



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable and Chief Executive

**Date:** 20 January 2015

## **NATIONAL POLICE CHIEFS' COUNCIL**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This paper is intended to brief the Business Coordination Board ("the Board") on the creation of the new National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) as a successor body to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the transfer of historical ACPO services to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).
- 1.2 To make the Police and Crime Commissioner ("the Commissioner") aware that s22A Agreements under the Police Act 1996 ("the Act") and a Decision Notice will need to be signed.

### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to support the establishing of the NPCC and the transfer of services by supporting the S22A Agreements under the Act to enable the NPCC to be set up and the transition of respective units.
- 2.2 The Board is asked to note the requirement for other s22A Agreements relating to the ACPO and NPCC transfer, as referred to below, to be considered and signed.
- 2.3 The Commissioner signs the Decision Notice and the S22A Agreements

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Following the recommendation by General Sir Nick Parker the decision was made to replace ACPO with a new co-ordinating body, the NPCC.
- 3.2 The NPCC is intended to be operational from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 under its new chair Chief Constable Sara Thornton.

- 3.3 The NPCC will represent police forces rather than individual members and will be structured as a collaboration between police forces with the MPS being the legal host. However the operational aspects of the NPCC will remain completely separate from the MPS.
- 3.4 This collaboration will be founded upon a S22A agreement between all policing bodies forming the membership of the NPCC.

#### **4. The S22A Agreement**

- 4.1 A S22A Agreement under the Act enables Police and Crime Commissioners and police forces to enter into agreements to achieve more efficient and effective delivery of policing services. Other bodies can also join a collaboration agreement.
- 4.2 The s22A Agreement will enable the NPCC to be set up and will be clear about how liabilities and assets are handled. It will also be an opportunity to define the roles and functions of people and to define the collective liability of police forces.
- 4.3 A draft S22A Agreement has been circulated nationally seeking comments from Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners. The Chief Constables Council discussed the agreement at their meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) will be discussing it at their General Meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015.
- 4.4 Three other s22A Agreements are also required to be signed as part of the transition to the NPCC. These are for the public order National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC), the Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) and the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS). The NPoCC and DVI units are operationally important because they are currently attached to ACPO, and will terminate on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 unless hosted by the MPS. West Midlands Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will host the NABIS but will not be responsible for the performance of the unit. However, Police and Crime Commissioners will see the unit's Annual Report.
- 4.5 The final s22A Agreement to facilitate the transition from ACPO to NPCC will be circulated on or around the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015 for final consideration and signatures. There are no indicative timescales for when the other s22A Agreements will require signing but it is anticipated that these will need to be before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.
- 4.6 Weightmans' Solicitors have been asked to consider the legal implications for Cambridgeshire Constabulary. However, as much of the document is in draft they have been unable to provide a firm view at this time. The APCC are also seeking their own legal advice.

**5. Cambridgeshire Constabulary Chief Officers view**

- 5.1 It is the view of the Chief Constable that the creation of the NPCC is of vital importance and its establishment as a replacement for ACPO should be supported.
- 5.2 This body will enable the work of the police service to be co-ordinated to protect the public. Key areas of this will include:
- Co-ordination of national operations and force contributions to the Strategic Policing Requirement;
  - Command of counter-terrorism operations (CT) and delivery of CT policing;
  - Co-ordination of response to national emergencies and cross border mobilisations;
  - Implementation of standards and policy as set by the College of Policing and government;
  - Work with the College of Policing to develop joint national approaches to a wide range of issues such as criminal justice, value for money, service transformation and technology amongst others.
- 5.3 Failure to support the creation of this new national co-ordination body and signing of the required S22A agreements will leave significant gaps in the national provision of policing to ensure public safety.

**6. Commissioner's view**

- 6.1 Police and Crime Commissioners nationally supported the decision to replace ACPO with the NPCC.
- 6.2 The Commissioner is supportive of winding up ACPO and the creation of the NPCC, noting that it is a body of operational coordination with decisions being made collectively through the Chief Constables' Council. The Commissioner has also noted the principles within the draft s22A Agreement but will consider the final s22A Agreement before signing it. He will also consider the s22A Agreements for NPoCC, DVI and NABIS.

**7. Recommendation**

- 7.1 The Board is recommended to support the establishing of the NPCC and the transfer of services by supporting the S22A Agreements under the Act to enable the NPCC to be set up and the transition of respective units.
- 7.2 The Board is asked to note the requirement for other s22A agreements, as referred to above, to be considered and signed.
- 7.3 The Commissioner signs the Decision Notice and the S22A Agreements.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<b>Source Document</b>	
<b>Contact Officers</b>	Simon Parr, Chief Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary  Dorothy Gregson, Chief Executive, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner