

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 071-21
Classification (e.g. Not protectively marked/restricted): Not protectively marked
Title of report: SEERPIC Section 22 agreement
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by : Matt Tokley, Corporate Accounting Manager Date of report: 29 th April 2021 Enquiries to: Matt Tokley

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To approve the newly revised SEERPIC Section 22a (S22a), which has been prepared on behalf of all the Chief Constables and Police (Fire) and Crime Commissioners of the 20 corporations sole that are members of SEERPIC.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner signs the SEERPIC S22a, and formalises the SEERPIC model under this agreement.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1 The updated S22a will accurately reflect the current SEERPIC model and its governance, giving clarity on roles and responsibilities, and introducing references to specific SEERPIC roles funded by the ten participating forces.
- 3.2 The S22a will formalise arrangements around the running of the board (quorate, voting rights and principles) and outline the approach to termination and withdrawal that gives transparency and clarity to the arrangements, as well as protection to all participating members.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1 SEERPIC has been in existence for 20 years, operating as an insurance purchasing consortium, but also as a vehicle to lever improvements of managing risk across the 10 participating forces / 20 corporations sole with the aim of securing best value of insurance for members.
- 4.2 In 2015, an S22a was drafted to formalise the arrangements under an appropriate agreement. The draft was finalised and agreed in principle and a number of corporations sole did sign the agreement. However, the sign-off process broke down and the S22a was not signed by all 20 corporations sole, and therefore to date has been used as a guide document to help frame an approach for resolving difficult and complex decisions.
- 4.3 The 2015 document, as a guide, has supported the day-to-day running of the SEERPIC model overseen by the board, and discharged through the SEERPIC practitioners from the ten forces. All appropriate insurance tenders and renewals have been delivered on time, and work to improve risk management across key lines of business (in particular motor) has been ongoing.
- 4.4 Therefore, recently renewed efforts have been made to update the S22a. The updated document has been reviewed in detail over several months by the SEERPIC Board, and within the ten forces. The Norfolk Head of Legal, on request of the new SEERPIC Chair, has completed a significant re-draft to update and make the S22a consistent with the APACE national template, and reflect and update the draft with comments and feedback from board members, some OPCC Chief Executives, force legal representatives and insurance practitioners.
- 4.5 The SEERPIC Board supports and endorses the updated S22 agreement and requests each corporation sole to now provide their formal approval.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1 It is a governance weakness not to have a fully signed S22a in place to cover the arrangements that have been business as usual for many years. It is therefore not deemed appropriate for alternative options to be considered, and it is instead deemed imperative that a robust S22a is signed by all principals, including the Essex PFCC.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1 The paper concerns the management of the PFCC's cash and investments, which represent the key resources underwriting all of the priorities and workstreams identified within the Police and Crime Plan.

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1 SEERPIC provides the framework for all of the insurance cover for Essex Police, covering a wide range of operational policing activities, including motor insurance for roads policing and LPA's front-line work, as well as more complex liability related cover relating to potential third-party claims due to policing operations.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 Essex Police benefits considerably from its participation in SEERPIC, not least the economies of scale arising from collective procurement of insurance cover for the ten forces. A SEERPIC lead responsible for co-ordinating all of the related workstreams and projects, and currently employed by Norfolk Police, is also paid for jointly by the ten forces.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1 The legal basis of the SEERPIC framework is the underlying issue for which this decision is requested. The approval of the S22a will mean that the force is legally protected going forward, within a tighter and more transparent agreement.

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1 The ability to have a more defined structure to decision making within SEERPIC will have a direct positive impact on the Corporate Finance team who will be able to work with more consistent and streamlined governance agreements for any papers or decisions requested through the board.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

- 11.1 There is no significant impact of this decision report on equality, diversity or human rights. The proposed S22a will formally set out a clear pathway and strategies for corporations sole to follow, which does not prejudice against any sector or organisation which SEERPIC would otherwise deem it viable to be involved in.

12. Risks

- 12.1 The risks, particularly financial risks relating to potential exposure of insurance cover not being in place and/or claims against Essex Police, are significantly mitigated by a tighter legal agreement being implemented where every member of SEERPIC clearly understands its governance agreements and extent of exposure to potential financial risks. This S22a firms up this legal position and provides a significant reduction in the risk profile for the force.

13. Governance Boards

- 13.1 N/A – this has been deemed a business as usual paper for approval by the OPFCC.

14. Background papers

- 14.1 The supporting S22a document is attached to this decision sheet.

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.

Deputy M.O.

Sign: D. Horsman

Print: Darren Horsman

Date: 29.4.2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: J. Berry

Print: Julia Berry

Date: 29 April 2021

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)

.....
.....

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
NO

2. Of Appendix? YES
NO

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

.....
.....

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.

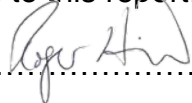
Sign:

Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: ROGER HIRST

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 4 May 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

.....
.....
.....

Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: