

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

Date of meeting: 27 November 2020

Report of: Evan Morris MBE, Chairman

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding between the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel

Introduction

Recent dialogue between the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the Commissioner and his staff indicate that there was a willingness on both sides to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This is very much in keeping with national best practice as highlighted by the LGA which states “Where good relationships and effective working exist between a PCP and Commissioners, they will invariably have agreed a joint MOU which goes beyond the Policing Protocol 2011.”

Background

The rescheduled elections for Police and Crime Commissioners will take place in May 2021, it is therefore timely to consider developing such an understanding in order to set out the Panel’s future effective working relationship with a newly elected Commissioner.

In order to undertake this work, the Panel seeks to establish a proportionate Task and Finish Group. This Group will be supported by Officers from the host Authority and be tasked to come back to the Panel’s meeting in March 2021 with recommendations for the Panel to consider, in advance of discussions with the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Task and Finish Group will be empowered to hold discussions with the current Police and Crime Commissioner and his staff to discuss, in general terms, what issues could usefully be included in a MOU. However, it is recognised that the adoption of any MOU would have to wait until after the elections in May 2021 and formal discussions with a newly elected Commissioner.

Recommended

That the Panel acknowledge the benefit of an MOU and agree to establish a 5-person, proportionate Task and Finish Group to undertake this work, reporting back to the Panel in March 2021.