



## **Police and Crime Panel 7F report – October 2016**

### **Background**

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Kent police forces are seeking to enhance policing services to the public by driving out further efficiency and effectiveness through an ambitious police collaboration programme, namely: The 7 Force Strategic Collaboration Programme (7F programme).

The Programme was launched in November 2015 with the overarching aim to deliver enhanced:

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

Savings of £217M have already been made between 2011/12 and 2014/15 from local police budgets. 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 previous Home Secretary (now Prime Minister) 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 and the establishment of key collaborative partnerships namely: Beds./Cambs./Herts, Norfolk/Suffolk, Kent/Essex and the Eastern Region Serious & Organised Crime Unit (ERSOU). In addition to these partnerships all 7 forces are implementing the same core policing IT system i.e. Athena.

### **Governance and Accountability**

The seven Chief Constables and seven PCCs have commissioned the 7F Programme which is supported by a S22A Collaboration Agreement. The 7F Programme reports to the 14 Chiefs and PCCs at their quarterly Summit meetings and more frequently to an Oversight Group, which is Chaired by the PCC of Cambridgeshire on behalf of the 14 Corporations Sole.

## **The 7F Programme**

The Programme seeks to identify and exploit all opportunities to deliver public services more efficiently through greater convergence and collaboration across a range of functional areas (excluding local policing). On a case by case basis The 7 Force Strategic Collaboration Programme is reviewing policing capabilities to determine what can be delivered most efficiently and effectively through broader cross Force collaboration. Options and formal business cases for change are presented to the Chief Constables and PCCs for their determination.

A budget of £1.35m was agreed in January 2016 for the annual cost of the Programme (primarily for salary costs of the team) shared proportionately by all seven forces, split on NRE basis. A successful Police Transformation Fund bid (July 2016) has won a match funded grant up to £660K in support of the 7F Programme in 2016/17. A projected benefits profile for the 7F programme is in draft and will be presented to the 14 Corporations Sole at their next Summit meeting.

### **Key Work-streams**

The scope of the 7F Programme is very broad, encompassing the full range of operational and support police functions. Some of the primary work-streams are:

- Procurement
- Procurement Contract Mapping Exercise
- Vetting
- Anti-Corruption
- Criminal Justice
- Armed Policing
- ERSOU Plus Programme
- Athena Collaborative benefits realisation
- Shared Business Support Services
- Specialist Operations Training
- ICT Convergence

### **Next reporting period**

At the Alliance Summit meeting (10<sup>th</sup> October 2016) a report will be presented to the 14 Chiefs and PCCs reviewing the progress made to date of the 7F programme and projected programme of work for 2017/18.

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