

ITEM FOR DECISION



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
POLICE AUTHORITY**

DATE	27th April 2011
COMMITTEE/PANEL	Police Authority
REPORT AUTHOR	Deputy Chief Executive & Treasurer

Joint Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Helicopter- Maintenance

PURPOSE

1. To provide information supporting the business case for the Helicopter Maintenance to be transferred to the Eastern Counties Police Maintenance – a Police collaboration currently supporting Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Members are requested to:

Approve the new arrangement for Helicopter Maintenance with the provision of this being made through a collaboration agreement with the Eastern Counties Police Maintenance.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To obtain agreement from Members on the proposed solution relating to the provision of Helicopter Maintenance.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. The North Midlands Helicopter Support Unit (NMHSU) is a joint service for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Police.

For the past 10 years the Helicopter Maintenance contract has been with Eurocopter UK Limited (ECUK). On 8th March 2011 the company announced that it would not extend the contract beyond the 31st March 2011 on the current terms and inflated its prices in line with an alternative contractor on the same Framework agreement.

There would be a reduction in the service provided and a significant increase in costs with either of these providers. The now former Maintenance Contract cost c£88,000 and this included cover for up to 850 flying hours.

Four alternative options were considered, three of which were subsequently

discounted based on cost and the fact that there was also a reduction in the level of service. These ranged from £120,000 to £144,000.

The fourth option is the Eastern Counties Police Maintenance (ECPM). This was established 4 years ago. It is a CAA approved police in-house maintenance organisation providing helicopter maintenance for three helicopters owned by Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire. The collaboration arrangement for this Consortium is administered under Section 23 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

ECPM has agreed to add and maintain the NMHSU helicopter and it is estimated that the cost for this service will not exceed £100,000. There would be no reduction in the number of flying hours covered for this price – 850 flying hours. There is no additional labour cost for flying hours above 850 flying hours. Other operational benefits exist such as a dedicated engineer based at Ripley.

This is not a commercial contract and therefore can be terminated at anytime if the arrangement does not work effectively.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

5. There will be an increase in the cost of maintenance within the budget up to a maximum of an additional £12,000 between both forces.

Since 1st April 2011 the Unit has had to pay for maintenance on a pay as you go contract. This is not cost effective and therefore a better solution needs to be put in place as soon as possible.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6. Once Members give their agreement to this there will need to be a section 23 agreement between Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and the ECPM.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

7. This matter was discussed at the Members Business meeting 13.04.11 and was supported by the Members at the Joint Panel meeting on 12.04.11.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. Report of the Policy Group to the North Midlands Helicopter Support Unit Joint Members Panel 12.04.11

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT: Charlotte Radford

ALSO: