

# Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

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**Date of Meeting: 02 February 2018**

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

**Subject: Location of Panel Meetings**

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## **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1 This report requests that the Panel consider the location of future meetings, and review its policy on webcasting.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to:

- (i) Revert to holding its meetings at Wyvern House, Winsford, with the Secretariat being tasked with developing a draft programme of meetings for the period June 2018 to April 2019, which will be brought to the next meeting of the Panel for Approval.
- (ii) Revert to live webcasting of all of its meetings.

## **3. Location of meetings**

- 3.1 In November 2016 the Panel resolved:

- (i) That the venues for future meetings of the Panel be rotated around Cheshire, with meetings being recorded and then made available via a webcast after the meeting, unless the meeting is held at Wyvern House, in which case the meeting be live streamed.
- (ii) That the meeting of the Panel where the budget is set take place at Wyvern House, to ensure that it is live streamed.

- 3.2 In February 2017 the Panel agreed the location of meetings up to April 2018 and over recent months, meetings have been held in Warrington, Widnes and Macclesfield, the next meeting of the Panel will take place in Ellesmere Port. Confirmation Hearings, which by their nature cannot be planned far in advance, have been held in Crewe and Winsford.

- 3.3 In choosing to rotate the location of meetings Panel members were hoping to increase the number of members of the public attending meetings. However, attendance at meetings has not increased.
- 3.4 When making decisions in November 2016 and February 2017 the Panel were aware that live video webcasting was not possible at locations away from Wyvern House. Meetings have been video webcast (with the exception of one where there were technical problems), with the meeting being available to view shortly after its conclusion. The lack of a live webcast has made it more difficult for members of the public to submit questions; especially ones of direct relevance to the debate taking place at the meeting. Over the year, the cost of webcasting has been slightly higher than it would have been had all meetings been held at Wyvern House.

#### **4. Summary and conclusion**

- 4.1 The Panel now needs to agree the location of future programmed meetings and if a decision is taken to hold all meetings at Wyvern House to amend its policy on webcasting.
- 4.2 Wyvern House is centrally located within Cheshire and has proved to be popular location for meeting. Live webcasting is available at a cost of approximately £1,400 per year.

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

- 5.1 There are no specific equality implications related to this report. However, live webcasting of meetings does help facilitate participation from those who are, for whatever reason, unable to attend a meeting.

#### **6. Financial Considerations**

- 6.1 The overall cost of supporting a programme of meetings is slightly more expensive when they are held across Cheshire; this is due to room hire costs and the additional costs of webcasting.

#### **7. Contact Information**

Contact details for this report are as follows:-

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