

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

Date of Meeting: 23 September 2016

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

Subject/Title: Location of Police and Crime Panel Meetings

1. Report Summary

- 1.1 This report reviews options for where meetings of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel could be held in future.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Panel are asked to determine whether they wish future meetings be held at Wyvern House in Winsford, or move to other location(s) around the county.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Since its inception the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel has held its meetings at Wyvern House in Winsford. Meetings have been webcast, at a cost of around £1,100 a year, utilising Cheshire West and Chester's existing webcasting contract and the equipment permanently installed in the Council Chamber at Wyvern House.
- 3.2 At the first meeting of the newly established Panel in June 2016, Members asked that other options for meeting venues were reviewed, with consideration being given to rotating the location of meetings around the county.
- 3.3 A number of factors influenced the original decision to hold meetings at Wyvern House; these included its relatively central location bringing some degree of convenience to panel members travel arrangements; a good standard of accommodation and the ease and cost of webcasting.
- 3.4 The table below shows the distance to Wyvern House from a range of towns across Cheshire.

Town

Distance (Miles)

Chester	17
Crewe	9
Ellesmere Port	22
Macclesfield	20
Northwich	7
Poynton	24
Runcorn	18
Sandbach	9
Warrington	18
Widnes	21

3.5 Free car parking is available at Wyvern House. Public transport links to Winsford are reasonable from most Cheshire towns, although the railway station is almost two miles away from Wyvern House. Winsford is reasonably served by the bus network.

3.6 All four Cheshire Authorities have accommodation that would be suitable for meetings of the Police and Crime Panel, although with one exception options for webcasting would be much more problematic and significantly more expensive. The availability of accommodation has not been checked for specific dates, and in many cases the venues listed below are heavily used by the relevant Council, as indeed Wyvern House is. All locations listed below have car parking either on site or within a quarter of a mile.

3.7 The accommodation that could be used is:

Cheshire East Council

Committee Suite located at Westfields, Sandbach	Webcasting would be possible, but at a significantly greater cost than at Wyvern House.
Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Crewe	Webcasting would be possible, but at a significantly greater cost than at Wyvern House.
Assembly Room or Council Chamber Macclesfield Town Hall.	Webcasting would be possible, but at a significantly greater cost than at Wyvern House.

Cheshire West and Chester:

Ground Floor Rooms in HQ, Chester	Webcasting likely to be available at the same cost at Wyvern House
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Halton Borough Council:

Council Chamber, Runcorn	Webcasting not routinely available, Halton Council does not have a webcasting contract.
Halton Stadium, Widnes	Webcasting not routinely available, Halton Council does not have a webcasting contract.

Warrington Borough Council:

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Warrington	Webcasting not routinely available, Warrington Council does not have a webcasting contract.
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4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 As indicated in paragraph 3.1 above, the cost of webcasting meetings in Wyvern House is £1,100 a year. The webcasting of meetings from Cheshire West and Chester's HQ offices in Chester would in all likelihood cost the same. Neither Halton nor Warrington routinely webcast meetings and whilst technically webcasting may be possible, the cost would be very significant as there is no infrastructure or webcasting contract in place. Cheshire East Council only webcasts meetings of its Cabinet and due to constraints in the room used, cameras and microphones are not permanently installed and need to be set up by a technician on each occasion. Due to this limitation and the likely need to vary the existing contract to accommodate the additional duration of webcasting, the estimated cost would be in the region of £3,000 per meeting.
- 4.2 It is unlikely that there would be any other cost implications of using accommodation other than Wyvern House.
- 4.3 The budget as it stands can accommodate the current cost of webcasting for meetings in Winsford. Should the Panel decide that it wishes to hold meetings in other venues, and that meetings should continue to be webcast, the four constituent authorities would need to increase their contributions to cover the increased expenditure.

5. Equality Implications

- 5.1 There are no equality implications.

6. Contact Information

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