

Record of Decision

ORIGINATOR: Chief Finance Officer

REFERENCE: OPCC.D.005.16

TITLE: Procurement of External Audit services for 2018/19 onwards

OPEN CONFIDENTIAL

Reason if Confidential:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the current time and up to and including the accounting year 2017/18, the External Auditor to the Kent Police 'Group' account (i.e. combined PCC and Chief Constable operations) and the Chief Constable's separate account forming part of the group account is Ernst and Young. They were appointed by the Audit Commission, who procured and managed the appointment and consequent fees for local authorities, including police. On its demise, in March 2015, those responsibilities transferred to an independent company established by the Local Government Association until current contracts end.

The PCC and Chief Constable need to have appointed an external Auditor by 31 December 2017, for the 2018/19 audit year.

In reality, the professional requirement means the firms able to undertake the work will be of national standing with extensive experience directly or in related fields, limiting it to a relatively small number. Furthermore, the legislation places somewhat onerous responsibilities on appointing panels which further limits any possible attraction to procuring and organising a local appointment process.

The most efficient process would be to join a national sector led procurement. The Local Government Association are seeking to do just that for local councils, but including police and fire in the offer.

This is clearly more efficient and it is anticipated that the price secured will be considerably keener and the procurement cost much less than if the PCC tried to do something individually.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner is strongly advised to adopt a sector led approach to appointing an External Auditor.

DECISION

To join a sector led approach to appointing an External Auditor.

Chief Finance Officer: N/A.

Comments:

Signature: **Date:**

Chief of Staff:

Comments: Commissioner, I fully support the joint procurement of the external audit service. This is likely to be the most cost efficient and effective use of public money.

Signature: *A. Harper* **Date:** 26⁸/2016.....

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR KENT

Comments: I believe this is a good approach, is cost effective and value for taxpayers' money.

Signature: *WRH* **Date:** 26/8/16.....

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: Local Government Association proposal with overview of various options.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT:	
Police and Crime Plan <i>(please indicate which objectives decision/recommendation supports)</i>	Supports delivery of the Commissioner's Six Point Plan by ensuring financial matters are properly administered and compliance with Financial Regulations.
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been completed?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>(If yes, please include within background documents)</i>
Will the decision have a differential/adverse impact on any particular diversity strand? <i>(e.g. age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion/belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The decision is administrative in nature. Therefore, it does not have a differential/adverse impact on any particular strand of diversity.