

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 044/2020
Classification: Not protectively marked
Title of report: National Fleet Purchase Contract
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Essex Police; countywide
Report by: Pippa Brent-Isherwood (Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer) Date of report: 25 March 2020 Enquiries to: Pippa Brent-Isherwood (Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer)

1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to confirm the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC's) commitment to a national fleet purchase contract, ahead of considering signing up to a Section 22 agreement later in the year.

2. Recommendations

That the PFCC signs the Statement of Intent attached at Appendix 1, confirming their commitment to a national fleet purchase contract.

3. Benefits of the proposal

The proposed approach is recommended in order to simplify the process for participating organisations and vehicle manufacturers.

4. Background and proposal

Fleet procurement is part of the Collaborative Law Enforcement Procurement (CLEP) Programme established approximately four years ago in response to the Home Office target for efficiency savings. The CLEP Programme became one of five workstreams overseen by the National Commercial Board when it was established in 2017.

Contracts for the purchase of vehicles are now due for renewal, having been in place for the past four years, and the National Commercial Board has proposed that South Yorkshire leads on a single contract for the purchase of fleet on a national basis.

Simultaneously, PCCs, PFCCs and Chief Constables have agreed to the establishment of a new police commercial organisation to lead on commercial activity, to be known as BlueLight Commercial Limited. The PFCC for Essex has applied for membership of BlueLight Commercial through decision report 041/2020.

While BlueLight Commercial will be responsible for such national contracts in future, and this initiative for fleet will be one of the first national categories moved to it, with an expected go-live date of 1 June 2020, it may not be established before the current multi-force contracts expire, and will also need time to establish itself with vehicle manufacturers. So, in the meantime, the National Association of Police Fleet Managers (NAPFM) has recommended that the Section 22a approach be replicated in order to simplify the process for participating organisations and vehicle manufacturers. PCCs and PFCCs have therefore been invited to sign a Statement of Intent to confirm their commitment to a national fleet purchase contract, ahead of considering signing up to a Section 22 agreement prior to the anticipated contract start date of June 2020.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

The PFCC could chose to procure fleet for Essex Police outside of the proposed new national contract. This approach is not recommended as it would not present comparable benefits in terms of efficiencies and economies of scale as the approach recommended in this report.

6. Police and Crime Plan

The Police and Crime Plan sets out a clear commitment to delivering efficiencies by working more closely with other police forces.

7. Police operational implications

Essex Police's Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on the contents of this report and confirmed that the force is supportive and that Essex Police's Transport Services department has raised no concerns.

8. Financial implications

There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. The financial implications for Essex of the new national contract will be set out in due course through a Section 22 Agreement, which will be approved via a separate decision report.

9. Legal implications

Under the Police Act 1996 and the Policing and Crime Act 2017, Chief Constables and Commissioners may enter into collaboration agreements in respect of various functions. In reaching a conclusion about whether or not a collaboration agreement is, or would be, in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness of the Essex police force, the Commissioner must consider:

- existing collaboration agreements, and other arrangements for co-operation, to which Essex Police is already a party;
- the desirability of police forces taking a consistent approach in making such agreements, and

- the opportunities available to Essex Police to make such agreements.

10. Staffing implications

There are no staffing implications arising for the PFCC from this decision report.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this decision report.

12. Risks

Due to the work involved in the development of standardised specifications, and the need to have an appropriate testing regime in place, the timeline for the new contract being in place has slipped from 1 April to 1 June 2020. This delay has been discussed by the National Association of Police Fleet Managers (NAPFM) Executive Committee, which is confident that the current interim arrangement with manufacturers can be utilised to procure the relatively small number of vehicles that may be required before the new contractual arrangements are in place. The tender was advertised in January, so any risk of challenge from the manufacturers should be mitigated.

13. Governance Boards

The National Association of Police Fleet Managers (NAPFM), which represents the interests of all 43 fleet leaders, has been working in partnership with the Yorkshire & Humber Regional Procurement Team in the delivery of this commercial activity.

The proposal that South Yorkshire leads on a single contract for the purchase of fleet on a national basis was highlighted at the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) General Meeting on 15 January 2020.

The National Commercial Board has also championed this approach, which was endorsed at the BlueLight Commercial Shadow Board meeting on 5 February 2020.

14. Background papers

Decision report 041/2020 (BlueLight Commercial Limited)

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the OPFCC Chief Executive and Treasurer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign:



Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 25 March 2020

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: *N/A – No financial implications.*

Print: *EP's CFO has been consulted and their*

Date: *comments reflected in section 7.*

Publication

Is the report for publication?

YES

NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)

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.....N/A.....

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet?

YES

2. Of Appendix?

YES

NO

NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

.....
.....N/A.....

Date redaction carried out:

Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only

If redaction is required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign:

Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC

Date signed: 2 April 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: