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DYFED-POWYS
POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER

REPORT / SUMMARY DECISION SHEET

PURPOSE: COMMISSIONER DECISION

Timing: Pressing

Title: National Police Air Service

Category of Decision / Business Area Impact: Service Delivery

Executive Summary: The original proposals relating to the creation of the National Police Air Service (NPAS) were included in a letter received from Chief Constable Alex Marshall on 27.06.11. Discussions have ensued since and a revised agreement was received from the NPAS team on 28th July 2014.

Recommendation: That the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable agree to join NPAS.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Nolan Principles for Conduct in Public Life.

The above request has my approval. I note the information contained within the report.

Signature:

Date: 29.07.14

NATIONAL POLICE AIR SERVICE – FINANCIAL UPDATE

1. Background

The original proposals relating to the creation of the National Police Air Service (NPAS) were included in a letter received from Chief Constable Alex Marshall of Hampshire Constabulary on the 27th June 2011. Discussions around the various options available in terms of joining NPAS have continued since this time.

This paper has been prepared to enable discussion on recent developments in respect of NPAS following a meeting of the 16th of January 2014 and in the light of the receipt of further costing information and a revised agreement received from the NPAS team dated 6th August 2014.

2. The Existing Budget and Actuals

The current budgeted estimates for air support are as follows:

Cost Category	Budget 13/14	Actual 13/14	Budget 14/15
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Police Officers (Sergeant & 5)	387	321	327
Police Staff Pilot(s)	68	75	131
Training / Removal Costs	1	1	1
Premises Related	15	37	15
Transport Costs	781	648	681
Supplies and Services	12	17	12
Income	0	-2	0
Total	1,263	1,096	1,166

3. Cost implications of the updated proposals

The current proposal from NPAS is based upon 349 flying hours per annum from the Pembrey Airbase with a rotary wing aircraft. Under the current funding model, Dyfed Powys will pay £891,000 per annum for the service at 2015/16 prices. In addition to this, an enhanced service will also be available in terms of emergency response outside the normal hours of operation from St Athan.

As part of the funding settlement for 2012/13, the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice, Nick Herbert announced reductions to the then Authority's capital grant funding allocations in order to support the establishment of NPAS. The following reductions were applied to capital grants for Dyfed Powys Police:

Authority	CAPITAL ALLOCATION CHANGE (£m)		
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Dyfed-Powys	-50	-60	-40

This would bring the total cost of NPAS to around £931K for 2015/16 if lost capital allocations were taken into consideration.

It is expected that the Police and Crime Commissioner will hand over the current aircraft to the NPAS and receive compensation totalling £319K payable over the next four years as follows:

Force	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
Receipts	£114,000	£114,000	£68,400	£22,800	£319,200

The Commissioner should receive a new aircraft during the 2015/16 financial year. The exact timing of receipt is unclear at present however the current aircraft and service will be retained and paid for locally until this time.

Under the agreement the Pembrey Air Support Building will remain under the ownership of the Commissioner and running costs including utilities etc. will be paid for by NPAS from within the above financial limits. The agreement sets out the detailed arrangements pertaining to staffing, insurance, governance and operational arrangements in place nationally and locally for the arrangement.

The table shows that the proposal from NPAS would result a reduction in the revenue budget of some £275K for the 2015/16 financial year.

Force	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Revenue Budget</u>					
NPAS Contribution	891	891	891	891	891
Current Budget	-1,166	-1166	-1166	-1166	-1166
Revenue Saving	-275	-275	-275	-275	-275
<u>Capital Funding</u>					
Capital top-slice	40	40	40	40	40
Receipts	-114	-114	-68	-23	0
Total Saving	-349	-349	-303	-258	-235

A revised charging methodology aligned more closely to flying hours is being considered by the NPAS Board for 2015/16 and these could have an impact on the savings figures shown in this Table.

4. Hosting NPAS and residual issues

The West Yorkshire Police Force host the NPAS service and the governance arrangements are as set out in the attached document. The provision of the service from NPAS is of equivalent scope and coverage to that currently provided from an operational perspective and the detailed deployment procedures are set out in the agreement.

5. Contact details

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6. Public Access to Information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) including the exemptions set out within the Act and other relevant legislation. Where the exemptions or other restrictions are applicable, this form will be edited prior to being made available on the OPCC website within 5 working days of the decision being made by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

7. Officer Approval

Chief Finance Officer

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial and legal advice have been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this an appropriate request to be submitted to the Commissioner

Signature



Date 04.08.14