

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: To agree the proposal to set up a Plan Task and Finish Group

Date: 9 September 2016

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Panel



Background

1. An informal training day was held on 4 August 2016 where Members agreed that it would be helpful to set up a short Task and Finish Group (similar to that of the budget) in order to review the draft Police and Crime Plan in more detail. The final recommendations of the Working Group will be reported back to the formal meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 16 December 2016.
2. Police and Crime Plans are a core planning tool for Police and Crime Commissioners and were introduced as a statutory requirement for all police force areas as part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Police and Crime Panels have a statutory duty to review and comment on the Police and Crime Plan and Annual Reports. Plans should include the following:-
 - The PCC's police and crime objectives
 - The policing the Chief Constable is to provide
 - The Financial and other resources the PCC will make available to the Chief Constable to provide policing
 - How the Chief Constable will report to the PCC about policing
 - How the Chief Constable's performance will be measured
 - Information about any crime and disorder reduction grants to be made by the PCC, and any conditions made.

The Panel has a statutory duty to review and make a report or recommendations on the draft Plan, or variation to the PCC.

- 3 A Police and Crime Plan can last for a PCC's whole term of office but most PCC's are refreshing and reviewing Plans on an annual basis. The PCC approach to this can be viewed via the following link (item 26):-
<http://sfdc-spider2.southbucks.gov.uk/democracy/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=289&MID=2384#A11566>
4. Panels are well placed to ensure that the PCC is making all the relevant links and taking note of other strategic plans across the Force area.

5. According to the Panel Rules of Procedure there should be:

- A minimum of three and a maximum of seven Members (recommended that five Members be appointed to ensure the meeting is quorate)
- Meetings will be informal and held in private
- The Task and Finish Group will convene at times when it can add the most value but between one to three meetings per year.
- The Panel shall appoint a Chairman of the Task and Finish Group from within the membership of the Panel
- The composition of a Task and Finish Group will be determined by the role it is to perform. Whilst issues of political and geographical balance may be taken into account, to help the effectiveness of the group consideration should be given to skills and expertise and availability of Members to undertake the work. The Panel may choose to co-opt non-Panel Members onto a Task and Finish Group.
- The Task and Finish Group will make a report to the Panel.

6. The draft terms of reference could be considered as follows:-

- That the Task and Finish Group will have responsibility for leading the Panel's response to the draft Police and Crime Plan for 2017-2021
- The Panel may want to allow the Group to have a wider remit such as considering the Panel's Work Programme for the Year (in addition to Panel Members putting forward items) or preparing for proactive scrutiny sessions.

7 The current timescale for the draft Plan are as follows:-

- The OPCC are carrying out consultations/surveys (utilising summer public events and an on-line survey as well as the statutory consultation with the Chief Constable) until 30 September.
<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/survey/>
- The Panel is scheduled to meet on 21 October and 16 December so if everything goes according to timetable the main themes/priorities arising from the consultation process could be presented to the Task and Finish Group (which could meet after the Panel) on 21 October and the draft Police and Crime Plan to be submitted to the Panel on 16 December. A further meeting of the Task and Finish Group may be required in November to allow any feedback/recommendations to be incorporated into the final 'draft' version of the Plan. The OPCC hope to finalise the Plan by the end of December.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Panel agree to the Task and Finish Group as set out above and to consider whether it wishes to extend its remit.