

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

Date of Meeting: 07 February 2020

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

Subject: Location, Date and timing of Panel Meetings

1. Report Summary

- 1.1 This report requests that the Panel consider the dates, location and timings of future meetings.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to:

- (i) Consider a programme of meetings for the civic year 2020/21.
- (ii) Consider the most appropriate locations for meetings.
- (iii) Consider the time of day when meetings are held.

3. Programme and timing of Meetings

- 3.1 Since its creation the Panel has followed a consistent pattern of regular, programmed meetings, with additional meetings being added to the diary when necessary. Following the practice of recent years of Panel meetings normally being held on a Friday, a day when the four Cheshire Councils have few public meeting, a suggested programme of meetings for the forthcoming municipal year is:

- Friday 12th June 2020 (Annual Meeting)
- Friday 18th September 2020
- Friday 27th November 2020
- Friday 5th February 2021
- Friday 16th April 2021

- 3.2 A meeting on Friday 5th February 2021 fits in with the statutory timetable for the consideration of the Police precept.

4. Location of meetings

- 4.1 For the last three years Panel meetings have been held on rotation at venues across all four Cheshire local Council areas. Prior to this change all meetings were held at Wyvern House, Winsford. The intention in moving meetings around Cheshire was to encourage members of the public to attend and to demonstrate that the Panel serves all of the county. Public attendance at meetings over the last three years has been no higher than it was when all meetings were held in Winsford. Therefore, rotating meetings around the Cheshire Police area results in the proceedings being less accessible to those who would be interested in seeing / hearing them live.
- 4.2 Live video webcasting is only available when the Panel meets at Wyvern House, Winsford. Meetings held in other locations are recorded and the webcast published as soon as is practical after the meeting.
- 4.3 The Panel are asked to consider where they would wish meetings to be held during the forthcoming municipal year.

5. Timing of meetings

- 5.1 Panel meetings have traditionally commenced at 10.00am, running to approximately 12.30pm. During the current municipal year two meetings have been held in the afternoon. The Panel are asked to consider what pattern of meeting start times they would wish to adopt for 2020/21.
- 5.2 A further option would be for some (or all) meetings to be held in the evening. However, it is suggested this if that option were supported it is likely that the Panel would wish to move away from meeting on a Friday. Finding a suitable evening for meetings may prove problematic, as three out of the four Cheshire local authorities hold some, or all of their meetings in the evening.

6. Summary and conclusion

- 6.1 The Panel needs to agree the date and timings of the programme of meetings for the 2020/21 municipal year and confirm where they wish meetings to be held. Once a decision in principle has been made the Secretariat will finalise details and inform Panel members of the programme of meetings for 2020/21; this will then be publicised on the Panel's page on the Cheshire East Council website.

6. Equality Implications

- 7.1 Live webcasting of meetings does help facilitate participation from those who are, for whatever reason, unable to attend a meeting.

8. Financial Considerations

- 8.1 The overall cost of supporting a programme of meetings which rotates around Cheshire is slightly more expensive than if they were all held at Wyvern House; this is due to the additional costs of webcasting. If meetings are held in Council buildings room hire charges are normally waived.

9. Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:-

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