

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**REFERRAL OF ISSUES FROM COUNTY COUNCIL AND
BOROUGH / DISTRICT SELECT COMMITTEES TO THE
POLICE AND CRIME PANEL****12 March 2013****SUMMARY**

Surrey County Council's Communities Select Committee has proposed that a method of referral be established between it and the Police and Crime Panel so that any issues relating to the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner can be referred to the Panel for consideration.

This report sets out a proposed process that would allow referrals to be made to the Police and Crime Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Police and Crime Panel is asked to:

- (i) Note the content of the report.
- (ii) Agree the referral mechanism detailed in section 2 of the report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Surrey County Council's Communities Select Committee is responsible for overseeing and scrutinising a wide range of matters, including community safety, crime and disorder reduction, youth offending and relations with the Police.
- 1.2 At its meeting on 16 January 2013 the Communities Select Committee acknowledged that scrutiny of these issues may highlight matters on which the Police and Crime Commissioner should be challenged.
- 1.3 As the Police and Crime Panel has a clear, statutory duty to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Communities Select Committee felt that it would be advisable to refer such issues, should they arise, to the Police and Crime Panel for further consideration.
- 1.4 Given that the Police and Crime Panel is a joint committee consisting of elected representatives from each borough and district, it is recommended that any referral mechanism also allows referrals from the Select / Scrutiny Committees of each authority.

2.0 PROPOSED REFERRAL METHOD

- 2.1 To allow relevant issues to be referred to the Panel, it is proposed that a standing item be added to every agenda, entitled: "Referrals from County Council and Borough / District Select Committees".
- 2.2 To support the process, officers supporting the County Council's Communities Select Committee and the Police and Crime Panel will share details of forward work programmes, to help identify areas of mutual concern.
- 2.3 In accordance with clause 6.4 of the Panel Arrangements agreed by all 12 Local Authorities in Surrey, Panel Members would be encouraged to make their respective authorities aware of the referral mechanism.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4.0 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Panel is asked to agree referral mechanism detailed in section 2 of the report.

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, each future agenda for the Police and Crime Panel will include an item entitled: "Referrals from County Council and Borough / District Select Committees"

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