

Committee(s): Police	Date(s): 11 th July 2012
Subject: National Police Air Service	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police POL 41/12	For Decision
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summary</u></p> <p>A proposal for a National Police Air Service (NPAS) was presented to Chief Constables' Council in October 2010 with a main objective to realise savings nationally in the region of £12-15m per annum. On 27th March 2012, the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice laid before Parliament a draft of The Police (Collaboration: Specified Function) Order 2012. This Order requires the police service to collaborate in the provision of air support through a single collaboration agreement.</p> <p>City of London Police (CoLP) is currently serviced by the MPS Air Support Unit at no cost but demand for its services in the City is low unless there is a public order event, which are generally pan London in any case. This will continue until the transition to the national service.</p> <p>The cost to CoLP for the use of the National Police Air Service will be £50,000 in 2012/13; £75,000 in 2013/14 and £50,000 in 2014/15. This will be top sliced from the capital grant and the Force's grant has already been top sliced for 2012/13.</p> <p>The Force and the Comptroller and City Solicitor have already reviewed a draft of the S22a Collaboration agreement, the latter on behalf of the Authority, and it is anticipated the final agreement will be received in late June for further review and sign off.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>It is therefore recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Members note that under the requirement of the Police (Collaboration: Specified Function) Order 2012 for the creation of a National Air Service, that the Force is obliged to comply in this respect. ii) The Committee instructs the Comptroller and City Solicitor to sign the S22a Collaboration Agreement on behalf of the authority. 	

Main Report

Background

1. A proposal for a National Police Air Service (NPAS) was presented to Chief Constables' Council in October 2010. The proposal was based on reorganising the delivery of air support across England and Wales to provide a better balance between urban and rural demand, with increased aircraft availability and opportunities for significant savings expected to be in the region of £12-15 million each year. It was agreed at Chief Constables' Council to endorse a 20 base model which has been revised to a 22 base model following further consultation with individual police forces and police authorities.
2. On the 31st January 2012, the Policing Minister laid a Written Ministerial Statement in Parliament announcing the publication of the Police Grant for 2012/13. Within the statement, the Minister explained that the decision has been taken to top-slice the police capital grant as outlined in the provisional police grant report dated 8th December 2011. Nationally, this amounts to £10.8 million in 2012/13; £13.0 million in 2013/14; and £9.7 million in 2014/15.
3. On Tuesday 27th March 2012, the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice laid before Parliament a draft of The Police (Collaboration: Specified Function) Order 2012. This Order requires the police service to collaborate in the provision of air support through a single collaboration agreement.

Current Position

4. The City of London Police currently has the support of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Air Support Unit at no cost. However, this is not a formalised arrangement. Its use is normally linked to Public Order/ Protest events, a greater proportion of which are Pan London events. Other than for pan London public order events, the MPS has historically provided assistance on a very low scale to CoLP as the City does not often have the demand for the service. The Air Support from MPS will continue until the transition to the new arrangement takes place. Bases that will cover London will be at Redhill, Lippets Hill, Essex and RAF Benson (currently Thames Valley Police base). The Essex Helicopter is currently being re-fitted to

provide a downlink to London (MPS/ City) Police Control Rooms. A national deployment criterion is currently being negotiated.

5. The Force is committed to a transition to using the National Air Support Services, as mandated in The Police (Collaboration: Specified Function) Order 2012. The Service will commence in October 2012 with a full rollout by 2014.

Financial and legal implications

6. The cost to CoLP for the use of the National Police Air Service will be £50,000 in 2012/13; £75,000 in 2013/14 and £50,000 in 2014/15. This will be top sliced from the capital grant and the Force's grant has already been top sliced for 2012/13. The Home Office is providing £4 million capital to assist in set up costs of fleet, infrastructure, bases and IT support. However, there is likely to be an additional revenue cost to the Force going forward. The amount is not known at this stage but the NPAS Project Lead has indicated that it will be based on use of the service, which for the City, is likely to be low.
7. Chief Constable Alex Marshall - Hampshire Police, who is the national lead, has indicated the intention to present a new funding mechanism at Chief Constables Council in the near future which will commence post 2015 to coincide with the next CSR period.
8. Approximately £3.7m savings have already been realised nationally by reducing fleet and it is anticipated that up to £7.5m will be realised later in the year when a number of bases are taken out of service.
9. A draft of the S22a collaboration agreement was sent out in March 2012 to all policing bodies for a four week consultation period. The Comptroller and City Solicitor reviewed what was at the time and incomplete and interim draft agreement on behalf of the Police Authority and gave feedback accordingly. The final collaboration agreement will set out clearly the arrangements for governance, accountability and performance management within NPAS and is expected to be received by forces and authorities in late June 2012.
10. The Force and the Authority will be required to sign the S22a collaboration agreement for the service 'go live' date in October 2012.

Recommendation

11. It is therefore recommended that:

- i) Members note that under the requirement of the Police (Collaboration: Specified Function) Order 2012 for the creation of a National Air Service, that the Force is obliged to comply in this respect.
- ii) The Committee instructs the Comptroller and City Solicitor to sign the S22a Collaboration Agreement on behalf of the authority.

Conclusion

12. The decision to create a National Air Service for the Police has been made with a view to increasing efficiency and making significant savings for the police service nationally. Forces are required to sign up to the service as a result of the Police (Collaboration: Specified Function) Order 2012 which requires the police service to collaborate in the provision of air support through a single collaboration agreement.

Contact:

Andrew Mellor

Chief Superintendent Uniform Policing Directorate

020 7601 2101

Andrew.mellor@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk