

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

20 NOVEMBER 2012

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL PROTOCOL – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree the Council's internal arrangements for overview and scrutiny of the Police and Crime Panel (P&CP) within the new arrangements for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) role.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Governance Committee recommend to Full Council that the overview and scrutiny arrangements for the Police and Crime Panel Procedures lie with the Community and Social Affairs Committee.**
- 2.2 **The procedural documents set out in Appendix A be approved and Document B be proposed for inclusion in the Constitution.**
- 2.3 **Any amendments to the proposed procedures as they develop be dealt with under the Council's existing urgency processes within the Constitution.**
- 2.4 **A review of the arrangements to be carried out in 12 months, in liaison with other principal Councils.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 As Members are aware, new legislation governs the arrangements for the newly elected PCC and the creation of the new P&CP together with the relationship with principal Councils and Localities.
- 3.2 One such arrangement is to scrutinise the activity of the P&CP and to develop a locality view. In order to promote an effective arrangement a Countywide approach is being suggested. This involves the allocation of the overview and scrutiny role to part of the Councils governance framework.
- 3.3 This Council has determined that overview and scrutiny shall rest with relevant Policy Committees as a result of the recent change in the Law which enabled 'Fourth Option' Authorities to dispense with the formal Overview and Scrutiny Committee arrangements. Officers have therefore considered the suggestion of the Countywide approach and propose to Members that the Community and Social Affairs Committee is best placed to take on these responsibilities. Its Members oversee and deal with Policy matters of the Councils Community Safety activity as well as having overarching responsibility for Community activity. It is further suggested that by linking the role with that Committee the Council will gain further effectiveness in that its experienced and knowledgeable Members will be dealing with scrutiny and particularly the development role of the relationship based on locality views and experience. This change to arrangements appears wholly in line with the approach accepted for adoption by Members when they made the changes earlier in the year.

3.4 The Countywide arrangements suggest that overview and scrutiny takes place (at least) once a year. Officers therefore suggested that a special meeting of the Community and Social Affairs Committee is held at a relevant and agreed time to enable local scrutiny and the development of the relationship with the P&CP to take place in a structured but not time limited environment. Further arrangements can be put in place should the need arise.

3.5 Certain Countywide documentation has also been proposed. These documents are set out in Appendix A to this report. The documents have been duly amended to reflect the proposals set out above. Members are requested to consider and approve the documents in Appendix A and recommend document B for inclusion in the Constitution.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This report proposes amendments to the Council's Policy Framework to accommodate the new arrangements for the PCC role and the Council's productive relationship with the P&CP.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are small and limited financial implications arising from the establishment and additional Committee Meeting.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 The Council will be meeting its duties set out within the primary Legislation by the allocation of the overview and scrutiny role to the relevant Committee.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 Proposals set out in this report bring the Council's experience in this area to the table when the scrutiny takes place, as well as giving an opportunity for development of Council Policies and Procedures and activities by working with the P&CP as part of the arrangements.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 This is an internal procedural arrangement and therefore no Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) is required. However, should policy development or further proposals and change of practices or services develop from the annual scrutiny role these will need to be subject to an EIA at the appropriate time.

9.0 **RISKS**

9.1 **Probability**

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Very High A				
High B				
Significant C				
Low D				
Very Low E		1		
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic

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Impact

Risk No.	Description
1	No procedure for Overview and Scrutiny is established

9.2 The risks are minimal in relation to this in practical terms although the Council must adhere to its legislative duties. The procedures set out promote responsibility for this role within the appropriate area of the Council's expertise and experience.

10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 These arrangements follow Countywide consideration of meeting the duties effectively and efficiently.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All

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Date: 13 November 2012

Appendices : A – Procedural documents to implement the scrutiny role

Background Papers: Email dated 15 October 2012 from Leicestershire County Council
Relevant internal notes October/November 2012

Reference : X : Committees\Governance\2012 13\201112