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## **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

### **Collaboration - Impact on Ability to Deliver the Strategic Policing Requirement**

#### **Introduction**

This paper sets out how Surrey-Sussex Lead Force collaboration will better enable Surrey Police to meet the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR). With regard to the five SPR areas, two are now aligned under the Operations Command (Public Disorder and Civil Emergencies) and three under the Specialist Crime Command (Organised Crime, Terrorism and Cyber-crime).

This paper takes into account a previous paper for the PCC's Management Meeting in May 2013 (National Policing Requirement Update), which detailed Surrey Police's capacity and capability to deal with the SPR areas at that time. The conclusion of that paper was that, with the possible exception of cyber crime (an issue which is in line with policing nationally), the force generally had capability and capacity to meet its requirements under the SPR.

#### **Current Situation**

Both Surrey and Sussex Police have established departments that deal with the areas of Organised Crime, Terrorism, Public Disorder and Civil Emergencies. However, due its fairly recent emergence as a priority area, both forces continue to develop their capability to meet the full spectrum of crime that the cyber threat poses. Both forces do have assets that they may be asked to contribute to assist the National e-Crime Programme such as digital forensics, as well as access to dedicated teams that specialise in online crime such as online sexual abuse and economic crime.

As of the 1st October 2013 the new Surrey-Sussex Police Specialist Crime Command and Operations Command were established. All related resources across both forces are now aligned to a joint senior manager and can be tasked and deployed across either force. The new lead force approach presents a number of opportunities. Existing working relationships and regional structures provide a sound basis, from which both forces can improve joint working practices, although a number of challenges remain such as the alignment of employment terms and conditions and finance.

#### **The Five Areas**

##### **1. Public Disorder**

Surrey Police continues to have the required capacity and capability to contribute towards national mutual aid, whilst also having the requisite specialist officers, equipment and assets. This has been demonstrated recently when the force assisted Sussex Police in relation to the protracted 'fracking' demonstrations and protests in the Balcombe and also when the force provided mutual aid to the Police Service of Northern Ireland for the G8 summit.

Although there have been some logistical issues with regards to the mobilisation and deployment of resources between Surrey and Sussex, as the two forces work and train together more this will diminish. Furthermore, collaboration adds to force resilience, and means that the

benefits of interoperability and joint training will now be formalised; agreed Standard Operating Procedures are being progressed.

## 2. Civil Emergencies

Surrey Police retains the skilled resources and equipment required in order to address this SPR area and continues to work with the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), taking part in LRF table top exercises and training events. Both Surrey and Sussex Police are participants within the Joint Emergency Service Interoperability Programme (JESIP) and have addressed relevant threats highlighted within the National Risk Assessment.

Moving forwards the collaboration between the Surrey and Sussex Police will allow for even greater scope in respect of business continuity arrangements, due to the increased resilience that this offers, with access to more staff, premises and equipment if required.

## 3. Organised Crime

Surrey Police has an effective working relationship with the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROUCU) and surrounding forces, benefiting from the effective governance and operational structures. The force uses the national Integrated Operating Model (IOM) to identify and prioritise the threats posed by Organised Crime Groups (OCGs).

With the recent launch of the new National Crime Agency and an increased regional capability, this allows an even more effective approach to tackling organised crime within Surrey. Collaboration with Sussex Police will improve interoperability and effectiveness in targeting organised crime in all its guises.

## 4. Counter Terrorism

As with organised crime, Surrey Police's Special Branch (SB) has an effective working relationship with the regional South East Counter Terrorism Unit (SECTU) and surrounding forces. Regular meeting structures are in place regionally and a positive working relationship also exists with other law enforcement agencies and services. Surrey performs particularly well in delivering the Prevent strand of the national Contest strategy, and CHANNEL programme where necessary.

The interoperability between all police forces with respect to tackling counter terrorism is a key strength. The effectiveness of the capability of Surrey Police to tackle counter terrorism will only be improved through our collaboration with Sussex Police.

## 5. Large Scale Cyber Crime

It is recognised that the sophisticated online environment in the UK presents a number opportunities that have been exploited by organised crime. Surrey Police has a number of assets to tackle such criminality. Currently the Digital Forensic Team (DFT) has capability to examine devices to support criminal investigations, the Paedophile On-Line Investigation Team (POLIT) are managing sexual offending on-line and the Economic Crime Unit (ECU) and detectives across the force deal with cyber-enabled fraud offences.

Like the majority of Home Office forces across the UK, Surrey Police does not have the resources, training or technology to tackle large scale cyber crime; this has been identified as a national issue which needs to be addressed as soon as possible by local forces and regional crime units, and is supported by the most recent Serious and Organised Crime Strategy.

The launch of the National Crime Agency and increased capability to tackle cyber crime within the South East Region Organised Crime Unit improve the police response to large scale cyber attacks within Surrey. As a force we are currently reviewing the threat of cyber crime within Surrey to identify how we can improve our responsiveness and effectiveness.