

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

WEBCASTING OF POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS

12 March 2013

SUMMARY

At its meeting on 13 December 2012 the Police and Crime Panel agreed to webcast its initial two meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner to help open up the scrutiny process to a wider audience.

It was agreed that following these meetings the use of webcasting would be reviewed and that the Panel would determine arrangements for future meetings.

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 Surrey Police and Crime Panel to be promoted.
- 1.2 At its meeting on 13 December 2013 the Panel agreed a range of processes to open up its scrutiny of the new Police and Crime Commissioner to a wider audience, including the use of webcasting.
- 1.3 The Panel has to date webcast two meetings – its first formal meeting with the Commissioner on 13 December 2012, and the following meeting on 6 February 2013 at which the Panel considered the Commissioner’s proposed precept for 2013/14.

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 steamed 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

2.7 Comparative data

- 2.8 To give Panel Members some context, average viewing data for all meetings webcast by the County Council between 1 October 2011 and 30 September 2012 is provided below:

- 2.8.1 There were 31 meetings webcast during this period and each attracted an average of 42 live viewers and 169 viewers from archive – an average total of 211 views per meeting.

¹ The data provided is correct as of 18 February 2013.

- 2.8.2 Meetings of Council attracted an average of 90 live viewers and 177 viewers from archive – an average total of 267 views per meeting.
- 2.8.3 Meetings of Cabinet attracted an average of 31 live viewers and 193 viewers from archive – an average total of 224 views per meeting.
- 2.8.4 Meetings of Planning attracted an average of 26 live viewers and 146 viewers from archive – an average total of 172 views per meeting.
- 2.9 It is important to remember that because meetings are archived for six months, the viewing figures for meetings towards the tail end of this reporting period are not fully developed. Equally, the meetings of the Police and Crime Panel in December and February will remain available for some time yet, and it is likely that both will receive additional views as time passes.

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 would be £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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