



**OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY**

**INFORMATION REPORT TO  
THE THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2016**

**COLLABORATION – INITIATIVES AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Under sections 22A to 22C of the Police Act 1996, as amended by section 89 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, chief constables and PCCs have a duty to keep collaboration agreements and opportunities under review and to collaborate where it is in the interests of the efficiency and effectiveness of one or more police forces or policing bodies. Where collaboration is judged to be the best option, they must collaborate even if they do not expect their own force or policing body to benefit directly.

Any collaboration which relates to the functions of a police force (a “force collaboration provision”) must first be agreed with the chief constables of the forces concerned and approved by each PCC responsible for maintaining each of the police forces to which the force collaboration provision relates. Any collaboration which relates to the provision of support by one PCC for another PCC (a “policing body collaboration provision”) must be agreed by each PCC to which the policing body collaboration provision relates.

PCCs responsible for maintaining each of the police forces to which a force collaboration provision relates shall make arrangements for jointly holding their chief constables to account for the way functions are discharged under a force collaboration agreement.

Major partnerships and consortia involving the Force and the PCC are governed by formal collaboration agreements under Section 22A of the Police Act 1996, or by Memoranda of Understanding, as appropriate. Joint collaboration oversight boards provide strategic oversight and an approval process for governance arrangements for collaboration activity. These collaboration boards comprise Chief Officers and their PCCs from each participating force.

The PCC for Thames Valley is actively engaged in the oversight and scrutiny of key collaboration activities (e.g. South East region; Bi-lateral with Hampshire, Chiltern Transport Consortium and the National Police Air Service);

In addition, the TVP/PCC Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) exercise oversight of the adequacy and effectiveness of the respective governance

arrangements as part of that Committee's terms of reference. Their opinion is incorporated in its Annual Assurance Report presented to the PCC and Chief Constable.

A summary of the functional activities and governance arrangements of the major collaborative ventures involving TVP is provided below.

#### Hants/TVP Bi-lateral Collaboration

The TVP & Hampshire Bi-lateral Collaboration Governance Board oversees and scrutinises the work of the existing collaborative functions (i.e. Operations, ICT and Information Management) as well as development of the Contact Management and Digital Policing programmes. Updates are provided on new collaborative opportunities being explored.

The Board met twice during 2015/16, supplemented by specific informal meetings of the PCCs and senior policing officers and staff, to review existing collaborative functions and, more recently, the emerging new joint ICT Strategy and related issues. In addition to the Bilateral Collaboration Governance Board, the joint Chief Officer Group met 3 times during 2015/16.

The new ICT Vision 2020 Board met for the first time on 13 November 2015 and now meets regularly. This Board also monitors implementation of the five year ICT strategy. The two PCCs approved the new 5 year ICT Strategy in July/August 2015.

An overview of progress in the delivery of the key elements of that Plan and the governance around it was submitted for information to the TVP/PCC JIAC meeting on 23 March 2016 and then subsequently to the PCC for Thames Valley. That report highlighted programme delays in a number of areas together with the steps being taken to address them

#### South East Region Collaboration

Governance of collaboration between forces across the South East region is undertaken at the Regional Governance Board. Four meetings were held during 2015/16.

The South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROCU), hosted by Thames Valley Police, brings together the current regional organised crime units under one structure. It is operationally aligned with the South East Counter Terrorism Unit (SECTU). There is a joint ACC who works directly to the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police to exercise overall command of the regional serious organised crime and counter terrorism functions. The joint ACC also attends the Regional Governance Board and represents SEROCU at a national level with the National Crime Agency and other key stakeholders.

### Chiltern Transport Consortium

The Chiltern Transport Consortium (CTC) is a collaboration between TVP, Hertfordshire Constabulary, Bedfordshire Police and the Civil Nuclear Constabulary. It was originally set up in 2014 to operate as a transport shared service for the procurement and maintenance of the forces' transport fleet under lead force TVP.

A new governance structure for the CTC was implemented during 2014/15. The Governance Board is currently chaired by the PCC for Thames Valley but will be reviewed annually. The Board met once during 2015/16. The Senior Operational User Group, which is chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable of TVP, did not meet during 2015/16 due to a number of factors including uncertainty as to whether Hampshire would join the Consortium and the new vehicle procurement contract. The Force Transport Manager had a number of meetings with senior users regarding the Telematics project.

### National Police Air Service

The National Police Air Service (NPAS) is a collaborative venture involving all police forces across England and Wales. The PCC for Thames Valley is a member of the national NPAS Board.

### TVP / TV Fire and Rescue Services

During the year the PCC and the Force agreed a memorandum of understanding with the three Fire and Rescue Services in the Thames Valley regarding exploring possible collaborative opportunities in the sharing of premises.

**Anthony Stansfeld**

Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley