

OPTIONS REPORT TO PCC
Subject: Provision of Legal Services to PCC

Background

The PCC has ultimate responsibility for a number of aspects of work and his/her decisions will need to be made legally within the constraints of many and varied regulations and pieces of legislation. It is therefore likely that a PCC will need to avail themselves of legal advice before making such decisions.

For the purpose of this paper it is assumed that the PCC is not a legal professional themselves. ✓

Currently, Leicestershire had a contract for the provision of legal services with a locally based Law firm. this contract expired recently. Over the last 4 years the spend in Leicestershire has averaged £356,000 p.a. However, this is a misleading figure since currently there is only one legal entity in the Leicestershire Police Authority whereas in future there will be 2 legal entities and this paper is only considering the Office of the PCC and not that of the Chief.

The Chief Constable has agreed to enter a collaborative arrangement with 3 of the other Forces in the Region to provide legal support to the Office of the Chief Constable (joining this collaborative arrangement is one of the options in this report (Option 2)), the costing of this arrangement is based on the historical Police Authority/Chief workload.

It is assumed that no purpose is served in continuing with the current contract since the current supplier is included in the National contract (Option 1) which would provide the same level of service (from the same firm) as provided now but at less cost.

Recommendation

It recommended that the PCC choose Option 2 for the provision of legal services. ✓

Option ② Agreed.

OPTION 2: Access Legal Advice through Regional Collaboration:

The PCC could sign up to the proposed regional collaboration to provide legal advice to the policing in the East Midlands (excluding Lincolnshire). The Office of the Chief Constable in Leicestershire has already signed up to this arrangement. The advice would be provided by personnel employed by the East Midlands Legal Support Unit (EMLSU), supplemented where necessary by some external advice procured (through the national contract) by EMLSU.

DECISION

Option selected :

Narrative (if applicable) :

Authorised by :

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Wood", is written over a horizontal line.

Date :