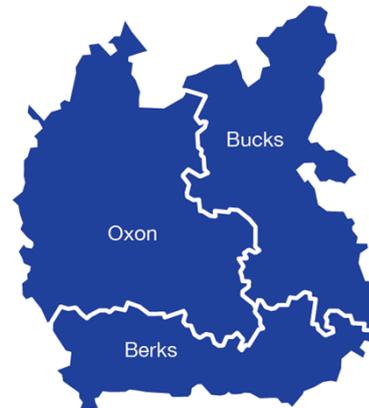


Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Report on Hosting arrangements
for the Panel

Date: 6 September 2019

Author: Monitoring Officer



Background

At the June Panel meeting Councillor Kieron Mallon was elected Chairman of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel who represents Oxfordshire County Council. The host authority is currently South Bucks District Council which will become part of the new Buckinghamshire Council from April 2020. Oxfordshire County Council has expressed an interest in hosting the Panel and therefore the Panel need to consider future arrangements.

The Police and Crime Panels Regulations 2012 states that the “host authority”, in relation to a police and crime panel, means the relevant local authority which is being provided by the Secretary of State under Schedule 6 with financial resources in connection with the exercise of functions by or in relation to the panel and its members.

Issues to be considered

The Panel arrangements (link attached) make reference to hosting arrangements for the Panel as follows:-

- The Panel shall agree a Host Authority for the Secretariat for the Panel, which shall provide such scrutiny, legal, financial, administrative and other support as is reasonably required to enable the Panel to undertake its functions within the resources agreed by the Panel.
- Currently the Panel arrangements state that South Bucks District Council shall act as the initial Host Authority until such time as either:
 - a) The Panel resolves at its annual meeting (held in June of each year) that another Authority should carry out this function, provided that such other Authority agrees. In which case, the function will be transferred six months after the Panel decision unless a shorter period is agreed between South Bucks District Council (or the existing Host Authority) and the new Host Authority; or
 - b) South Bucks District Council serves notice that it no longer wishes to be the Host Authority and this function is transferred to another Authority in which case, a six month

notice period will apply, unless a shorter period is agreed between South Bucks District Council and the new Host Authority; or

c) In the event that no Authority comes forward to act as Host Authority the home Council of the current Chairman of the Panel shall be expected to be the Host Authority.

- The staff employed to support the Panel will be employed by the Host Authority. Should the Host Authority change the TUPE legislation which is in force at the time shall apply as necessary. (As there is a dedicated Police and Crime Panel Scrutiny Officer who is currently employed by South Bucks District Council there will need to be a consultation period under the TUPE legislation.)

The Panel arrangements state that the Panel shall be promoted and supported by the Host Authority and the Secretariat through:

- a) The inclusion of dedicated webpages on the work of the Panel, with the publication of meeting agendas; minutes; and papers where those papers are public, in line with the rules of procedure and legal obligations under the Local Government Act 1972. All reports and recommendations made, with responses from the PCC will be published. Information on member attendance and other publications will be included.
- b) Media and communications support provided by the corporate communications team, this includes the issuing of press release where required.
- c) Clerking support to be provided for all public Panel meetings. This includes sending out agendas; minutes; procedural advice.
- d) Legal advice where required for the Panel to carry out its duties effectively.
- e) Independent policy advice to the Panel through a dedicated scrutiny officer, this includes written and oral briefings to Panel members.

Other areas to highlight to Members with a change in Host Authority are as follows:-

- The Monitoring Officer of the Host Authority will have the final ruling as to the interpretation of legal requirements, the Rules and the Panel Arrangements Document.
- Where the Rules do not explicitly address an issue the Standing Orders from the Host Authority will apply.
- All Panel members will be subject to a Member Code of Conduct which for elected members will be those of their own Council; co-opted members will be subject to the Code of Conduct of the Host Authority provided that the Panel may agree to adopt such additional protocols as it thinks fit.

Recommendations

That the Panel consider the issues outlined in this report and

- 1) agree to RESOLVE that Oxfordshire County Council should carry out the function of Host Authority for the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel, and that the function will be transferred on a date to be agreed between South Bucks District Council and Oxfordshire County Council once the TUPE arrangements have been finalised and transition arrangements are in place between South Bucks District Council and the new Host Authority.
- 2) That the Panel arrangements be amended accordingly to reflect that the host authority will be Oxfordshire County Council from the date agreed between South Bucks District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

Background information

<https://www.southbucks.gov.uk/article/8102/Thames-Valley-Police-and-Crime-Panel>