

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Police and Crime Panel** held in Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham on **Monday 4 February 2013 at 1.00 pm**

Present:

Councillor L Hovvels (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Armstrong, D Boyes, M Campbell, D Stoker, G Huntington and A Laing

Darlington Borough Council:

Councillors S Harker and B Jones

Independent Co-opted Members:

N Vaulks and K Larkin- Bramley

1 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ian Haszeldine.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members.

Councillor Campbell referred to the Member appointed as his named substitute on the Panel and expressed concern that the Member had not attended any training sessions.

Resolved:

That the Chair address this issue.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2012 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

4 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Joint Audit Committee Membership

The Committee considered a report of the Treasurer to the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the creation of a Joint Audit Committee (for copy see file of Minutes).

Following representations received about the eligibility criteria which prevented a Councillor or employee of Durham or Darlington Councils from being appointed to the Joint Audit Committee, it had been agreed that the Panel be consulted on the options available prior to a decision being made by the Commissioner on the way forward.

In discussing the eligibility criteria Members considered that Councillors would be able to provide independent advice and guidance to the Panel and bring the required skills and experience to the Audit Committee without there being a conflict of interest. Some Councillors already had experience of sitting on Audit Committees within their own Councils.

Resolved:

That the Commissioner be recommended to re-advertise with a view to appointing two Members of the Committee without regard to the contentious eligibility criteria.

6 Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Structure Review

The Panel considered a report of the Police and Crime Commissioner which gave details of the current staffing structure inherited from the former Police Authority and informed Members of proposals for an independent review of the staffing requirements of the Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted and forwarded to the Local Police Staff Council for information.

7 Police and Crime Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel - Draft Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working Agreement

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which sought agreement to a Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working Agreement between the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That

- a) The draft Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working Agreement between the PCC and the PCP be agreed;

- b) The Chair of the PCP sign the Agreement on behalf of the Panel;
- c) The Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Agreement be reviewed in November 2013.

The Chair advised that the following item had been listed under Part B of the Agenda because the report included details of workforce restructure proposals. However as discussions had now taken place with the Police Federation and Trade Union the report could be considered in public under Part A.

8 Precept Determination 2013/14

The Panel considered a report of the Police and Crime Commissioner which advised of the proposed level of precept for 2013/2014 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Commissioner presented the proposals put forward by the Treasurer and the Chief Constable and outlined budgetary pressures facing the Police over the next 4 years.

The report gave details of the budget and savings proposed in 2013/2014 together with the precept to be levied in the financial year. The Commissioner also highlighted key proposals for expenditure from the Capital Budgets for 2012/2013 and 2013/2014.

N Vaulks noted that proposals for the new Police Headquarters at Aykley Heads would be funded through capital receipts. He considered that it would be useful for details of capital receipts to be included in future budget reports.

The Panel also noted the proposals for the modular build at Newton Aycliffe on the existing site which would be welcomed by the community.

In response to a question about budgetary pressure and whether this would have an impact on tackling domestic abuse and hate crime the Commissioner assured the Panel that this would continue to be a priority and outlined proposals which aimed to bring about an improvement in service delivery.

Resolved:

That the proposed precept for 2012/2013 as outlined in the report be accepted.