

Title: Police & Crime Panel Conference / First Public Meeting with PCC

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Introduction

1. The first meeting of the PCC with the PCP will be an important occasion marking the beginning of a statutory relationship. It was therefore thought that a conference might be a good way of raising the profile of the meeting; it would also be an educational event as it would allow the roles of PCC, PCP Chairman and Chief Constable to be explained in keynote speeches by those holding those offices. An additional benefit would be the opportunity to engage a diverse audience in PCP work programming through the use of breakout sessions following the keynote speeches.

2. Aylesbury Vale District Council has offered its venue, The Oculus, free of charge for the proposed conference and PCP meeting. The venue provides free parking and will enable the meeting to be webcast to maximise the opportunity for press coverage.

Conference Proposal

3. The conference would involve community safety and policing stakeholders from across the Thames Valley, with the objectives of:

- Raising awareness of the respective roles of, and the inter-relationship between, the three key features of the new governance arrangements: the PCC, Chief Constable and PCP
- Promoting the first public meeting of the PCP / PCC
- Engaging stakeholders in the process of PCP work programming

Attendees

4. Thames Valley Safer Communities Network (voluntary and community organisations brought together from across the Thames Valley to link with the PCC) - over 90 delegates from across the Thames Valley attended an 'Add Your Voice' Consultation meeting, held on 11th July in Oxford on the subject of the sector's relationship with the PCC. A similar number could conceivably attend the PCP conference.

5. Public sector attendees could include:

- Community Safety Managers – up to 18 across the Thames Valley
- Cabinet Members for Community Safety – up to 18 across the Thames Valley
- Scrutiny Chairman and / or other scrutiny members – up to 18
- CSP Chairmen - up to 18 across the Thames Valley
- Scrutiny officers - up to 18 across the Thames Valley
- Others from Probation, CPS, TV Police, etc. – approx. 10 in total

Media attendees: difficult to determine, possibly around 10

6. At a conservative estimate, there could potentially be around 170 delegates, although invites could be targeted with a view to keeping the attendance figure at 140.

Costs

7. If the Oculus is used, as suggested, then the only cost would be for catering and the printing and distribution of conference packs. The Oculus is an Aylesbury Vale District Council facility.

Agenda

8. Below is an example of how the day might proceed:

10:30: Arrive / registration / networking

11:00: Welcome / opening remarks – PCP Chairman

11:05: Opening speech – central government representative: The national context and the purpose of the new governance arrangements for policing

11:20: PCC speech: The PCC role in the new governance arrangements

11:35: Chief Constable speech: The CC role in the new governance arrangements

11:50: PCP Chairman speech OR Q&A session: The PCP role in the new governance arrangements

12:00: Breakout sessions – contributing to the development of the PCP work programme: Delegates would be asked to participate in discussions around the key issues facing the Thames Valley that fall within the remit of the PCC. The content developed during these sessions would be used to inform the PCP work programme.

13:00 Lunch

9. The first formal meeting of the PCP / PCC would begin after lunch. There is a need to ensure that the meeting has substantive enough content to do justice to the conference, especially as it is hoped that many of the delegates and any media attendees would chose to stay into the afternoon to observe the meeting.

Recommendation 1: It is recommended that:

a) The PCP host a conference on the same day as the first meeting with the PCC, as described in paragraphs 3-9

b) The PCP mandate the organisation and publicising of the event by the PCP Scrutiny Officer

PCP Meeting

10. The PCP meeting would take place after the conference, which will enable conference delegates to stay on and see the PCP in action holding the PCC to account. This will be the first public meeting of the PCP with the PCC; therefore there could be much media and stakeholder interest. The afternoon PCP/PCC meeting would probably adhere to the following order of business:

13:00	Delegates are having lunch / networking; the PCP is having a working lunch and pre-meeting
14:00	First formal meeting of PCP/PCP begins – Chairman’s opening comments
14:05	Declarations of interest
14:10	Minutes of 14th Sept PCP meeting
14:15	Chairman’s update - Ratification of complaints procedure
14:20	Police & Crime Commissioner - Overview of priority areas and questions on this (30 mins max) - Questioning on specific issues (30 mins max)
15:20	Confirmation hearing (Deputy PCC plus any others necessary)
16:20	Draft Police and Crime Plan (if available - possibly discussed in closed session) OR time used for previous agenda item

11. The above allocates an hour to the first questioning of the PCC in public session. It is suggested that the session is used both as an opportunity to hear from the PCC about his/her priorities in post, and to discuss the key crime issues that are of importance in the development of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Plan.

12. In order to ensure that the Panel is effective in scrutinising the PCC, it is advised that the PCP:

- a) Agrees in advance which topic areas to focus its scrutiny on, in order to provide a structured framework for questioning the PCC and to ensure in-depth scrutiny can take place. As there are 20 PCP members and a wide range of issues that could be covered, to allow an informed discussion, it is vital that the PCP agrees specific areas to focus on
- b) Requests that the written briefing papers are commissioned from the relevant bodies by the Host Secretariat to inform the Panel’s scrutiny work
- c) Holds a pre-meeting to agree lines of questioning and receive briefing information – the 11th October session could be used for this purpose

Topic Areas for Scrutiny

13. Currently in development is a document that aggregates the priorities of the various agencies operating in the police and crime world, including prison commissioning, the Court Service, the Crown Prosecution Service, Probation and Community Safety Partnerships. The document is to be agreed by Thames Valley CEOs at their PCC transition meeting on 1st October.

14. This document will provide a long list of priorities that the PCP could use to form the basis of its first scrutiny of the PCC in December. To keep the session manageable, it is recommended that a selection of the priorities be compiled into a short list, which would then inform the lines of enquiry to be addressed to the PCC in December.

15. The short listing process could be undertaken by the PCP at its informal meeting on 11th October. The relevant material, based on the shortlisted topics, could then be developed for use in the first scrutiny of the PCC in December.

Recommendation 2: It is recommended that the PCP, at its informal meeting on 11th October, shortlists police and crime priorities to raise with the PCC in December

16. Draft Police & Crime Plan – upon taking office the PCC will receive a working draft. The PCC may be willing to share the draft at an early stage to allow the PCP to assist in its development, in a manner similar to that undertaken by council OSCs when conducting policy development work. The PCP has to be prepared for the PCC to be unwilling to share the Plan until he/she has modified and agreed it. There may be other reasons why the Plan cannot be shared – even in draft form - at that stage.

PCP Work Programme

17. A revised version of the PCP work programme has been included at Appendix A. It has been updated to reflect various developments, including the issuance of regulations, effective from 22nd November 2012, around the operation of the veto over the proposed precept and the proposed candidate for the post of Chief Constable.

Recommendation 3: It is recommended that, where necessary, the PCP agree dates for each meeting detailed within the proposed work programme at Appendix A

18. An overview of the regulations follows:

Veto of the Proposed Precept

- PCC to notify PCP of proposed precept by 1st Feb - PCP to review by 8th Feb or, whatever the PCP's views on the precept, the PCC can proceed with his / her proposal.
- If the scrutiny takes place within the timescale and the view is that the precept is too high, then the PCC must revise it downwards. Revised proposal to PCP by 15th Feb.
- If the view of the PCP is that the precept is too low, then the PCC must revise it upwards. Revised proposal to PCP by 15th Feb.
- By 22nd Feb, PCP has to review the revised precept and issue a second report which states whether the PCP accepts or rejects the revised precept. Recommendations may also be made.
- PCC only has to 'have regard' and publish a response to PCP by 1st March.
- Therefore, the only power of veto is in relation to the precept proposed initially by the police and crime commissioner.

Reserve Chief Constable Candidate

- Where the PCP exercises its veto in relation to the proposed appointment to the post of Chief Constable, the PCC has to propose another (referred to in the Regulations as 'a reserve candidate').
- The PCC must notify the PCP of the: name of the reserve candidate; criteria used to assess that individual's suitability for the appointment; why the reserve candidate satisfies those criteria; and the terms and conditions on which the reserve candidate is to be appointed.
- Within three weeks of the day of receipt of this information, the PCP has to hold a confirmation hearing to review the proposed appointment and report to the PCC on it. A recommendation on whether the PCC should appoint the individual must be made by the PCP, and the report should be published.
- The PCC must have regard to the report and its recommendation and notify the PCP as to whether he/she accepts or rejects the recommendation.

Recommendation 4: It is recommended that the PCP agree the revised work programme at Appendix A

List of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: It is recommended that:

- a) The PCP host a conference on the same day as the first meeting with the PCC, as described in paragraphs 3-9
- b) The PCP mandate the organisation and publicising of the event by the PCP Scrutiny Officer

Recommendation 2: It is recommended that the PCP, at its informal meeting on 11th October, shortlists police and crime priorities to raise with the PCC in December

Recommendation 3: It is recommended that, where necessary, the PCP agree dates for each meeting detailed within the proposed work programme at Appendix A

Recommendation 4: It is recommended that the PCP agree the revised work programme at Appendix A

Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Work Programme

Shading indicates a public meeting

Meeting date	Papers deadline	Items	Item purpose	Attendees / lead
14/9/12	5/9/12	Chairman's Update	For information	Chairman / PCP
		Ratification of Co-optees	Procedural requirement	Chairman / PCP
		Work Programme	Work planning	Chairman / PCP
		Topic Selection & Referral Protocol	For agreement	Chairman / PCP
		PCP Lines of Enquiry & Evidence	For agreement	Chairman / PCP
25/9/12	N/A	Policing Familiarisation Day	Training and development	TV Police
11/10/12	N/A	Community safety briefing, agreement of PCP Communications Protocol and selection of priority topics for first meeting with PCC (6 th Dec)	Training and development	Susie Yapp / Reece Bowman
25/10/12	N/A	London Assembly Police & Crime Committee meeting – open invite to PCP members to observe session	Training and development	PCP
w/c 19 th Nov	N/A	Pre-meeting for 6 th December, also confirmation hearing briefing	Preparation / training and development	Reece Bowman
22/11/12	N/A	PCC takes office		
6/12/12	26/11/12	Stakeholder Conference	Training and development	Reece Bowman
		Deputy PCC confirmation	Statutory requirement	PCC, Deputy PCC, PCP
		First formal meeting with PCC	To consider draft Police & Crime Plan, inc. proposed precept	PCC, Deputy PCC, PCP
		Ratification of PCP complaint handling procedure	For agreement	PCP
w/c 14 th Jan	N/A	Day-long pre-meeting to discuss budget and proposed precept – start to develop first draft of report/s to be further discussed and agreed at next public meeting	Preparation for next meeting to scrutinise budget / precept in public	Chairman / PCP

w/c 28 th Jan – must be before 8 th Feb ¹	TBC	Meeting to agree findings of scrutiny of budget / precept – draft reports amended / agreed		Chairman / PCP
w/c 11 th Feb	TBC	Meeting to consider PCC's response if veto over precept was exercised by PCP – response from PCP must be issued before 22 nd Feb ²	Statutory requirement	Chairman / PCP

¹ Statutory requirement

² Statutory requirement