North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Presentation to City of York Council
12 March 2013
Background

- 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.
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)

- 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)

- 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)

- **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

- **Chair 2012/13** Cllr Carl Les
- **Vice-Chairs 2012/13** Cllr Fiona Fitzpatrick & Cllr Gillian Ivey
Responsibilities (1)

- 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)

- 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)

- 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

- Veto, by two-thirds majority, the commissioner’s proposed
  - first draft precept
  - first candidate for chief constable
Enabling powers (1)

- 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)

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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