

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION AT MEETINGS OF THE SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

12 March 2013

SUMMARY

In order for the Surrey Police and Crime Panel to properly discharge its duties and hold the Police and Crime Commissioner to account, it is expected that in some circumstances it may be necessary to exclude the public and press from meetings because it is likely that exempt (Part II) information will be disclosed.

This report encloses a protocol that sets out the process for consideration of Part II information at public meetings of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Police and Crime Panel is asked to:

- (i) Note the content of the report.
- (ii) Agree the protocol attached as Appendix A.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public may be excluded from meetings of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel in the event that the nature of the business to be transacted would lead to the disclosure of exempt information.
- 1.2 The protocol in Appendix A sets out a proposed process for consideration of exempt information at public meetings.

2.0 ANALYSIS AND PROGRESS

- 2.1 During drafting the protocol was shared with both the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chairman of the Panel. It is presented here for formal agreement by the Panel.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4.0 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As the host authority for the Panel, Surrey County Council is committed to ensuring that residents have access to relevant information concerning the work of the Commissioner. However, in order to properly scrutinise his actions, it is essential that the Panel has the ability to consider exempt information. The attached protocol is intended to guide this process.
- 4.2 The protocol adheres to the principles of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and information will only be withheld where there is clear justification in law for doing so.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Panel is asked to agree the protocol in Appendix A.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 To allow the Panel to hold the Commissioner to account.

7.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 7.1 Once agreed, the protocol will be used as the basis for consideration of Part II items.

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