Recommendations

1. Members of the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel (PCP) are invited to consider and agree its work programme

2. That membership of the Budget Scrutiny Group for 2019-20 is agreed.

Background

3. Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Panel is responsible for scrutinising the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) exercise of their statutory functions. This includes:

   (a) The power of veto, by a two-thirds majority of the total panel membership, over the level of the PCC's proposed precept;

   (b) The power to review the Police and Crime Plan and make recommendations to the PCC who must have regard to them;

   (c) The power to review the PCC's annual report and make recommendations at a public meeting, which the PCC must attend;

   (d) The power to require the PCC to attend the Panel to answer questions.

Some of these functions are carried out at a specific time of year – for example the precept must be considered and a view given to the PCC by 8 February each year.

4. As a Scrutiny body the Panel reviews decisions made by the PCC, performance and issues of concern or interest. It is not possible to carry out all these functions in detail and it the Panel needs to plan its workload and agree its priorities.

5. The enclosed work programme has been compiled in consultation with the Chairman of the Panel and takes into account 'routine' items, items which are required to be considered by the Panel at particular points in the year and topics for which the Panel has asked the PCC to provide a report.

6. In previous years in support of its role to consider the proposed precept, the Panel has established a Budget Scrutiny Task Group which has met with the PCC to examine the budget and strategic issues impacting on the precept prior to consideration by the Panel. The Panel agreed with the PCC in February that this year the Task Group would meet during the year – likely to be in October – to review progress with the issues highlighted in the precept discussion. It is envisaged that this Group will also review the 2020-21 budget and precept preparation prior to discussion at the February Panel meeting.
7. Members have been approached to seek interest in joining this group and the Panel is asked to support its establishment and membership.

8. Members are also asked to consider, update if appropriate and agree the Work Programme.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1: West Mercia Police and Crime Panel Work Programme

Specific Contact Points for this Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here