

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – 12 JUNE 2013

AGENDA ITEM 6

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1: Resident

To ask the Police & Crime Commissioner why he has not published all of the information which he is required to under the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 ("the 2011 order") as amended, including:

- each item of his Office's expenditure, and of the Chief Constable's expenditure, exceeding £500, as required by the 2011 Order, Schedule 1, subparagraph 3(g);
- specific information relating to his Office's property, rights and liabilities, and those of the Chief Constable, covered by any of the headings of Schedule 1, paragraph 4 of the 2011 Order;
- a copy of his Office's annual investment strategy, as required by the 2011 Order, Schedule 1, subparagraph 3(e);

and by what date he estimates that all of this information, from his election in November 2012 to the present time, will be published.

The Police & Crime Commissioner will give the following response:

The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 (as amended) places a diverse raft of requirements on Police & Crime Commissioners regarding the publication of data. These requirements include publishing information on the names, salaries, expenses and business interests of certain office holders as well as equality and diversity information about the make-up of the PCC's staff. The Order also obliges a PCC to publish any 'key decisions' made, information about records management, the custody visiting scheme, public meetings and award of grants.

The Order also requires a PCC to publish financial information about income and expenditure, contracts, property, rights and liabilities. The Commissioner has met the vast majority of his requirements to publish data in accordance with the Order, but as the questioner highlights, there remain three areas where work is still underway to meet the requirements. To address the points raised by the questioner in turn:

- Expenditure in excess of £500 (for both the PCC and Chief Constable) is published on the 'Spotlight on Spend' website. A link is provided on the PCC's website (www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk) in the section 'Our Work/Managing Surrey Police Finance'. This information must be published 'as soon as practicable', although the most recently published information relates to March 2012. Surrey Police Finance colleagues are currently working with Spikes

Cavell, who manage the site, to bring the information up to date and expect to have this completed by the end of June 2013.

- Schedule 1 paragraph 4 of the Order requires the PCC to publish information on contracts and tenders over £10,000. Some information is already available on the 'Bluelight Procurement Portal', a link to which is provided on the PCC's website, however this is a resource intensive and complex piece of work. Furthermore, the police service has raised concerns about publishing potentially sensitive information that could jeopardise police operations. The Surrey and Sussex joint procurement team are working on processes to ensure compliance and the Commissioner would expect to be compliant by September 2013.
- The Treasury Management Strategy (the PCC's investment strategy) for 2012/13 to 2014/15 was approved by the Police Authority in February 2012 and was inherited by the PCC upon taking up office. An update against this strategy has been considered by the PCC's Audit Committee at its meeting on 10 June 2013. The PCC's website has now been updated to publish the relevant information.

Kevin Hurley, Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner