



Philip Secombe
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire

Decision Application WPCC20081

AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES BY WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

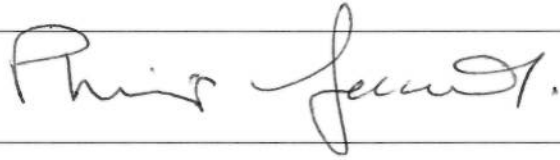
Application Date:	June 2019	Name of Applicant:	Neil Hewison
Application Decision Reference: WPCC20081			
1. Summary of the application			
<p>The purpose of this Agreement is to document the arrangements agreed for the provision of legal services to the PCC by Warwickshire County Council Legal Services from 1st April 2019 to 31st May 2022.</p>			
2. Background information:			
<p>The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner operates within a legal framework. In order for the Commissioner to successfully fulfil his public facing role access to professional legal advice is required. Since the beginning of the Commissioner's term of office (May 2016) this advice has been provided by Warwickshire County Council Legal team.</p> <p>In order to formalise this arrangement the Police and Crime Commissioner has signed a formal SLA for the provision of these legal services for three years expiring in 2022. The agreement can be terminated by either party giving at least 12 months' written notice to expire on 31 March in any year.</p>			
3. Whether additional information/report is attached to support this decision application			
YES			
List of additional information/report			
a) Copy of the Service Level Agreement for the provision of legal services.			

<p>4. Expected benefits (non financial)</p> <p>The Commissioner receives professional legal advice when necessary to assist him with discharging of the legal duties of his office and ensures that he operates within the legal framework and fully complies with legislative requirements of his function.</p>	
<p>5. Impact of not approving the application</p> <p>The Commissioner would not receive the legal advice he requires to discharge his duties. In addition, if legal advice was sought from a private firm of solicitors the cost to the public purse would be greater than the fees outlined in this SLA.</p>	
<p>6. Costs</p> <p>Revenue: A budget of at least £45,000 per annum is set aside to cover the costs of this SLA.</p> <p>Capital: NIL</p>	
<p>7. Savings:</p> <p>Not quantified but the hourly costs stated in the SLA are significantly cheaper than an equivalent contract with a private firm of solicitors.</p>	
<p>8. Equality and Diversity Implications:</p> <p>None identified.</p>	
<p>9. Treasurer's comments</p> <p>The cost of this SLA are included in the OPCC 19/20 office budget.</p>	
<p>10. Legal/Monitoring Officer comments</p> <p>Legally the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is classed as a Local Authority.</p> <p>Local Government Goods and Services Act 1970 states that one local authority can enter into an agreement with another local authority to provide or receive a service. Normally an agreement / contract to deliver £45,000 worth of service would be the subject to the rules of procurement (exceeds £10,000), but the above act permits agreements of this value to be reached without going through a formal procurement process.</p> <p>In reaching such an agreement an open and transparent process must be followed and the agreement must represent value for money. The full agreement is available for public scrutiny on the OPCC website. As stated earlier the hourly rates for service outlined in the agreement are very competitive and compare favourably for those that are currently available in the private sector. There is a national framework for the provision of legal services to the police and this SLA is in line with that framework.</p>	

Decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Approved

PCC Signature:



Date of Decision: 29th May 2019