

Procurement

Driver – Economic

Related Drivers – Recession, Reducing Bureaucracy, Collaborative Working, Efficiency, Police Funding, Public Sector Productivity, Advances in Technology, Compatibility, Mobile Technology, Conservative Party Reform, Police Mergers

Background

Research carried out for the *Flanagan Review of Policing* identified what forces need to ensure that they have most effective procurement strategy which includes the following resources, skills and ability:

- Ability to develop effective procurement strategies
- Realisation that contracts require ongoing management and action between competitions
- Strong supplier and customer relationship management.¹

The independent think tank, Policy Exchange, published a report on the challenges faced by the police in containing its costs and balancing protective services, counter terrorism and neighbourhood policing. One recommendation was that the NPIA should establish a training programme that would ensure police forces have well trained procurement staff, able to get the best terms from private partnership contracts.²

Collaborative working also plays a role in procurement strategies. Collaborating on shared police services such as marked vehicles, forensic science service and uniforms can give better value for money. Although some shared services do exist, there is scope to extend the range of collaboration. This is a particular area of development for Chief Constables and police authorities.^{3,4,5}

Potential Skills Needs

Change management skills – manage change at both an organisational and personal level effectively

Collaborative working skills – working effectively with colleagues and other forces in procurement of goods and services

Contract management skills – effective management of contracts throughout the contractual process

Customer service skills – delivering a consistent high quality service

Procurement management skills – getting the best terms when procuring services

Process management skills – developing effective procurement strategies

¹ [Flanagan, Sir Ronnie \(2008\) *The Review of Policing: Final Report*. London: Home Office.](#)

² [Loveday, B. & McClory, J. \(2007\) *Footing the Bill: Reforming the Police Service*. London: Policy Exchange.](#)

³ [Home Office \(2008\) *From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our communities together*. Cm 7448, London: The Stationery Office Ltd](#)

⁴ [Home Office \(2008\) *From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our communities together – Summary of Green Paper consultation responses and next steps*. London: Home Office.](#)

⁵ [HMIC \(2009\) *Getting together: A better deal for the public through joint working*. London: HMIC.](#)