

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) FOR LINCOLNSHIRE
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

REF: 014 - 2014

DATE: 23 June 2014

SUBJECT	REGIONAL FORENSICS SERVICES UNIT
REPORT BY	ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE (CRIME & OPS)
CONTACT OFFICER	T/DCS Maria Staniland, Head of Crime Tel 01522 558545
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF REPORT	
<p>This business case proposes the establishment of a regional forensic services structure combining the Northern and Southern hubs into a single function, with a single management structure across the East Midlands.</p> <p>This would deliver significant benefits to the region including year on year cashable savings of over £900k after full implementation.</p> <p>Additional benefits include improved resilience, breadth of service delivery and future-proofing of a quality forensic service across the 5 forces of the East Midlands region; this also includes cost effective delivery of compliance with nationally mandated quality standards.</p> <p>The proposal also delivers a 5 force forensic footprint enabling local flexibility with regional management accountability, which can capitalise on best practice and innovation, leading the way in national forensics.</p> <p>Whilst elements of the proposal incur set-up costs in the first year, full savings should be achievable in the second year of operation when the implications of the recently announced CSR take effect.</p> <p>This business case also proposes the formation of an implementation team led by the Director of Forensic Services with the support of an independent consultant as change manager, (which proved successful in the development of the options) and project support from the Collaboration Team. This will enable rapid delivery and realisation of benefits in year 2.</p> <p>A Collaboration Agreement in relation to this collaboration was endorsed and signed by all five Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners in May 2014.</p>	
RECOMMENDATION	<i>That the business case in support of the participation by Lincolnshire Police in the regional Forensics Services collaboration be published.</i>

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LINCOLNSHIRE

I hereby approve the recommendation above, having considered the content of this report.

Signature:



Date: 23/06/14

A. NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE PCC

A1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. The forces within the East Midlands region have done significant amounts of work to rise to the current financial challenges and have already contributed to individual force savings plans with a combination of initiatives.
2. It is estimated that these savings are in the region of 20 and 40% of total forensic budgets as compared to 2010. This has resulted in lean structures which would not be able to make further savings individually, without introducing significant risk to service delivery and resilience.
3. The new CSR was announced in June 2013 and these financial challenges are set to continue well into the next CSR period necessitating the identification of further savings and efficiencies.
4. The 3 northern forces have already developed a collaboration with a single employment model and unified structures. The 2 southern forces opted for a more subtle collaboration sharing efficiency savings and a semi-streamlined management structure, thereby allowing them to retain their individual force identities and associated local deployment models.
5. The proposal put forward in this business case ensures that learning from each of these approaches is factored in.
6. The terms of reference for this project were agreed in March 2013. In summary, a piece of work was commissioned by the Chief Officers of the 5 forces of the East Midlands to identify a range of possible options for collaboration in forensic services.
7. The options were to be presented to the Deputy Chief Constables for consideration and refinement into a single proposal for the Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners.
8. The work would take into account the following principles:
 - Performance should either be the same or better
 - The service should deliver a broad range of forensic capabilities
 - Cost savings should apply
 - The models should consider a mixture of single, multiple and local deployment options

- The models should deliver flexibility to meet local policing plans in a cost effective way

9. The areas of forensic services in scope of this work included:

- Management
- Fingerprints
- Footwear
- Laboratory services, including the potential to in-source
- Crime Scene Investigation and tasking
- Imaging
- eForensics (Hi Tech Crime Unit – HTCUC)
- Forensic Case Management/ Submissions and intelligence
- Quality, training and performance functions
- CCTV

10. Whilst it has been accepted that work has been done previously to inform decisions about a 5 force forensic collaboration, this project has strived to broaden the approach taken and to consider all feasible options for change whilst capturing best practice from across the region.

11. The SRO chaired a project team oversight board, supported by a tactical team comprising technical leads from across the 5 forces, who led and developed the individual work packages.

Independent Adviser

12. The project also employed an Independent Adviser whose role was to:

- Co-ordinate , validate, and advise on the rationale for each area of forensic business under review
- Have a broad understanding of the demand profile within each area of business
- Have an overview of areas of interoperability between regions and forces.
- Provide advice and critique of the draft recommendations identifying any overlap and interdependencies between business areas under review.

13. The advisor also carried out a number of 'audits' across the forces to inform the project on best practice and timeliness issues. This also enabled him to provide his professional view on areas for consideration going forward.

User Requirements

14. During consultation with senior stakeholders, including ACC Crime and Heads of Crime, the following high level user requirements were identified:

- Total flexibility of deployment of locally based resources, in particular front line CSIs which will remain employed by their existing forces.
- That forensic activity is focused within a flexible framework to ensure that local policing and individual investigative needs are met.

- That the service is redesigned to ensure that the delivery of forensic information and intelligence can be tailored to individual force needs.
- That the service can continually develop and improve to be recognised as a leader in the forensic landscape.

15. These user requirements were taken into account when the tactical team and technical leads developed the options for each of the capability areas.

Performance and Best Practice

16. All forces made it clear that performance in the resultant structure must be at least maintained or improved. This piece of work has uncovered many areas of good practice across all forces and functions and this will be taken into any implementation programme going forward.

A2. LINKS TO POLICE AND CRIME PLAN AND PCC'S STRATEGIES/PRIORITIES

Links to the PCC's commitment to work with other police Forces regionally and nationally to ensure that the serious threats to local communities from serious and organised crime, terrorism, sexual exploitation and e-crime are met with capable and effective policing from well organised and strong specialist units.

B. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The formula funding share, as defined and reported as the proportion of total central grant received by forces in the EM Region, will be used to calculate the apportionment ratios.

The apportionment ratios for any one year will be calculated based on the grant settlement for that particular year. The figures currently (2013/14) for the region are set out as below.

- Derbyshire 22.2%
- Lincolnshire 12.8%
- Leicestershire 22.8%
- Nottinghamshire 27.3%
- Northamptonshire 14.9%

The default position for cost allocation will be the formula funding share, in place at the time of the collaboration. The current shares are as indicated above.

C. LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

[This should include the legal powers the PCC has for making the decision]

The establishment of a regional forensic services structure combining the Northern and Southern hubs is subject to a Collaboration Agreement pursuant to Section 22A of the Police Act 1996 as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSRA) that considers the legal issues in detail.

D. PERSONNEL AND EQUALITIES ISSUES

Personnel issues are explained in detail within Schedule Three of the Collaboration Agreement pursuant to Section 22A of the Police Act 1996 as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSRA). The Management Board will oversee any variation to the number of police officers and police staff within the

E. REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

The Parties to the S.22A agreement may review the agreement on an annual basis or as determined by the Police and Crime Commissioners or Chief Constables.

F. RISK MANAGEMENT

The S.22A agreement incorporates risk management procedures through the Management Board.

G. PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this form along with any supporting material is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC's website within one working day of approval. However, if release by that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved, publication may be deferred. An explanation for any deferment must be provided below, together with a date for publication.

Is the publication of this form to be deferred? No

If Yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate part 2 form.

Is there a part 2 form? Yes

If Yes, for what reason:

The establishment of a regional forensic services structure is subject to a Collaboration Agreement pursuant to Section 22A of the Police Act 1996 as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSRA). The S.22A agreement appended to this Decision Report has a 'Restricted' GPMS marking.

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION

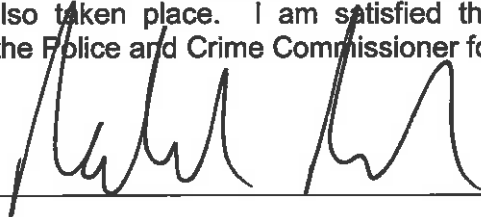
	Tick to confirm
Originating Officer: T/DCS Staniland recommends this proposal for the reasons outlined above.	✓
Financial advice: The PCC's Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
The CC's Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
Monitoring Officer: The PCC's Monitoring Officer has been consulted on this proposal	✓
Chief Constable: The Chief Constable has been consulted on this proposal	✓

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. Consultation outlined above has also taken place. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire.

Signature:



Date: 23/6/14