

AGENDA NO: 8



INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE – 18 SEPTEMBER 2018

FORCE GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY POLICY

REPORT BY SUPT PETE WINDLE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update and inform the Independent Audit Committee as to the current position within the Strategic Alliance concerning Gifts and Hospitality.

1. BACKGROUND TO CURRENT POSITION

- 1.1 Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police currently have separate policies and procedures that deal with gifts and hospitality received by serving members of the force.
- 1.2 Within these policies there a number of differences in what is allowed to be accepted and the process for ensuring these are approved, recorded, published and scrutinised.
- 1.3 In 2017 the South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) conducted an independent review of the Forces' policies, as well as those of the two Police and Crime Commissioners.
- 1.4 This review led to a number of recommendations to consider in a single policy for both Forces.
- 1.5 The Force Professional Standards Department (PSD) are in effect the 'owners' of the relevant policies and are currently conducting a harmonisation process of all their policies and procedures, as part of the implementation of the Alliance PSD business case.
- 1.6 At present the Gifts and Hospitality policies have yet to be harmonised but work is underway for this to be done and to incorporate the recommendations from the SWAP audit conducted in 2017.

2. CONCLUSION

- 2.1 The Gifts and Hospitality registers within Devon and Cornwall Police are still in place and continue to be managed in line with the existing policy.
- 2.2 However it is recognised that with the implementation of the Strategic Alliance single PSD across both Forces and the review of the existing policies by SWAP, the existing policy and working practices are likely to undergo changes in the coming months.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Once the existing policies have been formally harmonised and adopted across the Alliance they will be brought to the Independent Audit Committee for information. It is intended for the policies to be brought to the April 2019 meeting, along with examples of recent registers of those gifts and hospitality accepted by members of the Force.

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