

# Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

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**Date of Meeting:** 11 June 2021

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

**Subject:** Cheshire Police and Crime Panel Budget 2021/22

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## **1. Report Summary**

1.1 This report outlines a proposed budget for Panel for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

## **2. Recommendation**

2.1 Recommended that:

- (i) The Panel receive and approve the budget for the year.

## **3. Background information**

3.1 Since the creation of Police and Crime Panels, the Home Office have paid a ring-fenced grant to the host authority (Cheshire East Council) to maintain a Police and Crime Panel for the Cheshire Police area, so that the Panel can carry out its functions and responsibilities as set out in the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Grant for 2020/21 was £65,260. At the time of writing this report it was not known what the grant for the current year will be, but it anticipated that it will be the same as for 2020/21.

3.2 The host Authority's Section 151 Officer and a nominated Finance Manager act of behalf of the Panel to maintain and manage the grant.

## **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 A working outline budget has been developed for the 2021/22 Municipal Year. This will provide a mechanism to provide appropriate support to the Panel and enable the grant to be claimed at the year end.

4.2 The outline budget for the year is:

**PROJECTED EXPENDITURE**

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Support provided by staff in Cheshire East Council's Corporate Services Department, including Legal, Democratic Services, Finance, Communications and web team | £48,800        |
| Webcasting of meetings (provided by Cheshire West and Chester Council)   | £2,500         |
| Member Allowances and expenses   | £11,960        |
| Room hire, training, conferences and membership of regional group  | £2,000         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>£65,260</b> |

4.3 Support to the Panel is provided by a range of Officers from within Cheshire East's Corporate Services Department as outlined in the table above. The principal support officers are:

- Head of Democratic Services and Governance;
- Registration and Civic Services Manager;
- Head of Legal Services;
- Corporate Services Finance Manager, and
- Director of Governance and Compliance Services.

4.4 In 2020/21 there was no expenditure on webcasting or room hire and less expenditure than anticipated on training and conferences. However, work developing and operating the newly introduced complaints management system, and in developing the draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Commissioner did involve a significant amount of additional work for the Panel's Secretariat. Whilst there was no expenditure on webcasting, the Panel did benefit from the host authority's very significant investment in Microsoft Teams, which enabled meetings to be held virtually. Holding meetings virtually necessitated the host authority providing additional trained support staff to undertake the "producer" roles, vital for the successful delivery of virtual meetings to which the public have access. Taken overall the amount of support provided exceeded the projected cost outlined in the 2020/21 budget. The amount that can be claimed from the Home Office will not change.

## 5. Equality implications

5.1 There are no specific equality issues related to this report.

## 6. Contact information

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