

PAPER NS13/4

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK COLLABORATION PANEL

A meeting of the Panel was held in the Strategic Co-ordination Centre, Police Headquarters, Martlesham Heath on Friday, 26 April 2013 at 10.00 am.

Present :

Norfolk

PCC's Office : Stephen Bett (PCC), Chris Harding (Chief Executive), Jenny McKibben (Deputy PCC) and Bob Summers (Chief Finance Officer).

Constabulary : Simon Bailey (Deputy Chief Constable), Phil Gormley (Chief Constable), Sarah Hamlin (T/Assistant Chief Constable) and Rupert Birtles (Assistant Chief Officer)

Suffolk

PCC's Office : Chris Bland (Chief Finance Officer), Christopher Jackson (Chief Executive), Tim Passmore (PCC), Ian Rands (Business Manager) and Claire Swallow (Deputy Chief Executive).

Constabulary : Phillip Clayton (Chief Finance Officer) and Douglas Paxton (Chief Constable).

Tim Passmore chaired the meeting. This would pass to Stephen Bett when the meetings were in Norfolk.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

- 1.1 Chris Jackson referred to the Terms of Reference for the Panel which were tabled and highlighted the more informal approach when compared to the previous Joint Statutory Committee.
- 1.2 Should a formal decision be required, he was confident that the systems were in place in each Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner to deal with this immediately after a meeting.
- 1.3 The intention was to schedule six meetings each year and dates would be circulated as soon as possible.

2. ESTATES STRATEGY [Paper NS13/1]

- 2.1 Rupert Birtles introduced the report which outlined the process for developing a joint Estates Strategy following the establishment of a joint Estates & Facilities Department in 2012. A copy of the Executive Summary was attached to the report and the full

Strategy was available for inspection. It had been presented to the Joint Chief Officer Team in January and had been updated to reflect their comments.

2.2 He went through the various steps included in bold in the report and a number of issues were highlighted :

- Commissioning external help need to be handled very carefully to ensure value added given the level of work already completed;
- Assumptions in relation to downsizing the estate were likely to need to be re-worked given the financial outlook;
- Operational estates requirements needed to be determined including police-public interface and customer access – the ‘senior user’ proposal described in the report was generally supported;
- Such a proposal could extend to consider solutions for co-location where this was supported;
- Work on projects already started or identified as necessary should not be put on hold and financial provision included for them.

2.3 There was a detailed discussion on the way forward and in particular on Suffolk’s wish to ensure co-location with other public sector partners was given due weight in the Strategy, although there was some concern expressed that development and implementation of the strategy should not be delayed.

2.4 It was **agreed** in the first instance to develop a high level statement of strategic intent and report back to the next meeting. Further details are included within the ‘closed’ minutes.

3 ASSUMPTIONS IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL GAP

3.1 Bob Summers delivered a presentation and a copy of his slides are lodged with the minutes for the record. The following is a summary of the main issues:

- Whatever planning assumptions across the two counties were used the funding gap was expected to be significant;
- There was a Norfolk-specific issue linked to a reliance on the use of reserves;
- The announcement on the second CSR was expected in mid-June;
- There were a number of unknowns including the Government’s approach to the reduction in employer costs for police pensions, the changes in National Insurance contributions from 2016/17, how the Home Secretary might wish to protect front-line services from the CSR cuts, how the issue of ‘damping’ was approached in future and the review of formula funding.

3.2 Chris Bland reiterated the view that the outlook was bleak and scoping work was required to develop some ‘worst case scenarios’. Officers would await the CSR announcement before developing such scenarios but in the meantime would concentrate on working-up shared assumptions. There was a recognition that longer term planning was very difficult in the current climate and this linked to the discussion on the previous item on estates and to other important issues such as recruitment. Phil Gormley also highlighted the impact of the Government’s Strategic Policing Requirement and the need to take this and ACPO’s response into account.

3.3 It was **agreed** to note the current position. There was an expectancy that the Home Office would undertake a review the current policing model on a national basis linked to what might be delivered with less resources.

4. COLLABORATION STRATEGY (Paper NS13/2)

- 4.1 Sarah Hamlin drew attention to the draft strategy attached to the report. It was based on that agreed by the previous Police Authorities and reflected the introduction of PCCs.
- 4.2 Chris Jackson believed the strategy should be further amended to give greater emphasis to expanding collaboration with the public sector and also other Forces. Mention was also made of the shared business model. Phil Gormley said that there was a lot of uncertainty amongst staff and he was hopeful that publication of this document would signal a clear statement of intent from the two PCCs and Chief Constables. If agreement of the strategy was going to be delayed, his proposal that a statement should be issued immediately to demonstrate this commitment was **agreed**. This could also include a press statement. In doing so, it was acknowledged that the majority of staff would not have picked up this on-going commitment as reflected in both of the Police & Crime Plans.
- 4.3 Officers were asked to agree the final wording of the Strategy outside the meeting. A suggestion from Jenny McKibben that the framework needed to reflect the fact that Protective Services went wider than simply meeting community needs would be taken into account.

PRIVATE AGENDA

[Further detail of the discussions under the following items is included in the closed minutes.]

5. STAFF TRANSFER STAGE 2

- 5.1 There was a discussion as to how the two PCCs, in consultation with the two Chief Constables, might develop some common principles on the approach to the Stage 2 transfer of staff planned for 1 April 2014.
- 5.2 A way forward was agreed that included the formation of a sub-group(s), seeking legal advice and liaison with the Home Office in relation to the regulations.

6. FUTURE COLLABORATIVE PROPOSALS

- 6.1 With the aid of slides, Sarah Hamlin presented a list of options in relation to future collaborative proposals under the headings of Organisational, Operational and Support. Preliminary work on a number of the options had already begun given the financial outlook. The options were noted and formally received.

7. UPDATE REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF ALL THE COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

- 7.1 A report by Sarah Hamlin that provided a detailed account of the on-going Norfolk and Suffolk change programme was received.

The meeting closed at 11.55 am