

Report to: The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Report of: The Secretary of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Date: 7th March 2016

Work Programme Planning 2016/2017

1 Introduction

The report gives Members the opportunity to reflect on the Panel's 2015/16 work programme and consider proposals for shaping the work programme for 2016/17.

2 Recommendation

Members are recommended to consider and comment on developing the Panel's work programme for 2016/17 and the suggested timetable for meetings.

3. Reflections on 2015/16 Work Programme

3.1 Statutory Tasks

This year the Panel has undertaken a number of statutory tasks:

- Held confirmation hearings for the Chief Constable, Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer for the Office of the PCC;
- Reviewed the PCC's Annual Report;
- Reviewed the Precept;
- Throughout the year the Panel has also dealt with complaints submitted about the conduct of the PCC and signposted a number of cases that fell beyond the Panel's remit onto the appropriate body. Members receive an annual complaints monitoring report.

3.2 Examining the Police and Crime Plan and Budget

Last year the Panel agreed to focus in greater detail on some areas in the Police and Crime Plan and the PCC's budget throughout the year to enable it to come to an informed view when reviewing and commenting on budget proposals and precept and also the PCC's progress in meeting the Police and Crime Plan objectives. Given the vast scope of the Police and Crime Plan the Panel focused on areas of the Plan and budget not previously considered by the Panel:

Police and Crime Plan Topics

- Responding to national threats (Strategic Policing Requirement, Counter Terrorism Unit, Organised Crime Unit, Cyber Crime)
- Hidden Crime
- Victims Commissioning
- Community Safety Funding

Budget Topics

- The Operating Model for WMP2020 and associated savings
- Estates Capital Budget and new ways of working
- Reserves

3.3 Scrutiny Inquiries

The Panel has continued its programme of mini-scrutiny inquiries examining particular topics in more detail, with key witnesses, and making recommendations to the PCC. In 2015/16 the Panel completed two scrutiny inquiries:

- **Tackling FGM in the West Midlands** was published in June 2015 and received national and local interest. A range of recommendations were made to partners as well as West Midlands Police and the PCC. The report led to the establishment of a West Midlands Regional FGM Taskforce. The Panel considered a six month progress report on the delivery of the report recommendations and requested a further update report in November 2016.
- **Community Safety Funding** was published in January 2016. It looked at the PCC's arrangements for community safety grants and explored whether this was the most efficient approach and most likely to secure real outcomes for people. The Panel's report contained five principles for the PCC to consider when making a final decision on future funding (A local funding approach is vital, simplified monitoring arrangements, longer term funding, revisiting the proposed grant cuts and exploring opportunities for joint working across the districts).

4. Proposed Panel Work Programme for 2016/17

4.1 Statutory Requirements

There are four statutory tasks the Panel must incorporate into its work programme:

- Review and comment on the PCC's draft Police and Crime Plan (and any variations to it);
- Review the PCC's Annual Report;
- Review the PCC's proposed policing precept; and
- Hold confirmation hearings for key appointments, as required.

In addition, annual reports are presented to the Panel on the Panel's budget and monitoring complaints against the PCC.

4.2 Developing a focussed work programme for 2016/17

i) Examining aspects of the Police and Crime Plan and Budget

Members' views are sought on the principle of continuing to examine certain aspects of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan and budget throughout 2016/17.

At this stage we do not know what the Police and Crime Plan will include. However the PCC must produce a Police and Crime Plan as soon as practicable after the election.

ii) Scrutiny Inquiries

Members' views are sought on whether to build into the Panel work programme capacity to undertake a scrutiny inquiry to examine a particular issue in greater depth, with key witnesses. Members may have a view on what topic(s) should be considered. A further discussion paper can be prepared for a future Panel meeting.

iii) Additional Items

At the January 2016 meeting, in response to a public question, the Panel agreed to invite the PCC to a future meeting to talk about his oversight role regarding complaints and the effectiveness of police complaints and appeals monitoring.

5. Meeting venues

The Panel has previously rotated meetings around the Region to give local residents the opportunity to attend the meeting. Public attendance at meetings has been small. Members' views are sought on continuing to meet at venues around the Region.

6. Outline Work Programme and Suggested Meeting Dates for 2016/17

Proposed Panel Meeting Dates	
Solihull Civic Suite 11 July or 18 July 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appointment of Panel Membership• Review of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report (Statutory Task)
5 September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget Scrutiny: PCC's Medium-Term Financial Plan (requested Jan 2016)
21 November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complaints Monitoring – annual report• Tackling FGM in the West Midlands – progress on delivery of recommendations
16 January 2017	
6th February 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of 2017/18 Precept and Budget (Statutory Task)
20th February 2017	PROVISIONAL DATE – in case of veto
20 March 2017	
To be programmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PCC's oversight role in police complaints and the effectiveness of the police complaints and appeals monitoring (requested Jan 2016)• Review of the Police and Crime Plan (statutory task)• Confirmation Hearings (as required)• Police and Crime Panel Budget (annual report)

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