

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Report

Date considered:	20 October 2023
Title:	Working Group Arrangements
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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this paper is to set out a proposal to remove the Policy and Performance Working Group and Precept 2024/25 Task and Finish Group, which operate under the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police and Crime Panel (PCP) to be replaced with a programme of training and briefing events for all Members of the Panel.

Recommendations

2. **That the Panel agrees to remove the Policy and Performance Working Group and the Precept 2024/25 Task and Finish Group.**
3. **That the Panel notes that a programme of training and briefing events, available to all Members of the Panel will be scheduled during 2023-24.**
4. **That delegated authority be given to the Democratic Services Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Panel, to submit a letter to the Commissioner in advance of each full meeting of the Panel outlining the information required from the Commissioner for the forthcoming meeting.**

Current Working Group Arrangements

5. The purpose of the Policy and Performance Working Group, operating as the Plan Working Group from May 2016 until July 2022, was to enhance the Panel's scrutiny of the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. Consisting of five Members, appointed each year at the Panel's AGM, the working group meets quarterly, in advance of each meeting of the Panel to undertake an in-depth review of delivery against the Police and Crime Plan and suggest the

information to be provided by the Commissioner to the next meeting of the Panel to demonstrate delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

6. At a meeting of the Panel on 8 July 2022 it was agreed that a Task and Finish Group meet between November and January each year to review the Commissioner's draft budget and precept proposals. This replaced the former Finance Working Group which had been introduced in 2012. The proposed membership of this task and finish group was five members, who would meet with the Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer on three to four occasions between November and February to review the development of the draft precept proposal.

Proposed approach

7. It is proposed that the Policy and Performance Working Group and the Precept Task and Finish Group be removed, and instead be replaced with an annual programme of briefing and training events for all Members of the Panel.
8. The programme will consist of four training/briefing days, each to be held a minimum of two weeks in advance of the scheduled meeting dates of the full Panel. The programme will encompass induction for new Members, skills and awareness training and topical updates from the Commissioner against the Police and Crime Plan. There will also be an additional virtual briefing held with the Chief Finance Officer in advance of the Panel's meeting in January to enable all Members of the Panel to be better informed regarding the context of the proposed precept, in addition to a more generalised briefing on budget and precept scrutiny during the normal programme.
9. To support preparations for public meetings of the Panel it is recommended that delegated authority be given to the Democratic Services Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Panel, to submit a letter to the Commissioner in advance of each full meeting of the Panel outlining the information required from the Commissioner for the forthcoming meeting. The request will be based upon the agreed work programme. Any Member of the Panel who wishes to contribute to or make a request for information to the meeting through this letter should make the Democratic Service Officer aware no less than 6 weeks in advance of a scheduled public meeting. A copy of the letter will be circulated, in confidence, to all Panel Members before each meeting for information.
10. It is anticipated that the full cost of the training/briefing programme will be met through the Panel's existing annual budget of £1,500 for training and will also provide for any increase in travelling expenses for co-opted Members to attend in-person events.

11. An initial briefing and member induction session was held on 16 October and, if the recommendations are agreed, further briefings will be scheduled in December/January, March and June and will consist of a mix of virtual and face-to-face events.
12. It is expected that this approach will bring about a number of benefits, including reducing demand on both PCP and OPCC officer time and removing duplication of effort, upskilling and providing greater context for all Panel Members to enable more informed and enhanced scrutiny of the PCC, and increasing transparency by removing working groups and bringing more discussion and challenge back to the main public meetings.

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

N/A

N/A