

# Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

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**Title:** Review of Panel Rules of Procedure, Complaints Procedure, Panel Membership and appointment to Sub-Committee's and Task Groups

**Date:** 25 June 2021

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## **BACKGROUND**

1. For the first meeting of the Municipal Year, the Police and Crime Panel reviews its Rules of Procedure and Panel Arrangements. Consideration of the Rules of Procedure and Panel Arrangements also reminds Panel Members, particularly new Members of the role and functions of the Panel.

The report also requests consideration of an updated Complaints Handling Procedure as it applies to the Panel's Complaints Sub-Committee which considers Non-Criminal Complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner and his officers.

Appointments are required to the Panel's Complaints Sub-Committee, its Budget Task and Finish Group and other Task and Finish Groups if established.

As per the Panel Arrangements (paragraph 3.15), Co-opted Members are subject to interview before confirming their appointment. For this Municipal Year, two of the newly appointed Co-opted Members from Buckinghamshire Council are not existing Members of the Panel, so their appointments will be subject to these rules.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**It is recommended that the Panel: -**

- i) Notes the Panel's Rules of Procedure and Panel Arrangements (Appendices 1 and 2).**
- ii) Reconfirms the decision that future meetings take place at Buckinghamshire Council's Gateway House in Aylesbury.**
- ii) Agrees the Protocol for the Informal Resolution Procedure regarding Complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner and his officers (Appendix 3).**

- iii) Consider the memberships of the Panel's Complaints Sub Committee (7 Members) and Budget Task and Finish Group (5 Members) and confirm the appointment of the Members detailed below (para. 4) and appoint Members to vacancies as required.
- iv) That the established Sub-Committee and Task Group be agreed with no changes to their terms of reference for the following year (subject to any legislative changes).
- v) Notes the arrangements regarding the two newly appointed Co-Opted Members of Buckinghamshire Council.

## **2. Terms of Reference and Panel Arrangements**

The Panel operates in accordance with specifications outlined in Rules of Procedure and Panel Arrangements documents (Appendices 1 and 2). The Rules of Procedure and Panel Arrangements were last agreed by the Panel at its 22 November 2019 meeting, to take account of Oxfordshire County Council becoming the Host Authority of the Panel and because of changes arising from local government reorganisation in Buckinghamshire which took effect from 1 April 2020.

An area of discussion in previous years has been the location for meetings of the Police and Crime Panel. The Panel when it was first set up held meetings around the Thames Valley, based on a rota. This Panel has previously agreed, that to ensure the maximum attendance of the membership of the Panel, meetings of the Panel be held in Aylesbury, which is the best suited location in terms of accessibility for the Members of the Thames Valley Region. This decision was reaffirmed at the meeting in November 2019.

For this meeting, the venue used in Aylesbury was unavailable, but going forward if the Panel agrees, meetings can continue to take place at Buckinghamshire Council's Gateway House, Aylesbury.

## **3. The Panel's Complaints Handling Procedure**

Non-Criminal complaints against the PCC and his officers are considered by the Panel's Complaints Sub-Committee in accordance with the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 and best practice.

In line with best practice, a Protocol for the Informal Resolution Procedure regarding Complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner has been devised which has been agreed by the Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

There are some complaints which escalate through the Police Complaints Process which end up with the Panel's Complaints Sub-Committee that clearly fall outside the jurisdiction of the Panel. An amendment is suggested to the Complaints Handling Process for these to be filtered before they end up at a Complaints Sub-Committee.

In such circumstances the Chief Executive of the PCC will liaise with the PCP's Scrutiny Officer and discuss the reasoning for the non-recording of a complaint. The PCP's Scrutiny Officer will consult with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, review the complaint and, if they are in agreement that the complaint (or part), does not properly fall within the responsibility of the PCP and therefore should not be recorded and considered by the Complaints Sub-Committee, the complainant should be notified in writing

#### **4. Appointments to Complaints Sub-Committee and Budget Task and Finish Group**

Consideration is needed to the appointments to the Panel's Sub-Committee and Task and Finish Group

##### **Membership 2020/21**

**Complaints Sub-Committee (7)** – Cllr Julia Adey \*, Cllr Emily Culverhouse, Cllr Merilyn Davies, Liz Jones, Cllr Kieron Mallon\*, Cllr Andrew McHugh and Phillip Morrice

**Budget Task and Finish Group (5)** – Cllr Robin Bradburn, Cllr Andrew McHugh, Cllr Barrie Patman and Cllr David Rouane\*. (1 vacancy)

**\* Denotes no longer a Member of the Police and Crime Panel**

#### **5. Newly appointed Co-opted Members of Buckinghamshire Council**

To confirm that in accordance with Panel Arrangements, that the appointment of the two newly appointed Co-opted Members from Buckinghamshire Council, subjected to interview by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Panel.