



HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

FUTURE WORKING WITH THE PCC

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Item 7

6 December 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That the Panel considers any comments the PCC has on the Draft Protocol for joint working between the Panel and the Commissioner, and approves it.
- 2 That the Panel considers how to operate the meeting for the consideration of the PCC's precept proposal.
- 3 That the Panel raises any issues from the constituent councils to inform the PCC of areas of mutual concern.

Purpose of Report

For the Panel to approve a working protocol between the PCP and the PCC to assist both bodies with their respective roles. In addition to allow members to raise with the PCC issues arising from the constituent councils' budget preparations, in particular relating to crime and disorder issues.

Background

The shadow Panel was appraised in October of the very tight timescales that are in place for discussion of the proposed precept at the next meeting in January 2013. A draft protocol (at appendix 1) was discussed and put forward for the PCC to comment with a view to adopting it to set out a way to work together. As well as having to consider the PCC precept members will at the same time be working in their own councils to consider their own

budget requirements and a part of this will be crime and disorder related issues of common concern with the PCC.

Precept As previously discussed the statutory timescales effectively require the Panel to report to the PCC on the precept proposal at the meeting it is considered. If a veto is considered that will have to be voted on at the meeting as well. The protocol requires the proposal of the PCC to be set out with background budget papers to allow members to achieve this. The budget supporting the precept will include issues members of the Panel are likely to want to discuss with the PCC because of links with their own councils' work, for example funding of crime and disorder issues, PCSOs etc. It is suggested the PCC should be requested to outline the budget proposals to the Panel in a way that permits discussion of the aspects that are of mutual concern. The Panel is invited to consider a method of conducting the meeting in January with the PCC to allow full discussion of the budget and associated issues. To this end a paper will be issued before the January meeting with proposals and members are invited to contribute suggestions to this piece of work. The Home Office guidance on the process is attached.

Work Plan The Panel has been informed of the likely work plan. In addition, it is likely the PCC will wish to appoint a Deputy PCC so a confirmation hearing will be required. The date of this depends on when the PCC notifies the Panel of the required information and the meeting must be within 3 weeks of that date. This is a special function so the meeting must be of the full Panel and not a sub-committee. At its meeting on 25 October the Panel indicated that some background on the major issue of the options for organisational support be provided. A paper has been provided by the PCC's office.

Local Government Association support The LGA has provided a support 'knowledge hub' for police and crime panels nationally. Best practice will be taken from this to assist with the Panel's working. This resource has already been used to steer the panel's terms of reference and rules of procedure. Members may sign up for access to this resource via the LGA web site.

Conclusion

The protocol with the PCC will need to be reviewed as experience is gained as to how it works. The Panel will need to vote by the required majority at the meeting in January if it is to veto the proposed precept and even if not, it will need to conclude with recommendations that form a report to the PCC and constituent authorities of the Panel's views of the proposed precept.