

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

Date of Meeting: 22 September 2017

**Report of: Brian Reed , Head of Governance and Democratic Services,
Cheshire East Council**

Subject/Title: Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) – Consultation on proposals for national representation

1. Report Summary

The Panel is requested to agree a response to the consultation on proposals for a national representative body for PCPs.

2. Recommendation

That the Panel consider and approve the response to the consultation on proposals for a national representative body for PCPs, as set out below:-.

“With regard to the proposals for a national representative body for PCPs, Cheshire PCP considers that a Special Interest Group (SIG) within the LGA is likely to be a more effective first step.

PCPs can often see a rapid turnover of political representation, which may prove difficult when giving life to an Association. It is considered beneficial that professional decision makers in the public sector have their own Associations. However, PCP members are scrutineers and not decision makers charged with developing policy positions and shaping services. The PCP receives good sources of reference information and has even received direct consultations for consideration, in the past. There are also means by which PCP members across the country can come together to network, such as conferences etc.

It is suggested that contact be made with central Government to ascertain whether the formation of such an Association would be welcomed and if so, what degree of interaction central Government would expect to give to supporting and listening to such a body.

It is considered that a SIG, under the umbrella of the LGA, would better facilitate an evolutionary process towards a full Association of Police and Crime Panels (APCP), should that position be reached. A SIG within the LGA, providing support, continuity and design, aligned to the question of Government willingness towards a formalised APCP could provide a more robust foundation”.

3. Background information

Notification has been received that Councillor Tim Hutchings, Chairman of the Hertfordshire PCP, has over recent months been coordinating some discussions on the subject of a national representative body for PCPs. He has now consolidated the thinking to date into a discussion paper, which is attached at Appendix I to the report. PCP's views have been sought, with a view to a revised document being issued in mid-October, to inform a discussion and agreement on the way forward at the PCP's national conference on 6 November 2017. Comments have been requested by Friday 22 September 2017. The above suggested response has been formulated following consultation with Panel members.

4. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications at this stage.

5. Equality Implications

No direct equalities implications would appear to arise from the recommendations of this report.

6. Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:-

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