



## Cheshire Police and Crime Panel Agenda

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>Friday, 1st December, 2017</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>10.05 am, or at the later conclusion of the reconvened meeting of the Panel</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ</b>

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The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

### **PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT**

#### **1. Apologies**

Members are reminded that, in accordance with governance procedure rule 2.7, Panel Members, or their constituent authority, may nominate substitute members of the Panel in the event that the appointed representative(s) is/are unable to attend the meeting. Advance notice of substitution should be given to the host authority wherever possible. Members are encouraged wherever possible to secure the attendance of a substitute if they are unable to be present.

#### **2. Code of Conduct - Declaration of Interests. Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012**

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when the item is reached.

#### **3. Public Participation**

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**Contact:** Julie North, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
**Tel:** 01270 686460  
**E-Mail:** [julie.north@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:julie.north@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

To receive questions from members of the public in accordance with governance procedure rule 14. A total period of 15 minutes will be allocated for members of the public to speak at Panel meetings. Each member of the public shall be limited to a period of up to 5 minutes speaking.

Members of the public may speak on any matter relating to the work of the Panel. During public speaking time, members of the public may ask questions of the Panel and the Chairman, in responding to the question, may answer the question, may decline to do so, may agree to reply at a later date or may refer the question to an appropriate person or body.

Questions will be asked and answered without discussion. In order for officers to undertake any background research, members of the public who wish to ask a question at a Panel meeting should submit the question at least a day before the meeting.

Members of the public are able to put questions direct to Cheshire's Police and Crime Panel via social media platform Twitter.

The Cheshire Police and Crime Panels' Twitter account @CheshirePCP

4. **Feedback from the Sixth National Conference for Police and Crime Panels**  
(Pages 3 - 6)

To receive a report providing feedback from the sixth national conference for Police and Crime Panels.

5. **Limiting Response Time to Questions** (Pages 7 - 10)

To consider whether the Panel wishes to amend its Procedure Rules to place limitations on the time taken by the Commissioner to answer questions from Panel members.

**11.00am THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE FOLLOWING PART OF THE MEETING**

6. **Overview and Scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner - Questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner**

7. **Work Programme** (Pages 11 - 12)

To consider the Work Programme.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next meeting will take place on Friday 2 February 2018, at 10am, at Wyvern House, the Drummer, Winsford.



# Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

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**Date of Meeting: December**

**Report of:** Mr Bob Fousert.

**Subject/Title:** Feedback from the sixth national conference for Police and Crime Panels

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## 1. Report Summary

To receive feedback from the sixth national Conference for Police & Crime Panels (PCPs), held on 6 November 2017, at the Warwick Conference Centre, attended on behalf of the Panel by Mr Bob Fousert.

## 2. Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

## 3. Background information

Bob Fousert attended the sixth national conference for PCPs, on behalf of the Panel and has provided the following report on the Conference:-

“Initial observation - Some panels sent as many as eight delegates and, as such, were able to attend many of the workshops. Unfortunately I could attend only one of three. I would have liked to attend "Workshop 5 - Public Engagement by PCP's".

Other workshops included:-

1. Police & Fire Collaboration; 2. Police complaints system reforms; 3. Regional Collaboration; 4. Performance Monitoring of Police & Crime Plans; 6. Budget Scrutiny; 7. Co-responding in Mental Health; 8. Partnership Working & Evidence Gathering; 9. Police & Crime Plans, the National Picture, and 10. Looking Forward - Financial Resilience & Transformation.

A resume` of all the workshops has been promised in the next few weeks.

Creation of a LGA Special Interest Group as a precursor to forming an Association of Police & Crime Panels was discussed and consisted primarily of all the information previously provided to PCP's. It was decided that a working group would be formed, which will consist of about 10 volunteers from the meeting, to be chaired by



Hertfordshire. It is expected that much of their initial work will be carried out via social media.

Regional Forums were also held, but I am unable to report anything of interest to the Panel in respect of the North West region, as there was no representation from GMP and the Cumbrian PCP members had to leave in order to catch their train. North Wales were in another forum for Welsh forces.

From networking throughout the day, I felt that it was clear that Cheshire PCP is well ahead of many other Panels in terms of the use of webcasting, social media, number and types of meetings held and the recent move to rotating meeting locations around the county. Like ourselves, much frustration was expressed over the issue of a lack of powers that Panels have in carrying out their remit”.

### **Seventh national conference for Police and Crime Panels 2018**

Notification has been received that the seventh Conference for chairs, members and officers of Police and Crime Panels will take place on Monday 12 November 2018, at Scarman House, Warwick Conference Centre, from 10 am to 4 pm, with arrivals from 9.30 am, with the option of overnight accommodation on-site where required.

Ideas for the programme – speakers, workshops and policy seminars, have been invited. Any comments can be submitted to Julie North [julie.north@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:julie.north@cheshireeast.gov.uk) and they will be passed on to the conference organisers.

### **4. Financial Implications**

There are minimal financial implications, in the cost of attending the conference and travelling expenses.

### **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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**Designation:** Senior Democratic Services Officer

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# Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

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**Date of meeting:**

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

**Subject : Limiting response times to questions**

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## **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Panel held on 22 September the Secretariat was asked to look into the options for the way in which the Police and Crime Commissioner answers individual questions from Panel members.
- 1.2 This paper provides a summary of the research undertaken and provides the Panel with a number of options.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to:
  - (i) To consider if it wishes to amend its Procedure Rules to place limitations on the time taken by the Commissioner to answer questions from Panel members; or to otherwise change its Procedure Rules to give the Chairman the discretion to limit the time allocated to the Commissioner to answer individual questions.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 Each regular meeting of the Police and Crime Panel has approximately an hour of its time allocated for members of the Panel to ask questions of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Many of these questions are submitted in advance to the Commissioner so that he is able to research the issue and provide a comprehensive answer.
- 3.2 On average the Commissioner is able to answer five or six questions in the time available at a Panel meeting. Questions that remain unanswered are responded to in writing.
- 3.3 At the meeting of the Panel held on 22 September, Cllr Andrew Dawson asked that the Secretariat research the possibility of limiting the amount of time allocated to the Commissioner's answers to individual questions, so as to

increase the number of questions that the Commissioner is able to respond to during the meeting.

- 3.4 The Procedure Rules of a quarter of the 40 other Police and Crime Panels have been reviewed and conversations held with Democratic Service staff from the host Authority of a smaller number of Panels across the country.
- 3.5 When Police and Crime Panels were established in 2012, the Local Government Association published guidance on their Terms of Reference, together with draft Procedure Rules. These Procedure Rules are silent on the time that should be allocated to the Commissioner (or anyone from the Commissioner's Office) to answer questions. The majority; if not all. Panels (including Cheshire's Panel) adopted the Procedure Rules based on the nationally produced draft. In most cases few, if any, modifications were made. It is therefore not surprising that no reference to time limits to the answers provided to questions have been found in any of the Procedure Rules that have been reviewed.
- 3.6 Whilst those Procedure Rules that have been reviewed have been very similar to our Rules, conversations with Host Authorities have revealed that other Panels have developed a variety of ways of scrutinising the Police and Crime Commissioner. For example, in Staffordshire the Commissioner is present for almost all of the meeting and as well as answering questions from Panel members, answers questions from members of the public who live or work in the County.
- 3.7 Whilst the review of Procedure Rules has found no reference to placing a time limit on a Commissioner when answering a question, many Local Authorities do impose a time limit on individual Councillors when they address Council or Committees. A typical time limit is five minutes; such limits are aimed at moving debate on and maximising the number of Councillors who can contribute to a debate.
- 3.8 Although no examples have been found where a Panel's Procedure Rules limit the amount of time that the Commissioner may take to answer questions, there would appear to be no reason why the Panel could not amend its own Rules to impose such a limitation. Such a change would have parallels to the limitations on speaking at meetings placed on Councillors by many Councils.
- 3.9 There are a number of options open to the Panel; these include:
  - Amend the Panel's Procedure Rules to place a limit on the time that the Commissioner may spend answering an individual question from a Panel member, e.g. five minutes, unless the Chairman is content for the Commissioner to continue.
  - Amend the Panel's Procedure Rules to give the Chairman the discretion, when in his view it is appropriate, to place a limit on the time that the Commissioner may spend answering an individual question from a Panel member.



- Make no change and rely on the powers the Chairman already has to control who speaks at meetings.

3.10 It should, however, be noted that the Chairman has common law powers to govern the operation of the meeting which are virtually without limitation.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications to the recommendations in this report.

#### **5. Equality Implications**

5.1 There are no equality implications.

#### **6. Contact Information**

Contact details for this report are as follows:-

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## Cheshire Police and Crime Panel – Work Programme 2017/18



<b>10 January 2018</b>	<b>Informal Meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner</b> (Topic TBC)
<b>2 February 2018 (Statutory Meeting)</b>	<b>Formal Meeting of the Police and Crime Panel</b>  <i>Items:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Budget and Precept 2018/19;</i></li> <li>○ <i>Location of future meetings</i></li> <li>○ <i>Questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner;</i></li> <li>○ <i>Scrutiny Items – Management and Scrutiny Board notes;</i></li> <li>○ <i>Work Programme</i></li> </ul>
<b>7 March 2018</b>	<b>Informal Meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner</b> (Topic TBC)
<b>20 April 2018</b>	<b>Formal Meeting of the Police and Crime Panel</b>  <i>Items:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner;</i></li> <li>○ <i>Scrutiny Items – Management and Scrutiny Board notes;</i></li> <li>○ <i>Work Programme</i></li> </ul>

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