



# HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

## HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF THE PANEL

Gavin Miles, Head of Legal Services,  
Broxbourne Borough Council

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:-

- 1 Consider the report of the HCC Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the context of its work plan for future years.

### Purpose of Report

To review the Panel's work plan in the light of a review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Hertfordshire County Council.

### Background

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Hertfordshire County Council included the panel on its work plan and conducted a one day scrutiny during March 2014. Members were advised and invited to contribute. Councillors Hannam (Broxbourne and chairman of the PCP), Ruffles (Hertfordshire County Council) and Hunter (North Hertfordshire District Council) attended and contributed and answered questions and Mr Laidlaw-Dickson (Co-opted for political balance, Labour Party) provided a written view. The agenda and supporting papers can be seen via this link: [http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic\\_calendar/overviewscrutiny/18314065/](http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/overviewscrutiny/18314065/)

## **Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The representative from HCC, Councillor Ruffles will comment on the report. The summary report is at appendix A. The development of the work of the panel to scrutinise policing policy is mentioned elsewhere on the agenda in the work planning item. The PCC currently uses his regular meetings with portfolio holders from the local authorities in Hertfordshire to discuss such policy issues and this results in changes to the policing plan which are then scrutinised by the panel before the plan and any changes to it are published. However, there may be topics where the panel can add value in this stage of policy development and the office of the PCC has been requested to consider this.

The HCC Overview and Scrutiny Committee also recommends improvements are made in terms of public and other attendance and interest in the panel's work. As mentioned in the report for item 6 on the agenda, the panel has been approached by others wishing to improve their public participation as this panel has one of the highest levels of public participation. One other proposal that has been made, that of web casting meetings would not be feasible unless the panel did not rotate meetings around the county as now but instead met only at council facilities with web casting arrangements.

### **Financial Legal and Risk implications**

The panel is constrained by the grant from the Home Office which is fully utilised in operating the panel as it is. Any additional expenditure would be shared by the local authorities in Hertfordshire and a request to them for additional funding would have to be made via the Leaders' group meeting. This would obviously be considered in the light of the financial situation facing all local authorities currently.

Background papers:

HCC Overview and Scrutiny papers 19 March 2014