



Friday, 12th June 2020

Police and Crime Panel Meeting

Via Video-Conference

Item 5

Police & Crime Panel Officer
07920 833358

Postponement of the Annual General Meeting

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Note the postponement of the Police and Crime Panel's Annual General Meeting and how the decisions that would ordinarily be undertaken as part of that meeting are to be taken forward.

2. Background

2.1 As a result of the implications of the current COVID-19 crisis, the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 4th April 2020. In view of the cancellation of local elections, this legislation gave local authorities the flexibility to postpone their annual meetings and to extend current arrangements until May 2021.

2.2 The postponement of the May 2020 elections has also required the extension of the current term of office of PCCs by a year until May 2021.

2.3 All the West Yorkshire local authorities have agreed to postpone their annual meetings in 2020 and therefore agreed that appointments made in 2019, including membership on the Police and Crime Panel, should continue unless notified otherwise.

3. Implications for the Police and Crime Panel

3.1 During this period of uncertainty, it is still a requirement for PCPs to discharge their statutory functions effectively and the legislation has allowed decision making to be undertaken by virtual meetings if necessary.

3.2 Panels are required to be mindful of the constraints which are posed by the current exceptional circumstances and scale back any non-essential work currently being undertaken. However, where the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 specifies a deadline for action, this must be adhered to. In all other areas of work

Panels should take a flexible and pragmatic approach, in discussion with the PCC. For example, by agreeing additional latitude on responses to Panel recommendations or minimising requests for the involvement of operational policing staff in Panel meetings.

4. Annual General Meeting Matters

4.1 The Panel arrangements and rules state that the Panel shall hold an Annual Meeting which shall be the first meeting after the annual meetings of the constituent councils.

4.2 The Annual Meeting should include:

- electing the Chair and Deputy Chair
- establishing Sub-Panels as necessary
- selecting representatives on Outside Bodies
- the receipt and approval of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel Procedures and Protocols
- setting of an annual budget

5. Local Authority Membership on the Panel

5.1 In line with the agreement of the local authorities that membership agreed in 2019 continues, there is no change to the current Panel membership with the exception of the appointment of Councillor Jacqueline Williams from Wakefield Council following the vacancy left by the loss of Councillor Alan Wassell.

- Panel are asked to note that with the exception of the appointment of Councillor Jacqueline Williams, there are no changes to Local Authority Membership

6. Independent Co-opted Panel Members

6.1 Independent Co-opted Panel Members are recruited by the panel through a process of open recruitment. Independent Panel members were recruited in October 2016 for a period of 4 years, in line with the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner, meaning that a recruitment process is due to commence towards the end of summer with a view to appointees being in place in October 2020.

6.2 In view of the current circumstances, which includes potential changes as a result of devolution, discussions are to take place with a view to extending the current Independent Panel member roles in line with extensions given to elected members and the PCC role. Further details will be brought back to Panel for approval.

- Panel are asked to note the position

7. Chair and Deputy Chair

7.1 As part of the agreement to continue current appointments and role forward membership, the appointment of the Chair will continue for a further year. However, the Panel is required to elect to the vacancy of Deputy Chair following the loss of Councillor Alan Wassell. This will run in line with other elected member appointments until the Annual meeting in 2021.

- Panel are asked to nominate and agree the appointment of a Deputy Chair.

8. Membership of Sub-Panels

Complaints Sub-Panel

8.1 Panel members are appointed to Complaints Sub-Panels on a case by case basis with the exception of the Lead Member/Chair which is an annually agreed appointment. This role was previously undertaken by Councillor Wassell and so there is a vacancy for this role.

- Panel are asked to nominate and agree the appointment of a Lead Member/Chair for Complaints

9. Panel Procedures and Protocols

9.1 At its Annual Meeting, the Panel would normally review and agree any amendments to the Procedural Rules to ensure that they remain fit for purpose to enable the Panel to conduct business. It is recommended that in the current circumstances, the Panel Procedures and Protocols be rolled forward as they stand and are reviewed at the next Annual Meeting. The rules as they currently stand do allow for revisions to be made at other general meetings if required.

- Panel are asked to agree that the Panel Procedures and Protocols are rolled forward without amendment and are reviewed when normal meetings recommence, or at the next Annual meeting at the latest.

10. Panel Budget

10.1 Notification has been received this week that the Home Office will provide a grant, payable in arrears, for the provision of Police and Crime Panel for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. This grant is for the sum of £67,100 in line with previous years. A report outlining the outturn for the year 2019/20 and a draft budget for the year 20/21 has yet to be finalised and will be reported to the Panel at the July meeting.

- Panel are asked to note the position

11. Recommendations:

11.1 The Panel is asked to:

- Note the Local Authority Panel membership
- Note the position and the possible extension to the term of the 2 Independent Co-opted Panel Members
- Nominate and agree a Deputy Chair
- Nominate and agree a Complaints Sub-Panel Lead Member/Chair
- Agree to roll forward the Procedures and Protocols as they stand
- Note the Home Office Grant Provision for 2020/21 and that a draft budget for 2020/21 will be reported to the July meeting.