



PCC Candidates' Briefing Note

February 2016

7 Force Strategic Collaboration Programme

Background

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Kent police forces are seeking to enhance frontline policing services by driving out further efficiency and effectiveness in the most ambitious police collaboration programme in the country – The 7 Force Strategic Collaboration Programme.

Savings of £217M have already been made between 2011/12 and 2014/15 from local police budgets. Compared with 2010, there are now 1,829 fewer police officers across the 7 counties, 1,911 fewer police staff and 426 fewer PCSOs. This is a reduction in total policing headcount of 4,166. The delivery of all our 'back and middle office' functions have been totally transformed since 2010, driving out efficiencies in support of sustaining front line public service delivery.

Due to a combination of budgetary pressures, further recurring savings of at least £116M per year are required by 2020 across the 7 Forces and the Home Secretary has reiterated that more police reform is needed. In some quarters further savings are needed to sustain frontline policing services and there is an additional desire of all forces to invest in growing areas of demand such as Child Sexual Exploitation, Counter Terrorism, fraud and tackling internet enabled crime.

Existing Police Collaboration

There is a significant history of successful collaboration since 2007 across our seven Forces in a wide range of operational and 'back office' functions (separate briefings can be provided on these by local Force partnerships namely: Beds./Cambs./Herts, Norfolk/Suffolk, Kent/Essex and the Eastern Region Serious & Organised Crime Unit (ERSOU)).

In addition to these partnership enterprises all 7 forces are implementing the same core policing IT system of Athena: a fully integrated single policing database incorporating the key policing functions of: intelligence, investigation, custody and case preparation for court. Athena will form part of the bedrock for further collaborative opportunities.

7 Force Strategic Collaboration Programme

Given the universal desire to invest in further service improvements and to be as efficient and effective as possible with finite budgets, the 7 Chief Constables and 7 Police and Crime Commissioners have initiated the Seven Force Strategic Collaboration Programme.

The overarching aim of the Programme is to deliver enhanced:

- Public Service
- Efficiency
- Effectiveness
- Value for Money
- Savings

The Programme will develop business cases, across a range of functional areas (excluding local policing). On a case by case basis The 7 Force Strategic Collaboration Programme will review policing capabilities to determine what can be delivered most efficiently and effectively through broader cross Force collaboration. The business cases will be presented to the Chief Constables and PCCs for final decisions throughout the course of the Programme.

A budget of £1.35m was agreed in January 2016 for the annual cost of the Programme – this is primarily salary costs of the Programme team - and a Police Innovation Fund bid has been submitted to the Home Office to request 49% funding of that budget. The Programme has currently been approved to run until 31st March 2017 when a determination can be made as to whether it offers good value for money and should be continued.

Any requests for further information from PCC candidates about the 7 Force Strategic Collaboration Programme should be directed (through appropriate local Force liaison points) to the Programme Director Deputy Chief Constable Julia Wortley (Julia.wortley@essex.pnn.police.uk).