

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –15 JUNE 2010

JOINT PROCUREMENT UPDATE

REPORT BY CHIEF CONSTABLE

Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the collaborative procurement initiatives currently being undertaken.
- 1.2 These initiatives include the procurement work stream of the South East Region Collaboration Programme (SERCP), the proposed appointment of a joint Head of Procurement for Surrey and Sussex Police and other collaborative procurement initiatives.

Proposed Appointment of a Temporary Head of Procurement for Surrey and Sussex Police - update

- 2.1 The report to the Committee in September 2009 outlined proposals to appoint a temporary joint Head of Procurement for Surrey and Sussex Police. It was envisaged that there would be considerable benefits for both forces from this appointment.
- 2.2 The Committee supported the approach and it was planned that arrangements would be in place by November 2009, with a review in March 2010 to consider whether the arrangement, if successful, should be extended or made permanent.
- 2.3 Work was undertaken by the Directors of Finance for Sussex and Surrey Police to progress this appointment. However, it was concluded that at this time, it would be best for both forces to continue to support the collaborative procurement initiatives of the South East Region Collaboration Programme (SERCP), whilst maintaining separate procurement units under individual Heads of Procurement.
- 2.4 As the collaborative procurement work stream is progressed and procurement processes reviewed, Sussex Police will reconsider the Head of Procurement role as part of this wider review. (Please see section 4 for further details).

Appointment of Temporary Head of Procurement, Sussex Police

- 3.1 Sussex Police therefore considered that in the short term it would be appropriate to appoint a Temporary Head of Procurement.
- 3.2 Mr Stephen Price was appointed as Temporary Head of Procurement and commenced work on 11 March 2010.

- 3.3 Key areas of work that have been identified are: leading the procurement works stream of the Finance and Business review; reviewing internal processes and working with other forces on potential collaborative initiatives.

South East Region Collaboration Programme (SERCP)

- 4.1 The Regional Directors of Finance have agreed to prioritise the development of future collaboration opportunities around procurement and these are currently being progressed.
- 4.2 The creation of a single regional terms and conditions agreement in relation to contracts and standardisation of goods and services was identified as essential, facilitating cost savings.
- 4.3 Thames Valley Police Procurement Unit has drawn up draft terms and conditions suitable for the region to adopt. These terms and conditions have been agreed by the Regional Directors of Finance and Police Authority solicitors and will now be implemented in each force.
- 4.4 Regional Directors of Finance and the Collaboration Programme team are also scoping the options for a regional procurement function and any other options for joint procurement activities.
- 4.5 A paper will be prepared and approved by the SE Region Finance Collaboration meeting and submitted to the oversight SE Collaboration Oversight Board for approval later in the year.

Conclusion

- 5.1 Sussex Police continues to ensure that all collaborative opportunities are pursued and is a full and committed partner of the South East Region Collaboration programme.
- 5.2 Procurement updates will continue to be reported regularly to the Committee.

Recommended – That the report and collaborative procurement initiatives be noted.

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