

Formation of Police & Crime Panel – Information Only Report

Summary

1. This report provides information due to be presented at a meeting of Local Government North Yorkshire & York on 20 January 2012 on the arrangements for the establishment of a Police and Crime Panel.

Background & Context

2. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act received Royal Assent on Thursday, 15th September 2011. It introduces directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners to replace Police Authorities.
3. In November 2012 the public will elect the first Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC's). They will, for the first time, give the public a direct say in the policing of their area. Police and Crime Commissioners will set the policing priorities for their force area, commission services needed to reduce crime and improve community safety, and set the police precept. Strong local partnership working will ensure that the best outcomes are delivered for communities.
4. The Act requires the local authorities in each police force area to establish a police and crime panel (PCP), as a joint committee, to scrutinise the directly elected police and crime commissioner (PCC).
5. The Act says that if an authority has an elected mayor, the mayor is automatically the authority's representative. Otherwise it is up to individual councils to decide who to appoint, but they have a duty to secure (as far as is reasonably practicable) that the appointed members represent the political make-up of the local authorities within the police area (when taken together). Locally, the aim is that councils will make their appointments at their annual meetings in May 2012 so that the panel can be established and briefed, ready to take up its full role in November 2012.
6. Through Local Government North Yorkshire & York (LGNYY), local authority leaders have established a members' working group to steer

development of the panel arrangements, made up of the following elected Members:

- Craven District Council - Cllr Christopher Knowles-Fitton (Leader)
- Hambleton District Council - Cllr Neville Huxtable (Leader)
- Harrogate Borough Council - Cllr Nick Brown (Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Rural Affairs)
- North Yorkshire County Council - Cllr Carl Les (Portfolio Holder for Community Safety)
- Richmondshire District Council - Cllr John Blackie (Leader)
- Ryedale District Council - Cllr Eric Hope (Member Champion for Health and Safety Enforcement)
- Scarborough Borough Council - Cllr Brian Simpson (Community Safety Portfolio Holder)
- Selby District Council - Cllr Gillian Ivey (Deputy Leader)
- City of York Council - Cllr Sandy Fraser (Portfolio Holder for Community Safety)

7. Each authority has also nominated a lead officer to assist in developing the panel arrangements. For York, the lead officer is the Assistant Director of IT & Governance.

8. It has been suggested that the Home Office will provide around £40,000 per panel per year, for at least the first year. Any costs over and above the grant from the Home Office which has yet to be confirmed, will be shared between the nine local authorities on the basis of population, with the County Council and respective district council sharing equally the cost in respect of the population of each North Yorkshire district council area. Once the Home Officer grant ends, the nine local authorities across this region will be required to contribute to the cost of the panel. Based on a budget of £40,000 the split between those authorities would be as follows:

• Craven DC	£1,402
• Hambleton DC	£2,176
• Harrogate BC	£3,933
• North Yorkshire CC	£14,967
• Richmondshire DC	£1,310
• Ryedale DC	£1,340
• Scarborough BC	£2,722
• Selby DC	£2,082
• C of York C	£10,066

Consultation

9. The Home Office is holding a series of events designed to inform local planning and preparations for the transition and give the opportunity to learn about and consider the relationship between PCCs and partners.
10. As well as a number of senior partner events, there will also be a number of scrutiny workshops held, aimed at relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairs/Members, Scrutiny Officers & Heads of Legal Services. The workshops will provide the opportunity to:
 - Consider Local Authorities' role in establishing Police and Crime Panels, the requirements for setting them up and membership
 - Examine the powers and role of the panels
 - Consider how complaints will be dealt with
11. The proposed date for the workshop to be held in this region has yet to be confirmed. However, in the meantime each local authority has been asked to nominate relevant Members and officers to attend a workshop. Once nominations have been received, and the dates have been finalised, official invitations will be sent.

Council Plan 2011-15

12. Building strong communities is a priority within the Council Plan 2011-15. Communities will be empowered to influence and shape the services they receive from both the Council and its partners. The Police & Crime Commissioner has a duty to have regard to the opinion of local people when developing a five year police and crime plan. The Police & Crime Panel will scrutinise the work of the Commissioner and therefore it is important that the Panel is successfully established and effective in its role.

Implications & Risk Management

13. This report is for information only and therefore there are no implications or risks associated with the recommendation below.

Recommendation

14. Members are recommended to:
 - i. Note the information contained within this cover report and the report attached at Annex A;

- ii. Nominate two committee members to attend the workshop referred to in paragraphs 6 & 7 above.

Reason: In order that the Committee is kept informed on the arrangements for the establishment of a Police and Crime Panel.

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Report Approved

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: N/A

Annexes

Annex A – LGNYY Report