

Warwickshire and West Mercia Force and Police Authority Collaboration Agreements

The Statutory Guidance for Police Collaboration 2010 sets out the arrangements under Section 23 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 for police forces and police authorities to deliver collaborative policing services. Amendments occurred to Section 23 by virtue of the new Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Statutory Guidance is to be changed to reflect these changes in the near future.

Warwickshire and West Mercia Police Forces and Police Authorities have developed Section 22A/23 Agreements in accordance with the current Statutory Guidance, and new Act, for four business areas - Local Policing, Protective Services, Enabling Services and Finance. These agreements were signed by the Warwickshire and West Mercia Chief Constables and the Chairs and Chief Executives of the Police Authorities on 13 March 2012.

The objective of the Agreements is to provide an effective and efficient service to both Forces and Authorities through the creation of a Strategic Alliance. The benefits include all or a combination of the following (known as the 'Strategic Alliance Objectives'):

- To provide a more efficient and effective policing service in the geographical areas for which the Parties are responsible for policing; that is for the communities of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.
- Enhanced capability and capacity.
- Greater resilience and flexibility in the use of skilled specialist staff.
- Reduction in duplication of roles and resources.
- Greater opportunity to maximise financial savings.

Section 22A/23 Agreements

The key elements of the Agreements are shown below:

Part 1 The General Agreement

- The General Agreement contains all of the overarching terms.
- The Agreements come into force on 13 March 2012, shall be reviewed by 31 March 2013, may be varied at any time, and will only end if a party unilaterally terminates the arrangements by notice, or the parties jointly agree to terminate.
- Additional partners may be added by agreement between the parties.
- Details are provided of the arrangements for audit and inspection, insurance and liability, sharing of costs, savings and income (on a Warwickshire/West Mercia 31:69 ratio), vetting, Freedom of Information requests, information management and legal compliance.
- The Agreement provides for working towards harmonised policies and procedures. Until those policies are agreed, police officers and police staff will comply with the policies of their home force.
- The legal title to all vehicles, equipment and premises will remain with the providing Police Authority. Ownership of new assets will remain with the purchasing Authority. Revenue costs associated with the asset, where agreed, will be shared in accordance with the Finance Protocol.
- The Chief Constables will retain direction and control for incidents which occur in their own policing area, irrespective of whose officers or staff are involved in the incidents. Direction and control over one forces' own officers and staff therefore "passes" across the border, as is allowed in law and provided for explicitly in the General Agreement. Responsibility for health and safety and professional

standards' issues, however, remains with the chief constable and police authority of the "home force". There are "hold harmless" provisions so that each force does not claim from the other.

Part 2 Police Authority and Police Force Collaboration Agreements (Schedules A-D)

- These individual agreements establish the four Strategic Alliance business areas, and the appointments of the two Strategic Alliance ACCs and two Directors are formally acknowledged.
- The Agreements (taken together with the General Agreement's provisions) make clear that business areas will be staffed by police officers and police staff from Warwickshire and West Mercia who will ultimately work to the ACC Local Policing, to the ACC Protective Services, to the Director of Enabling Services, or to the Director of Finance, although will remain members of their original forces or employees of their original Police Authorities, respectively. Their pay, welfare, pensions, terms and conditions, and other employment and service matters remain the responsibility of the original Police Authority/Chief Constable. Chains of command will therefore contain both Warwickshire and West Mercia officers and staff.

Part 3 Collaboration Agreement Appendices

The appendices include:

- The Terms of Reference for the Warwickshire and West Mercia Police Authorities' Joint Steering Group ('JSG') (made up of the two chairs acting equally). The JSG is specified not be a joint steering committee under Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- The Powers and Duties of the forces' Commissioning Group (the two Chief Constables and two Deputy Chief Constables who are the only roles outside the Strategic Alliance structure).

Part 4 Protocols

Protocols have been developed by business areas to provide guidance for the delivery of collaborative services. At present there are three Protocols:

- Gold Cover arrangements for incidents across the two forces.
- Interim Finance arrangements.
- Interim Procurement arrangements.

In time, the agreed intention is that these protocols will be added to covering the following areas: Procurement (advanced version), Finance (advanced version), RIPA, Designations under the Police Reform Act 2002, HR, Insurance and Liability and Information Management.