

22 August 2012

**Development of the Panel's
Work Programme**

Report of Colette Longbottom, Monitoring Officer

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide information on the development of the Panel's Work Programme.

Background

2. The Panel's rules of procedure (as set out earlier on the agenda) state that the PCP will be responsible for setting its own work programme taking into account the priorities defined by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) within the context of the Police and Crime Plan.
3. A work programme will enable the PCP to plan and focus on how it will effectively provide challenge to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and deliver its responsibilities within the context of the terms of reference and rules of procedure namely:
 - Review and comment on the Draft Police and Crime Plan and Precept
 - Reviewing the PCC's Annual Report
 - Holding confirmation hearings for the PCPs two Independent Members, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Finance Officer of the Commissioner's Office, a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (if appointed) and Chief Constable
 - Overseeing all complaints against the PCC, informally resolving non-criminal
 - Powers of veto on setting the precept and appointment of Chief Constable
4. The Panel can also establish task and finish groups to undertake focussed enquiry/review on issues it deems necessary in line with its remit.

The Work Programme

5. The election of the PCC is to take place on 15th November 2012 and the Commissioner will formally take office on Thursday 22nd November 2012. With exception to the appointment of 2 Independent Members before November 2012, the Panel must consider and provide a response to the PCC's proposed precept and Police and Crime Plan between November 2012 and March

2013. During this period, the Panel may also be required to hold confirmation hearings for senior appointments of the PCC.

6. The following table identifies these responsibilities and provisional dates for these to be considered by the PCP.

Responsibilities	Provisional Date to be considered by PCP
Consideration and responding to the Commissioner's proposals for her/his precept	Notification of Precept – 17 th December 2012 (Deadline 21Dec) Review and comment on precept – 7 th January 2013 (Deadline 15 Jan) If vetoed – PCP review 2 nd Precept – 4 th Feb (Deadline 14 th Feb) PCC must publish its precept by 1 st March 2013
Consideration of the Commissioner's proposals for her/his police and crime plan.	Consider and respond to Draft Police and Crime Plan (and Annual report) – January/February 2013 PCC provide response to PCP on Police & Crime Plan and Annual Report and present final reports – February.March 2013 PCC must publish Police and Crime Plan by 31 st March
Confirmation hearing for Appointment of Deputy PCC	To be arranged if PCC chooses to appoint a Deputy PCC
Confirmation hearings for Appointment of CEO and CFO	To be arranged following recruitment process
Confirmation hearing for Appointment of the Chief Constable	To be arranged following recruitment process
Confirmation hearing for appointment of two Independent Members	September 2012

7. **Responding to the development needs of the Panel**

In order for the Panel to develop its role and effectively discharge its responsibilities, members will need to participate in identifying their development needs supported by a programme of induction and training and development. It is envisaged that delivery of a programme will come from respective organisations involved in policing, crime and disorder and community safety. The Panel support team will engage with respective partners to facilitate the programme. Induction and training and development could be scheduled to take place soon after needs have been identified. It is suggested that the programme will cover:

The induction process to include information on:

- Terms of Reference, Rules of Procedure;
- Overview of police governance ,accountability and budget process;

- Any protocols it wishes to have with the Commissioner for example complaints ,communications, involvement;
- Role of the Police and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner), duties, constraints, support;
- Local, force wide, regional and national policing priorities;
- The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR), what this means in terms of force capability, and the role of the Panel in questioning what the Commissioner is doing on this;
- The links between the SPR and wider emergency planning in the force area;
- Collaboration agreements between the force and neighbouring forces and how work on these areas might be scrutinised with other Police and Crime Panels;
- The links between the Panel and Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council local scrutiny arrangements including the crime and disorder overview and scrutiny committees and health scrutiny structures.

Training and Development to include:

The Police and Crime Plan, including the Panel's role in making recommendations to it, the fact it should take account of community safety partnerships' priorities, and the role of the annual report as a means of holding the Commissioner to account against it;

- Police budgets, pressures on force budgets, moves to make policing more efficient and effective and what that means for the precept;
- The precept setting process and what happens if the Commissioner 's precept is vetoed by the Panel;
- The role of the Commissioner in commissioning community safety and services for victims and witnesses of crimes, and the links to commissioning of other services for example health;
- The role of the Panel in the appointment of the Chief Constable, Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner's chief executive and finance officer, including the requirement for public confirmation hearings and what happens if the Panel exercises its veto of the Chief Constable appointment.

Review Topics

8. The Panel will need to consider undertaking areas of more in depth enquiry or review activity subject to a better understanding of the issues and challenges before it. A key driver for this will be priorities within the Police and Crime Plan.

Recommendations

1. To note information within this report and comment accordingly;
2. That arrangements are made to identify the development needs of the Panel in line with delivery of its remit;
3. That the Panel support team put in place a programme of induction and training and development as a matter of priority liaising and working with key stakeholder to support delivery as identified in paragraph 7 and in response to recommendation 2;
4. That the Panel agree to the work programme within the framework of its rules of procedure and terms of reference.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

The Home Office will provide (October 2012) £53,300 for the support and development of the Police and Crime Panel.

Staffing

Support for the panel will come from ACE (Overview and Scrutiny) and Resources (Legal and Democratic Services) service groups respectively

Risk

Failure to act in accordance with the panel terms of reference and rules of procedure could lead to a breakdown of relationships and therefore failure to deliver the work programme

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Equality considerations and Equality Impact assessments (EIA) will be an essential component of the panel's scrutiny function in considering the impact on communities with protected characteristics.

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

This is a key focus of the work of the panel reflected in its work programme.

Human Rights

As above

Consultation

None at this stage of development

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

In line with equality issues above

Legal Implications

In line with risk above