

# **North Yorkshire**

# **Police and Crime Panel**

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**Presentation to City of York Council**

**12 March 2013**



# Background

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- Coalition Manifesto - perceived lack of accountability of police authorities to the communities they serve.
- Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 replaces police authorities with directly elected police and crime commissioners, scrutinised by police and crime panels.



## Key facts (1)

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- Panel is a joint committee of the nine local authorities in the NY police area.
- Scrutinises the actions and decisions of the commissioner.
- Ensures that information is available to enable the public to hold the commissioner to account.
- Meets in public.



## Key facts (2)

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- The functions of the panel must be exercised with a view to supporting the effective exercise of the functions of the commissioner – a critical friend.
- The panel is not the police authority!



# Membership (1)

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- Ten councillors, at least one from each of the nine local authorities.
- Two independent members co-opted by the panel.
- Automatic membership for an elected mayor.
- Balanced appointment objective (with provision for additional co-options).



## Membership (2)

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- **Craven District Council** Cllr Simon Myers - Conservative
  - **Hambleton District Council** Cllr Neville Huxtable - Conservative
  - **Harrogate Borough Council** Cllr Margaret Atkinson - Conservative
  - **North Yorkshire County Council** Cllr Carl Les - Conservative
  - **Richmondshire District Council** Cllr Mick Griffiths - Independents
  - **Ryedale District Council** Cllr Eric Hope - Conservative
  - **Selby District Council** Cllr Gillian Ivey - Conservative
  - **Scarborough Borough Council** Cllr Brian Simpson - non aligned
  - **City of York Council** Cllr Fiona Fitzpatrick - Labour
  - **City of York Council** Cllr Dafydd Williams - Labour
  - **Independent Co-opted** Professor Gary Craig
  - **Independent Co-opted** Santokh Singh Sidhu
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- **Chair 2012/13** Cllr Carl Les
  - **Vice-Chairs 2012/13** Cllr Fiona Fitzpatrick & Cllr Gillian Ivey



# Responsibilities (1)

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- Review (in public) the commissioner's
  - draft police and crime plan
  - draft precept (4 February)
  - annual report

and make recommendations to the commissioner, who must have regard to them and publish a response.



## Responsibilities (2)

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- Hold confirmation hearings for the commissioner's proposed chief constable (imminent), chief executive, chief finance officer and any deputy commissioner.
- Review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the commissioner in connection with the discharge of her functions.





## Responsibilities (3)

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- Monitor all complaints about the commissioner, although criminal issues must be passed to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).
- Appoint an acting commissioner if the commissioner is incapacitated, resigns or disqualified.



# Power of veto

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- Veto, by two-thirds majority, the commissioner's proposed
  - first draft precept
  - first candidate for chief constable



# Enabling powers (1)

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- Access to all papers in the commissioner's possession (except those which are operationally sensitive).
- Require the commissioner to attend the panel to answer questions.
- Request the chief constable to attend the panel at the same time as the commissioner to answer questions.



## Enabling powers (2)

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- Ask Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) for a professional view when the commissioner intends to dismiss or require the resignation of the chief constable.



# Establishment of the panel

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- Panel arrangements agreed.
- North Yorkshire County Council appointed as host authority.
- Panel members appointed.
- Panel induction September to November 2012.
- Commissioner elected 15 November 2012, took up office 22 November 2012.



# Work programme

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- Panel induction - completed
- Procedures, protocols and relationships.
- Considered draft precept for 2013/14.
- Police and Crime Plan 2012/17 (21 March PCPanel meeting).
- Confirmation hearings (in particular chief constable appointment).



# Links to local authorities

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- Joint committee of the nine local authorities.
- Every local authority appoints at least one member.
- Key messages published after every meeting.
- Annual opportunity for briefing on the panel.



# Website

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- [www.nypartnerships.org.uk/pcp](http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/pcp)
  - Contact details
  - Panel arrangements
  - Members and their contact details
  - Meeting dates and papers
  - Key messages (after each meeting)
  - Reports and recommendations