



# Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

## **Home Office: Consultation on possible criteria for mandating police procurement arrangements**

Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, welcomed the opportunity to comment on the possible criteria for mandating police procurement arrangements and would like to make the following response in relation to the questions raised:

### **1. We recognise that there are differing views on Sprint and its Mandation. We welcome comments on force's experience of using the framework and any supporting evidence on the impact of mandation.**

Sussex Police and Surry Police will provide a joint response detailing their collective experiences of using the Sprint framework and the possible impact of mandation. The Commissioner endorses this response.

### **2. Views are invited on whether these are useful criteria, and suggestions for additional or alternative criteria would be welcome.**

The Commissioner is broadly supportive of the proposed approach that mandation should be a last resort when all other voluntary efforts to join-up procurement have been unsuccessful.

Mrs Bourne recognises that the four criteria used to be consider whether any decision to mandate is a proportionate response could be developed further to include:

#### *Criteria 1 – Value for money*

Expanded to include information management and how this will be used to quantify value for money achievement. For example, data collected will be used to identify demand trends, opportunities and aggregation potential.

#### *Criteria 2 – Proportionate with existing resource levels*

It is recognised that locally a commissioning function will be retained and so, in most cases, it will be more realistic to introduce voluntary mandation (where the community commits to a direction) that is managed with the commercial directorate of the Home Office.

#### *Criteria 3 – Maintaining a competitive market*

Mandation will need to consider the impact to markets through its structure and its role as an enabler rather than an inhibitor. A mandated procurement system can deter bidders, as they see potential time delays, restrictions and lack of flexibility in the specification and ITT.

In addition to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and local suppliers it must consider sustainability, equality, ethical downstream supplier relationships and social added value of the agreements.

#### *Criteria 4 – Flexible to meet market changes*

This requirement should be used to provide market awareness and be flexible to enable adaption to forecast trends and requirements. Currently the focus is around adapting to changes after the event, rather than in anticipation of the situation. One aspect should be the ability to forecast forward trends and risks, so that police forces can make the adaptations needed to implement further forward.

#### **Q3. Views are invited on the extent to which forces are planning to use the new frameworks, or whether they are making alternative long-term contractual arrangements, particularly in relation to commodity IT.**

The Commissioner expects that Sussex Police will use the Crown Commercial framework as the first procurement option and that it will be assessed against the desired outcome. In situations where it is unable to meet the outcome, alternative options will be used. Sussex Police and Surrey Police will provide specific details of their current procurement plans.

#### **General Observations**

In addition to the points raised above, Mrs Bourne acknowledges that successful mandation will work best if the following conditions are present:

- ✓ specific areas are targeted that can provide strong aggregation;
- ✓ contracts are flexible enough to support local practices/conditions;
- ✓ strong, quality data is provided that highlights opportunities and also allows police forces to see real evidence;
- ✓ engagement is focused at both key stakeholder and procurement teams;