

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AND THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR SURREY

09 September 2014

SUMMARY

At its meeting on 13 December 2012 the Surrey Police and Crime Panel (PCP) agreed the Protocol between it and the Police and Crime Commissioner, a document intended to guide the relationship between the two bodies.

At the time it was agreed that the Protocol would be revisited after 12 months of operation and, following consultation with Panel Members and the Commissioner's Office, this report is recommending some minor changes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To agree the recommended changes to the Protocol, as set out in Appendix 1 and summarised in Section 2 of this report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The purpose of the Protocol is to guide the relationship between the PCP and the PCC.
- 1.2 Much of the Protocol's content is based on the principles set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act and accompanying regulations. As these have remained unchanged, the formal processes and responsibilities set out in the Protocol remain factually accurate and, as a whole, the document remains fit for purpose.
- 1.3 However, given the formal commitment to review the document, there is nevertheless an opportunity to make some small modifications to provide greater clarity around specific points.

2.0 RECOMMENDED CHANGES

- 2.1 All recommended changes are clearly highlighted in the full Protocol, attached as Appendix 1. In summary, the changes are:
 - Numbered paragraphs and minor wording changes to make the document more accessible.
 - Minor wording and grammatical changes to reflect the fact that both Panel and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner are now fully operational.
 - Recognition that the PCP may, on occasion, commission discrete pieces of work outside of committee to explore specific areas of concern.
 - An understanding that the PCC will inform the PCP when he creates new posts within the Office of the PCC. This is in recognition that some key posts, such as Assistant Commissioners, are not dealt with under the existing legislation despite there being a clear public interest in PCP involvement.
 - Recognition of the arrangements in place for meeting ahead of the precept notification to allow the PCP and PCC to have a constructive dialogue.
 - An understanding that the PCP will be briefed on situations where the PCC is not the formal decision maker but is actively involved in discussions with the Force concerning a significant operational decision.

3.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Panel is asked to agree the changes as set out in Appendix 1 and summarised in Section 2 of this report.

4.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To ensure that the Protocol remains up-to-date.

5.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

5.1 Once agreed, the updated Protocol will be signed by both the Chairman of the PCP and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

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