

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

WEBCASTING OF POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS

29 April 2014

SUMMARY

At its meeting on 12 March 2013 the Police and Crime Panel agreed to continue webcasting its meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner to help open up the scrutiny process to a wider audience.

It was agreed that the situation would be reviewed after one year of operation to determine whether webcasting should continue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Police and Crime Panel is asked to:

- (i) Note the content of the report.
- (ii) Determine whether it wishes to continue webcasting its public meetings.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires that arrangements be made for the work and activity of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel to be promoted.
- 1.2 At its meeting on 13 December 2012 the Panel agreed a range of processes to open up its scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner to a wider audience, including the use of webcasting.
- 1.3 The Police and Crime Panel revisited the use of webcasting at its meeting on 12 March 2013 and agreed to continue with the practice for a further year to determine whether it provided good value for money.
- 1.4 The Panel has to date webcast seven meetings – from its first formal meeting with the Commissioner on 13 December 2012, to its last meeting on 6 February 2014.

2.0 ANALYSIS AND PROGRESS

- 2.1 The Panel has been making use of the County Council's existing webcasting facilities to record and stream meetings over the internet. The system keeps a record of the number of views each webcast receives, and the data for the last two meetings is detailed below.
- 2.2 In the tables below, "Total Views" indicates the total number of views a recording has received to date¹. "Live Views" indicates the number of individuals that streamed the meeting live and "Archive Views" indicates the number of times a video has been accessed post-meeting.

2.3 13 December 2012

Total Views	Live Views	Archive Views
172	45	127

2.5 6 February 2012

Total Views	Live Views	Archive Views
44	15	29

2.6 12 March 2013

Total Views	Live Views	Archive Views
206	4	202

¹ The data provided is correct as of 1 April 2014.

2.7 12 June 2013

Total Views	Live Views	Archive Views
390	7	383

2.8 10 September 2013

Total Views	Live Views	Archive Views
893	1	839

2.9 29 November 2013

Total Views	Live Views	Archive Views
679	8	671

2.10 6 February 2014

Total Views	Live Views	Archive Views
592	74	518

- 2.11 The Police and Crime Panel is currently the “most watched” Committee Webcast by Surrey County Council, with the last three meetings being particularly well viewed. Of particular significance is the number of Live Views for the meeting on 6 February 2014, with 74 users watching the Panel’s consideration of the Commissioners proposed precept live via the internet.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 At present the County Council pays an annual fee of £11,700 to its webcast provider which entitles it to 90 hours of webcasting. This equates to £130 per hour.
- 3.2 In addition to the hardware, software and technical support costs included within the contract, a Surrey County Council officer is required to operate the webcasting equipment. The cost of this is approximately £12.00 per hour.
- 3.3 Based on an average meeting length of 3 hours, the approximate cost of webcasting a meeting is therefore £426.

4.0 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As the host authority, Surrey County Council is committed to ensuring that residents have access to relevant information concerning the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Should the Panel decide not to continue webcasting its meetings, residents will still be able to access the latest

information, news, reports and minutes via the dedicated website:
www.surreycc.gov.uk/policeandcrimepanel

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Panel is asked to determine whether it wishes to continue webcasting its public meetings.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Surrey Police and Crime Panel has a duty to ensure that residents have access to the information they need to hold Surrey's Police and Crime Commissioner to account. At the same time the Panel has to ensure that resources are used appropriately.

7.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

7.1 Depending on the decision of the Panel, the use of webcasting will either continue or cease.

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