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Police & Crime Commissioner

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

## Blue Light and Local Authority Collaborations

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### Strategic Context and Accountability

Formal collaborations have a legal framework and are generally (although not always) established under the Police Act 1996. Emergency Services Collaboration is listed as an area for development of future strategy in the Police & Criminal Justice Plan. Governance of these collaborations varies dependent on the nature of the arrangements.

### Collaborations within policing

There are a wide range of collaborations already in place amongst policing bodies, examples of which are set out below. These all have appropriate governance arrangements depending on the nature of the collaboration and the legal framework establishing them.

- NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS
  - The PCC is a member of the national Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)
  - The Chief Constable and his fellow chief officers are members of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC)
  - National Police Air Service (NPAS)
  - Single Online Home
  - National Counter Terrorism Police Services
  - National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS)
  - Forensic Capability Network
  - National Police Coordination Centre (NPOCC)
  
- REGIONAL, MULTI-LATERAL, BI-LATERAL COLLABORATION
  - SE Regional Integrated Policing (SERIP) Board
  - South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROCU)
  - Counter Terrorism Policing, South East (CTPSE)
  - Joint Operations Unit
  - Contact Management
  - Joint ICT
  - Joint Information Management
  - Chiltern Transport Consortium (CTC)
  - South East & Eastern Region Police Insurance Consortium (SEERPIC)

### Collaborations with other emergency services

Collaboration arrangements between the emergency services within Thames Valley are well established and are governed through the Thames Valley Collaboration Steering Group. Membership of this group includes the PCC, Chairmen of Fire Authorities, Oxfordshire's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Fire & Rescue, and the Chairman of the South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS). The Chief Constable, Chief Fire Officers and the Chief Executive of SCAS also attend the Steering Group and an Executive Group of senior officers from each service manage the collaboration.

The emergency services in Thames Valley have a legal obligation to collaborate in the public interest and this has resulted in the creation of the Thames Valley Fire Control Centre, joint procurement of fire and rescue equipment and the alignment of training. Practices have been adopted to allow

firefighters to be deployed to support paramedics in instances where forced entry is required and new arrangements are being considered between Thames Valley Police and the three Fire & Rescue Services to deal with fire investigations. Significant progress has been made in sharing property, particularly between police and fire, which has led to a number of tri-service stations being established across Thames Valley.

The Government has indicated an intention to mandate the transfer of fire governance to PCCs. A white paper is awaited on this subject. Both Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority and Royal Berkshire Fire Authority have extended an invitation to the PCC to attend their meetings when possible and the have access to papers and facilities. There is similarly regular dialogue with Oxfordshire County Council regarding collaboration.

### **Collaboration with Local Authorities**

Collaboration and cooperation with local authorities take various forms, but the two key collaborations in place currently are Community Safety Partnerships and the Violence Reduction Unit.

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are statutory partnerships between local authorities, the police and other local bodies. As PCC I have allocated £7.72m over the next three years to support CSPs. In addition the OPCC is coordinating a data collation and visualisation project, known as InterAct between CSPs and other partners. CSPs receive significant support throughout the year from the OPCC and the PCC meets regularly with CSP managers to discuss local priorities and projects. Future areas of collaboration being considered include public consultation and management of Community Trigger applications.

The PCC is responsible for the Violence Reduction Unit which is a partnership of various organisations including local authorities. The VRU coordinates activities that align with the expected Serious Violence Duty and is also managing a ground-breaking data project – Thames Valley Together.