance and Procurement**

- 6.1 A new Regional Finance Collaboration Board is now in place chaired by Mark Baker, the Director of Finance for Sussex. The Board provides oversight for the financial rigour of the collaboration business cases as well as agreeing business support protocols for the regional collaboration agreements.

- 6.2 A regional funding principles protocol has now been agreed by the Chief Officer teams and police authority Treasurers of each force and following approval at the April Oversight Board, the protocol is being taken to police authorities for approval and adoption. The protocol identifies that the Net Cost of Services (NCS) funding for each force will be used as the basic funding model. This determines the apportionment of costs and savings between forces when entering a collaborative venture.

### **Information Technology**

- 7.1 The regional response to the Information System Improvement Strategy (ISIS) programme, detailing the current status of the region has been submitted to the National Policing Improvement Agency.
- 7.2 The new regional ISIS Delivery Manager, Jerry Ward, has been appointed and is currently scoping the priorities and opportunities across the region for convergence of ICT systems and the opportunities to achieve the cashable savings targets being set for forces. This work is being coordinated by Amanda Cooper, Director of IST for Thames Valley Police and progress reported back through the collaboration programme governance.

### **Future Collaboration**

- 8.1 The region's Deputy Chief Constables and Assistant Chief Constables Boards are currently looking at new collaborative opportunities including, where appropriate, bilateral opportunities between Surrey and Sussex and Thames Valley and Hampshire.
- 8.2 A national collaboration conference is being held on 10 and 11 June to which the South East Region Collaboration Programme will be sending representatives from police authority, chief officers and programme team. It is anticipated that a minister from the new Government will be attending and any future direction from the Home Office around collaboration will be reported back.

### **Recommended** – that

The progress being made on collaboration between police authorities and forces in the South East be noted and endorsed.

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