

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DECISION NUMBER: 10 - 2023

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: SEVEN FORCE COLLABORATION – FIFTH COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

SUMMARY:

1. Authority is sought to enter into a fifth collaboration agreement between the local policing bodies and chief officers of police for the policing areas of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Norfolk and Suffolk. The agreement represents a further progression and development of the collaborative arrangements agreed to be progressed by these parties in the autumn of 2015.
2. The Chief Executive has been closely involved in the development of the agreement with a view to ensuring that it represents what was agreed by the parties at the Seven Force Summit meetings held on 12 November 2021 and 9 December 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Police and Crime Commissioner is recommended to:

1. grant approval to enter into the Fifth Collaboration Agreement relating to the policing areas of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Norfolk and Suffolk and as described in this report;
2. authorise the Chief Executive to execute the Fifth Collaboration Agreement on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out above is agreed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Parry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Signature:

Date: 24 February 2023

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Seven Force collaboration was agreed to be progressed by the local policing bodies and chief officers of police for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Norfolk and Suffolk in the autumn of 2015. The arrangements to collaborate were formally embodied in a collaboration agreement under Section 22A of The Police Act 1996 in 2016. The purpose of the Seven Force arrangement was to work together to maximise efficiency and effectiveness in a number of identified areas.
- 1.2 Over time the arrangements were modified and formalised through three succeeding collaboration agreements.
- 1.3 At the Eastern Region Summit meeting on 12 November 2021 a number of changes to the Seven Force arrangements were agreed 'in principle'. Essentially they were amongst other things:
- the current collaboration agreement to remain in place with amendment until the current Seven Force projects are delivered;
 - a new collaboration agreement to then be drawn up to cover the new Seven Force Network arrangements;
 - Summit meetings to take place annually during November each year;
 - ad hoc Summit meetings to be held as and when required.
- 1.4 At the Eastern Region Summit meeting on 9 December 2022 the vision and strategy for the Eastern Region Innovation Network was agreed 'in principle'.

2. NEW FIFTH COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

- 2.1 On 31 March 2023 the Fourth Collaboration Agreement which binds the Seven Force collaboration arrangement together expires.
- 2.2 A new Fifth Collaboration Agreement has been prepared to reflect the collaborative relationship between the Seven Force areas and in particular to cover and formalise the 'in principle' decisions reached at the two Summit meetings referred to above.
- 2.3 The new proposed Fifth Collaboration Agreement which is appended hereto at Appendix A (excluding Schedule B thereto which is the Consultation and Strategy Paper presented at the Summit on 9 December 2022) covers the following key areas:
- provision for the progression of the outstanding Seven Force projects, namely those in relation to the Seven Force Forensic Case Management System, Five Force Digital Asset Management and the Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme;
 - the Eastern Region Innovation Network;

- the strategic governance requirements in respect of the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit and the Seven Force Single Procurement Function;
- amended Terms of Reference for the Eastern Region Summit.

2.4 The proposed Agreement is dated to commence on 1 April 2023 on the expiry of the current collaboration agreement. In short, it will give effect to the strategic intent agreed ‘in principle’ at the two Summit meetings referred to above.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The financial arrangements that will apply between the parties to the agreement are set out in the proposed new agreement and follow the well-established arrangements of dividing costs on the basis of net revenue expenditure.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

4.1 There are no other material issues or risks that require addressing. No risk contained within the PCC’s risk registers is engaged and no changes to the registers are proposed.

4.2 The Chief Executive has been closely involved in the drafting of the Fifth Collaboration Agreement and is satisfied that it reasonably describes and provides for the effective governance of the Seven Force arrangements.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner is recommended to:

- grant approval to enter into the Fifth Collaboration Agreement relating to the policing areas of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Norfolk and Suffolk and as described in this report;
- authorise the Chief Executive to execute the Fifth Collaboration Agreement on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	YES
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	YES
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	YES
Have human resource implications been considered?	YES
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	YES
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	YES
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	YES
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	YES

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.

Signature:



Date: 24 February 2023