

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO CLEVELAND
POLICE & CRIME PANEL**

7 JULY 2020

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR OF
ADMINISTRATION,
DEMOCRATIC AND
ELECTORAL SERVICES**

POLICE & CRIME PANEL SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

PURPOSE

This report seeks to set the Police and Crime Panel Scrutiny Work Programme for 2020/21.

DETAIL

1. The Police and Crime Panel is reminded of its role as scrutinising the actions and decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner, thereby holding the PCC to account.
2. In addition, the Panel may wish to carry out one or more in-depth scrutiny reviews into a particular issue or concern. This may be a policy or performance issue in relation to priorities contained in the Police and Crime Plan.
3. Any additional work which the Panel may wish to undertake should be supportive and complementary to its statutory functions with the Panel acting as a critical friend; a supportive, but independent voice seeking to scrutinise the PCC in the interests of recommending appropriate changes and improvements. In addition, the work programme should avoid duplication and remain flexible and responsive.
4. It is, however, important that when identifying topics for additional work, the Panel takes into account the capacity and resources needed to carry out the investigation, to ensure that the review programme is manageable. It is also important to prioritise the issues identified, so that the work of the Panel is adding value.
5. The Panel is therefore asked to identify and consider suitable topics for scrutiny review during 2020/21. In selecting topics, the Panel may wish to consider whether:-
 - there is public demand / a real need for the review
 - there is a genuine opportunity through the reviews to influence policy and practice
 - there is a clear focus for the review, recognising that going 'deep and narrow' can have more impact than 'broad but shallow'
6. The only review topic that is on the Work Programme at present is the Overall Budget Strategy (Annual Review). The Panel are asked to take into account the capacity and resources needed to carry out the review programme to ensure that it is manageable. It is therefore suggested that one further topic be added to the Work Programme. An issue that was raised by Members at a previous meeting was the Communication Strategy. Any further potential suggestions for topic can be discussed by the Panel.

REVIEW TOPIC 2020/21

Overall Budget Strategy (Annual Review)

7. The matter of the overall budget strategy has been reviewed annually and subject to amendment continues to be scrutinised by a Task and Finish Group in order to facilitate sufficient time and analysis to the financial arrangements of the PCC and commissioned services. The number of agenda items for a full Police and Crime Panel meeting might preclude sufficient scrutiny of budget and its impact on the level of precept set, and therefore in recent years a Task and Finish Group has undertaken this work on behalf of the full Panel. This review would report in February 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- (1) The Panel Members confirm a topic for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2020/21 and Panel Members are identified to sit Scrutiny Group.
- (2) Panel Members (one from each local authority area plus one non-political independent Member) are identified at this meeting to form the Task and Finish Group for the Overall Budget Strategy.

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