



Police and Crime Panel Meeting 15 April 2016

Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Strategic Alliance with Dorset Police

The Police and Crime Panel have requested further information on the progress of the Strategic Alliance between Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police (the Alliance).

Background

The Alliance was created to enable the two forces to collaborate as equal partners in finding new solutions to the policing needs of the geographical areas covered by the two forces, whilst at the same time retaining separate identities.

Through the Alliance, formally agreed in March 2015 by the two Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners, the two forces are working together in more than 30 business areas to create single unified teams that will deliver key services for, and on behalf of, both forces.

The Alliance does not prevent either force from exploring other collaborative opportunities or continuing to collaborate with other forces where they are already doing so. The alliance is part of the wider regional and national picture. The five south west forces – Avon and Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire – are collaborating on an increasing number of projects. Options to work with other services within the public sector – such as the fire service – are also currently being explored.

As part of the HR process supporting the establishment of new Alliance departments and teams, the two forces have agreed to transfer the employment of some of the staff resources between the employers in accordance with TUPE (transfer of undertakings (protection of employment) regulations). The employment of around 200 people has so far been identified to move between the forces to facilitate single direction and control of key business areas. Other work running alongside business cases development and HR Alongside this is significant activity to implement common IT systems. This will enable the two forces to benefit from greater economies of scale and interoperability of key admin, HR and operational systems.

A briefing document on the Alliance has been recently published on the OPCC website to provide information to candidates in the upcoming PCC elections and is attached at Annex 1 for further information.

Progress to date

A “strategic outline case” was signed off by the PCCs and Chief Constables on 23 June 2014. Since then work has continued. Each function or department included within the Alliance has been scheduled to produce a detailed business case which sets out, in depth, how the Alliance might work for that business area and what an alliance model might look like.

As of February 2016 21 business areas have had their business cases approved to take forward to formal consultation stage and one business case had gone live. There are still another 11 business cases in development and that are due to be presented within the next six months. Formal staff consultation has been completed on seven business cases so far, all of which are now moving into implementation. Initial estimates indicate that working in the Alliance will deliver savings exceeding £12m on the two forces’ combined operational costs by 2018, with a number of approved business cases identifying savings in excess of the levels originally forecast. These figures will need to be further validated as implementation progresses.

A report on service areas, implementation activities and savings will be provided to the Police and Crime Panel at a future meeting, following the end of the pre-election period for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections which will take place on 5th May 2016.

Contact for further information

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