

# Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

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**Title:** Host Authority for the Panel and Appointment of Named Substitutes for Elected Local Authority Members and Co-Opted Local Authority Members of the Panel



**Date:** 18 November 2022

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## **BACKGROUND**

At the last meeting of the Panel on 23 September 2022, discussion took place on the hosting arrangements for the Panel. The newly appointed Chair informed Members he would discuss with his Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer whether his authority, Milton Keynes Council, would consider becoming the host authority to the Panel.

At the meeting, an expression of interest to Host the Panel was given by Buckinghamshire Council, and it was agreed that any other expressions of interest to Host the Panel be submitted to the Chair and the Scrutiny Officer to the Panel.

Currently under the Rule of Procedure and Panel Arrangements, there is no specific reference to named substitute Members for local authority elected Members to the Panel, although these are appointed by Constituent Authorities and do attend the Panel as substitute Members. In addition, the Co-Opted local authority Members, of which there are five, are not allowed to appoint named substitute Members. The Panel is asked to update the Rules of Procedure and Panel Arrangements to include reference to substitute Members.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. That the information reported be noted and the Panel be asked to give approval to the transfer of hosting arrangements for the Panel from Oxfordshire County Council to Buckinghamshire Council from April 2023.**
- 2. That consideration be given to Buckinghamshire Council's request that the arrangement be for a 3-year period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026.**
- 3. That, subject to the proposals being agreed, the Panel Arrangements will be updated with the change to hosting taking effect from 1 April 2023.**
- 4. That the Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure be updated to include the appointment of named substitute local authority elected Members and Co-**

## **Opted local authority Members to attend Panel meetings in the absence of the appointed elected and Co-Opted Members.**

### **1. Update on Host Authority for the Panel**

The Chair's local authority, Milton Keynes Council has indicated that it does not wish to take on the role of Host Authority for the Panel.

Members of the Panel were written to, inviting expressions of interest from their respective authorities to Host the Panel. There were no expressions of interest submitted apart from the interest expressed by Buckinghamshire Council at the last Panel meeting.

Discussions have taken place between relevant officers at the present Host Authority, Oxfordshire County Council and Buckinghamshire Council who have expressed an interest to Host the Panel. Oxfordshire County Council has served notice that it will no longer be Host Authority and subject to approval of the Panel, the hosting function will be transferred from April 2023 to Buckinghamshire Council.

Buckinghamshire Council has asked, if the Panel agrees to Buckinghamshire Council becoming Host Authority, that consideration be given to these arrangements being for a 3-year period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026, to provide continuity of support to the Panel.

The reasoning behind the request for a 3-year period, is to enable Buckinghamshire Council to plan in terms of budget and staffing which is more difficult to do if the hosting arrangements are reviewed, and potentially changed, annually.

From Paragraph 4 of the PCP's Panel Arrangements.

#### *4. Host Authority*

*4.1 The Panel shall agree a Host Authority for the Secretariat for the Panel, which shall provide such scrutiny, legal, financial, administrative, and other support as is reasonably required to enable the Panel to undertake its functions within the resources agreed by the Panel.*

*4.2 In accordance with the Panel's agreement made at the meeting held on 6 September 2019 South Bucks District Council shall act as the Host Authority until 31 December 2019. Oxfordshire County Council shall act as the Host Authority from 1 January 2020 until such time as either:*

*a) The Panel resolves at its annual meeting (held in June of each year) that another Authority should carry out this function, provided that such other Authority agrees. In which case, the function will be transferred six months after the Panel decision unless a shorter period is agreed between the existing Host Authority and the new Host Authority; or*

*b) The existing Host Authority serves notice that it no longer wishes to be the Host Authority and this function is transferred to another Authority in which case, a six month notice period will apply, unless a shorter period is agreed between the existing Host Authority and the new Host Authority; or*

c) *In the event that no Authority comes forward to act as Host Authority the home Council of the current Chairman of the Panel shall be expected to be the Host Authority.*

4.3 *The staff employed to support the Panel will be employed by the Host Authority. Should the Host Authority change the TUPE legislation which is in force at the time shall apply as necessary.*

## **2. Named Substitute Members for Local Authority Elected Members and Local Authority Co-Opted Members**

At present, local authority elected Members are allowed to have named substitute Members attend Panel meetings in their absence.

It is proposed that this facility be extended to the five local authority Co-Opted Members and the Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure be updated accordingly.

Consultation has taken place with other Police and Crime Panels and both local authority elected Members and local authority Co-Opted Members are allowed to have named substitutes attend in their absence.