

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CLEVELAND POLICE & CRIME PANEL

3 FEBRUARY 2015

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY

DATES OF MEETINGS

SUMMARY

During liaison meetings between officers supporting the Panel and officers from the Commissioner's Office there has been discussion about the best months for the Panel to meet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel is asked to consider reconfiguring meeting dates, as detailed below, for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year.

DETAIL

Current Arrangements

1. Members will be aware that, currently, the Panel meets during June, July, October and February of each Municipal Year. The Panel has a full work programme and this frequency has mainly been established to pick up certain key issues, as detailed below :

June – This serves as the Panel's Annual Meeting and the Chairman and Vice Chairman are appointed for the Municipal Year. The meeting also receives end of year performance information from the previous year.

July – This meeting receives Q1 performance information and agrees the Panel's Scrutiny Work Programme.

October – This meeting receives Q2 performance information and a Mid Year Financial Update

February - This meeting considers the Commissioner's proposed precept, the Police and Crime Plan and Q3 performance information.

Reason for proposed changes

2. Members will note that meetings are not distributed evenly throughout the year. For example the June and July meetings are close together, whereas, there are 3 to 4 months gaps between other meetings.
3. As a consequence of the June/ July meetings being scheduled in successive months officers from the Commissioner's office often produce

reports for the July meeting of the Panel which show very little difference from the June meeting. This is particularly true of the Engagement and Decision reports. The quick succession of these meetings can also prove challenging for officers producing Q1 information for the July meeting and a similar challenge is associated with the October meeting, which considers Q2 information. Members will recall that the Mid Year Financial Review report was circulated after the agenda for the October meeting was published. This was because of issues associated with when the information contained in the report could be finalised and consequently when the Commissioner could release that information. Such issues would not arise if this report was presented in November. In addition, in November, the Commissioner is likely to be able to provide the Panel with a better indication of the budget position and areas that would be influencing his precept proposals at the February meeting.

Proposed Changes

4. Given the above it has been suggested that meeting dates be reconfigured as below. Examples of key items considered at each meeting is detailed.

July – This meeting would act as the Panel’s Annual meeting and would also receive end of year performance information. Membership of the Panel would be known in June and a request for potential scrutiny items would be made at that time, for consideration and agreement at this meeting.

September – This meeting would receive Q1 performance information.

November – This meeting would receive Q2 performance information and the Mid-Year Financial Update.

February – This meeting would consider the Commissioner’s proposed precept, Police and Crime Plan and Q3 performance information.

5. As well as the items detailed above, the Panel considers a range of other matters, including Scrutiny Task and Finish reports and updates on issues it has raised at meetings. These reports would continue to be scheduled in the work programme, as requested by the Panel, or in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair. As is currently the case, the Chair can call additional meetings as and when considered necessary.

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