

# Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

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**Date of Meeting: 18 November 2016**

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

**Subject: Police and Crime Panel – Allowances**

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## **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1 At its last meeting, the Panel asked for clarification upon the question of Panel Member allowances. This report provides the information required.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Panel considers the question of payment of an allowance to permanent Panel Members, taking into account the issues raised at paragraph 3.8.

## **3. Background information**

- 3.1 When the Panel considered financial matters at its last meeting, clarification was sought upon the use of central Government funding for Panel Members.
- 3.2 Central Government makes regular payments to the Panel's host local authority in respect of the administration of Panel business. However, a sum of money is also made available for Panel Members. This cannot be paid by central Government unless claimed by the host authority.
- 3.3 There has been a lack of clarity over how this sum (£11,960pa) may be administered. Some Panel host authorities use this sum to pay an annual allowance to Panel members. Others use it only to pay Panel Member expenses.
- 3.4 From the information currently available, the following Panel areas pay an annual allowance to Panel Members: Avon and Somerset, Greater Manchester, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and North Wales. The allowances paid vary from £6,000 to £675 pa.
- 3.5 The following authorities pay expenses only: Cumbria, Derbyshire, Devon and Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire and Surrey.
- 3.6 In order to understand how the central Government funding might be used, contact was made with the Crime, Policing and Fire Group Finance and

Estates Directorate at the Home Office. It was confirmed that the sum available may be used to pay an annual allowance to Panel members. If the Panel was minded to follow this option, it is recommended that the payment of an annual allowance should remove the right from Panel Members to claim expenses from the host authority.

- 3.7 In any event, some Panel Members have historically claimed expenses from their own local authority for Panel-related business. Insofar as they would be permitted by their own local authority to do so, they could continue to follow that course of action.
- 3.8 If the Panel chooses to pay an allowance to Panel Members, consideration should be given to the following, subject to continuation of funding from Central Government:
- Payment of an allowance only to permanent Panel Members (ie not substitute members).
  - The amount of such allowance: the sum available would equate to £920pa per permanent Panel Member.
  - Whether such allowance should be paid as a lump sum to Panel Members and, if so, when payment should be made.
  - Whether a proportion of the available monies should be retained by the host authority to pay Panel Member expenses, or whether they should either forego expenses, or claim from their own local authority, if they are permitted to do so.
- 3.9 The Panel is asked to consider the issues set out in this report and to make an appropriate resolution.

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

- 4.1 The financial implications associated with this matter are contained in the main body of the report.

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

- 5.1 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:-

<b>Name:</b>	Brian Reed
<b>Designation:</b>	Head of Governance and Democratic Services
<b>Local Authority:</b>	Cheshire East Council
<b>Tel. No.:</b>	01270 686670
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk">brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk</a>