SURREY PCP

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Re-establishment of the Finance Sub-Group

13 July 2016

SUMMARY

This report sets out the terms of reference and suggested membership for the Police and Crime Panel Finance Sub-Group.

The Panel is asked to reconstitute the Finance Sub-Group for 2017/18.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Police and Crime Panel is asked to:

(i) Agree the terms of reference for the Finance Sub-Group attached at Annex 1,

(ii) Appoint the following members to the Finance Sub-group for the remainder of the 2017/18 Council year:

- Cllr Charlotte Morley
- Cllr Chris Sadler
- Bryan Cross
- Chairman (*ex-officio*)
- Vice-Chairman (*ex-officio*)

13

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 gives the Police and Crime Panel the responsibility to review the Police and Crime Commissioner's precept.

1.2 This report sets out the proposed terms of reference and membership for a Finance Sub-group to support the Panel in fulfilling its functions in relation to the budget and precept.

1.3 The Finance Sub-Group operated the Commissioners first term in office. The Group played a crucial role in scrutinising the Commissioner's proposed budgets and precepts. The Panel is therefore requested to reconstitute the Sub-Group for the 2017/18 municipal year.

1.4 The report does not propose any changes to the terms of reference of the Sub-Group, although the Panel may make any changes it considers appropriate.

2 CONTEXT

2.1 One of the functions of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel is to review the Police and Crime Commissioner's annual precept and, having considered the proposed precept, together with any supporting documentation:

a) agree the precept without qualification or comment;

b) support the precept and make comments or recommendations concerning the application of the revenues generated;

c) veto the proposed precept.

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2.2 This is one of only two areas where the Panel has a power of veto (with a two-thirds majority) and therefore is a significant responsibility for the Panel.

2.3 There is a strict timetable laid down within the regulations dictating the respective roles of the Commissioner and the Panel.

2.4 Whilst the timescales for next year's precept setting process have not yet been confirmed, it is likely that the Panel will likely only have limited time to consider the Commissioner's precept proposals.

2.5 In order to ensure that this does not impact on the Panel's ability to scrutinise the budget in the necessary level of detail, it is recommended that a sub-group of members again be constituted to lead on the financial aspects of the Panel's role. Terms of reference for the sub-group are included at Annex 1 and are unchanged from when they were first agreed in 2012/13.

3 MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Given the terms of reference and to draw on the expertise of the Panel, it is recommended that members of this Sub-Group have the relevant financial skills and/or experience.

3.2 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be ex-officio members of this sub-group providing additional support and capacity as necessary.

4 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Panel is asked to agree the terms of reference (attached at Annex 1) and membership as at set out on the first page of this report.

5 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Surrey Police and Crime Panel has a duty to ensure they hold the Police and crime Commissioner to account and review the Precept. The recommendations contained in this report will help to ensure that this responsibility is fulfilled.

6 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

6.1 The Sub-Group will meet with the Office of the PCC to better understand the full detail of the Surrey Police Budget and agree the format and content of sub-group meetings for 2017/18.

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ANNEX 1

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
FINANCE SUB-GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

To monitor and review the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner's budget proposals (including the proposed precept) and make recommendations to the Panel as appropriate.

Membership of the Group

3-6 members of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel.

Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Panel will be ex-officio members of the Sub-Group.

Roles/Functions

- To develop a good understanding of the Surrey Police budget.
- To question/challenge the Commissioner about the financial information provided in support of the precept and identify any further information which might be required, so that any issues can be addressed at an early stage.
- To carry out detailed scrutiny of specific budget issues as necessary.
- To provide a steer to the Commissioner and/or the Surrey Police and Crime Panel on action to be taken to address any budget issues identified.
- To lead the discussion when budget issues are discussed by the full Panel, ensuring that other members of the Panel have a good understanding and can make informed decisions.