

n e w s r e l e a s e



October 26, 2010

FINALISED PLANS FOR JOINT ICT & PENSIONS FUNCTIONS **APPROVED**

The approval of two further joint units will bring significant efficiencies to police services across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

On Friday (October 22) both Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Police Authorities gave the go-ahead for the establishment of a joint Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Department from December this year. They also agreed to set up a joint Police Pensions Administration function from November this year, in preparation for delivering the service across both forces from April 2011.

The phased implementation of the joint ICT function will initially save the two forces a total of £350,000 per year. This will increase substantially as work progresses, with savings in the region of £1.7m a year expected within five years.

The joint Police Pensions Administration function for the two forces will bring further efficiencies of around £105,000 from the start of April 2011.

These decisions follow the establishment of a number of successful collaborative initiatives for the two forces over recent years, including a joint Dog Unit, Firearms Support Unit and Major Crime Unit.

Peter Conniff, Chair of Bedfordshire Police Authority, said that the new joint ICT and Police Pensions functions will build on the success of these collaborative ventures. "In light of the recent Comprehensive Spending Review and the need for both forces to address significant budget shortfalls, the financial efficiencies that will be generated by these further joint ventures are to be welcomed. The decision regarding ICT has been made mindful of ongoing work between all forces in the Eastern Region and will not preclude any further, wider collaboration in the future," he said.

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Stuart Nagler, Chair of Hertfordshire Police Authority added: "Collaboration on key areas of administration and infrastructure, such as ICT and Pensions Administration, will bring huge benefits over and above the financial savings which are imperative at this time. Joint information and communication systems will improve the effectiveness of both forces, particularly for officers and staff on the front line, and it will enable us to maintain a good level of policing service to our communities in an increasingly challenging financial climate."

The two forces and police authorities continue to explore further opportunities for collaboration between Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and with other forces and agencies where appropriate.

The work of the Joint Collaboration Programme is overseen by the Joint Police Authority Collaboration Group, which is chaired by Peter Conniff, Chair of Bedfordshire Police Authority and with Stuart Nagler as Vice-Chair representing Hertfordshire. Both Authorities' Chief Executive and three other members from each Authority also form part of the group. Government legislation states that plans to collaborate need formal approval by both Police Authorities before implementation can take place.

ENDS

NOTE TO EDITORS: Library photos of Peter Conniff and Stuart Nagler are obtainable by contacting Sally Patient or Sallie Blair on the contact numbers shown below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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