

20 OCTOBER 2015

PANEL WORK PLAN AND FUTURE MEETINGS

Recommendation

1. It is recommended that the Panel:
 - a) considers the content of the report and the proposed work plan
 - b) agrees to the approach suggested for the work programme for October 2015 – March 2016 (paragraphs 5 & 6)
 - c) determines the membership of a task and finish group to the Police and Crime Plan
 - d) determines the membership of the budget task and finish group
 - e) notes the Chairman's proposal to meet regularly with the Warwickshire PCP Chair and Vice Chair
 - f) notes the future Panel meeting dates and determines whether to continue meeting around the West Mercia area

Purpose

2. To propose a work plan for the Panel to cover the period October 2015 - March 2016.

Background

3. A work plan for the Panel enables members to prepare in advance and gives officers from each of the West Mercia Local Authorities time to brief their respective Panel Members prior to each meeting. It also assists the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in preparing their reports. It is not intended to set out the full agendas for meetings, as consideration must always be given to any matters arising over the period which may require the attention of the Panel, and there must remain a degree of flexibility in the Panel's approach.

4. In October 2014 the Panel agreed a work plan which set out a schedule of when the Panel would consider each of the 11 West Mercia Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017 objectives.

Review of the Police and Crime Plan

5. The Panel has a duty to review the Police and Crime Plan and Annual Report and review and scrutinise decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner. To enable the Panel to conduct the required scrutiny of progress made against the Plan on a cyclical basis, it is suggested that "Progress made against the Police and Crime Plan objectives" remain as a standing agenda item, and that the Panel focus its discussions on a few of the objectives each time.

6. As the Commissioner is moving towards the end of his four year term, it is suggested that in February 2016 – alongside consideration of the 2015/16 Annual Report – the Panel also receive an overview report from the PCC focusing upon his full term in office.

7. Looking ahead, it is also proposed that a Task and Finish Group be established to examine the current Police and Crime Plan. The Task and Finish Group would look at the Plan's priorities, actual outcomes of its objectives, the value for money achieved and the challenges that are likely to be faced in the future. It is hoped the findings could inform the development of the next Plan.

8. The Panel is asked to determine membership of this Task and Finish Group, which would give an interim report back to the Panel in February 2016.

Budget Task and Finish Group

9. As in previous years it is proposed that the Panel establishes a task and finish group to scrutinise the proposed budget and precept, before it is considered by the whole Panel in February 2016. The Task and Finish Group would meet in January 2016. The Panel is asked to determine membership of this Task and Finish Group.

Strategic Alliance between West Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police

10. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman have suggested that they set up a liaison arrangement with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel. The intention is to meet on a six-monthly basis to exchange information and proposals which may be of mutual interest. It would be useful for this to be in place before next May's Commissioner elections and it is suggested the Chairman and Vice-Chairman report back to the Panel in February 2016.

Future Panel Meetings

11. The Panel is asked to determine whether they wish to continue moving the Panel meetings around the West Mercia area, or whether to hold all meetings at County Hall, Worcester. Meeting in Worcester reduces the need for members to make long journeys across the West Mercia area and its proximity to the Commissioner's office at Hindlip facilitates their attendance. The benefits of circulating around the area are that it potentially enables access to the meeting for members of the public across West Mercia, and all members would occasionally have shorter journeys.

12. Future meeting dates (all meetings to be in the afternoon) are:

- Tuesday 8 December 2015
- Tuesday 2 February 2016
- (Tuesday 16 February 2016 if necessary)
- Wednesday 6 July 2016
- Wednesday 5 October 2016
- Wednesday 7 December 2016
- Wednesday 8 February 2017

Contact Point

Suzanne O'Leary, Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager
Worcestershire County Council
Tel: 01905 728673
Email: so'leary@worcestershire.gov.uk