



AGENDA NO: 12

INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE: 29 JULY 2020

FORCE GIFTS AND GRATUITIES 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 the receipt, recording and authorisation of Gifts and Gratuities.

1. Background to current position.

- 1.1 Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police have previously had separate policies and procedures that detail what can be accepted as a gift or gratuity by members of the force, how such matters are recorded and the agreed authorisation process.
- 1.2 The Alliance Professional Standards Department (PSD) is the 'owner' of the relevant policies and has conducted a review of the previous separate force policies and harmonised them into one single policy which is attached.
- 1.3 The new policy seeks to encompass best practise from both forces and to provide clear guidelines to officers and staff on what would generally be acceptable or not.
- 1.4 The new policy also recognises that many national organisations do negotiate 'deals' with large employers such as the police and other public sectors through staff associations and unions. It also reflects the prominence of the 'Blue light Card' scheme which many officers and staff make use of.
- 1.5 The policy is currently subject of formal consultation and is awaiting publication following any feedback received.

Freedom of Information Classification – Open

2. CONCLUSION

- 2.1 There are existing policies currently in place within both Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police which detail the existing approach for managing gifts and gratuities offered or provided to staff and officers.
- 2.2 The attached policy seeks to harmonise the two policies and provide a consistent approach in both force areas.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The single harmonised policy is noted by the Committee.

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