

DYFED-POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
21ST FEBRUARY 2017

PRESENT: A Lloyd-Jones (Chair);

Carmarthenshire County Council Members:-

Councillors W.G. Hopkins; W.J.W. Evans and P.E.M Jones

Ceredigion County Council Members

Councillors J.D. Rowland Jones and T.H. Lewis;

Pembrokeshire County Council Members

Councillors R. Summons;

Powys County Council Members

Councillors D.O. Evans, G. Jones and P. Medlicott;

Independent Members

Professor I. Roffe and Mrs. H.M. Thomas;

Officers also in attendance: -

Carmarthenshire County Council:-

Mr. R. Edgecombe – Acting Legal Services Manager;

Ms. C. Gadd – Democratic Services Officer.

Committee Room 2, County Hall, Haverfordwest 10.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.

1. **APOLOGIES AND OTHER MATTERS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R. Summons (Pembrokeshire County Council).

It was highlighted that P.C. Jones, who was a dog handler in Dyfed Powys Police, had won the Wales and South West Police Dog Trials and would be representing Wales in a national competition. The Panel agreed that a letter of congratulations would be sent to PC Jones on their behalf.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. **MINUTES**

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel held on the 27th January, 2017 be signed as a correct record.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Reference was made to Minute 6, the Police Precept. It was queried if there was an update for the ongoing negotiations taking place with the Welsh Government to

increase the 16% contribution, which was currently received by the Force. The Acting Legal Services Manager stated that an update would be requested and circulated to the Panel.

Reference was made to Minute 7, the Police & Crime Plan. In response to a query the Acting Legal Services Manager clarified that a press release had been produced and was circulated to the Committee in relation to the priorities and key deliverables of the Plan.

5. MEDIA UPDATE

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that this item would be deferred to the next meeting of the Panel.

6. ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AND CRIME PANELS

The Panel received a report on the proposals for the formation of an Association of Police and Crime Panels and to determine to what extent the Panel wished to be involved.

The Acting Legal Services Manager explained that the purpose of the Association would be to share good practice, organising training and other events and collectively lobby central government to ensure the interests and views of the Panels were not overlooked. It would act as a counter-balance to the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and the National Police Chief's Council. It was highlighted that the overall view of the representatives of the regional panels was that such an Association would be useful, within the boundaries of it not becoming too complicated or costly. The main focus would be for the Association to be a tool to lobby central government. An example was given of the new Police and Crime Act, which made changes that impacted on Police and Crime Commissioners but there was no mention about the impact on Panels. The Panel was supportive in principle of an Association being created.

It was explained that the initial discussions had suggested that the National Association should be Member lead and the Chairs and Vice Chairs to be the representatives of their Panel with one vote per Panel. It was highlighted that there had been some discussion as to whether the Association should be supported by an outside body or supported by the Panels themselves. The majority of Panel representatives were in favour of not creating additional costs by using external organisations. As a result of these discussions a steering group had been established to develop the proposals further and the North Wales Panel was the representative of the Welsh Panels. It was noted that the proposals for the Association would be circulated to all Panels for consideration prior to their Annual General Meetings (AGM).

Members of the Panel queried whether or not there should be a separate Welsh Association. Officers explained that the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) already facilitated a meeting of the four Panels in Wales. It was agreed that the minutes from these meetings would be circulated to the Panel for information.

It was agreed that if there was any further information by the next meeting that an update would be included as an agenda item.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.

7. POLICE & CRIME PANEL LEAD OFFICERS GROUP

The Panel considered the report on the Police and Crime Panel Lead Officers Group. It was explained that the WLGA established this Group and the Panel was represented by the Acting Legal Services Manager. The most recent meeting was held on 15th February 2017. The main areas discussed were the proposed Association of Police and Crime Panels, the process for amending approved Panel arrangements and training for Panel Members following the local government elections.

It was highlighted that there was currently a cap on the number of meetings that Panel Members could be paid to attend and it was noted that other Panels in Wales had the same issues with this. Members of the Panel noted that the cap on the number of meetings was an obstacle to progress.

The Acting Legal Services Manager outlined the discussions that had taken place regarding training and that the WLGA were likely to hold a Member induction training day as they had done previously. Feedback from the previous training day had been for the speeches to be more relevant to Panel Members and that the networking and sharing of ideas had been beneficial. The Panel pointed out that there was a requirement for national and local level training. It was suggested that local training for the new Panel, following the Elections in May, should take place on the same day as the AGM and include sections on the role of the Panel, the main areas for the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police Force. It was agreed that the Acting Legal Services Manager would develop a training programme and circulate it to the Panel for their input. The programme would then be developed with the independent members who would be remaining on the Panel.

It was noted that and under the new Police and Crime Act the Commissioner would receive appeals for complaints made against the Police. It was highlighted that the Panel currently dealt with complaints in relation to the Commissioner and there was potential for the number of these complaints to increase if complainants were not happy with the decision made by the Commissioner regarding their appeal. Concerns were raised in relation to the capacity of the Panel to deal with an increase in complaints and the limited powers they had in this area. Members suggested that a sub-committee of the Panel may need to be considered to deal with complaints. It was noted that there were no Panels in Wales that currently had a complaints subcommittee, however, there were some in England.

The webcasting of meetings had also been discussed and it was noted that some Panels webcast their meetings and the Panel may wish to consider this in the future. However, there were practical considerations that would have to be addressed, such as cost implication and the venues of meetings.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.

8. POLICE & CRIME PANELS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Panel received a report on the 5th Annual Conference for Police and Crime Panels held on 20th October 2016, in Birmingham. The Acting Legal Services Manager explained that the Conference featured a number of speeches and workshops on a range of subject including Regional Collaboration and the role of the Police and Crime Commissioners in the wider criminal justice system. The key themes and recommendations were outlined to Members.

Having considered the recommendations the Panel agreed that a Forward Work Programme would be brought to the meeting scheduled for the 27th March 2017 for the Panel to populate. Members highlighted that they wished to undertake more scrutiny work and raise the profile of the Panel. However, it was noted that the membership of the Panel was likely to change following the Local Government Elections in May. It was suggested that the Panel could agree a scrutiny topic in principle and officers and one of the independent members (who would be remaining on the Panel) could begin to research the topic. The Panel agreed that this would be a good approach and a list of potential topics was circulated. The Panel felt that the topic selected needed to be tangible and any outcomes manageable. Members raised concerns regarding any costs associated with additional scrutiny work and whether or not this would have a future impact on the Police Precept. It was explained that there would an implication on the cap on the number of meetings that Members could attend but it would not affect the Precept. It was agreed that Members would inform the Acting Legal Services Manager of their preferred topics by the 24th February 2017.

It was discussed that a skills assessment of the new Panel, following the Election, would be a useful exercise. It was suggested that where gaps were identified members could be co-opted to fill them. Members noted that the Commissioner had an Audit Committee and asked if the minutes were public. The Acting Legal Services Managed would establish if the minutes could be shared with the Panel. It was highlighted that the Panel had started to build its public profile and the new website was very interactive and social media was being utilised to engage with different groups.

It was noted that it would be valuable for the Panel to engage with other Police and Crime Panels to share good practice. Cumbria was given as an example of a rural area that would face the same issues as Dyfed Powys.

RESOLVED that

- 8.1 the report be received;**
- 8.2 a forward work programme to be presented to the next meeting of the Panel;**
- 8.3 members of the Panel to forward their preferred scrutiny topics to the Acting Legal Services Manager by 24th February 2017.**

9. POLICING VISION 2025

The Panel received a report to note the contents of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and the National Police Chief's Council Policing Vision 2025. The report set out why there was a need for policing in England and Wales to change and the values underpinning any change.

The Panel raised concerns that there was no mention of Police and Crime Panels within the report. It was also noted that there were a lot of marketing statements in the document about the positive work that was being undertaken.

The Panel agreed that they would respond to the report with their observations. It was requested that Members forwarded their comments to the Acting Legal Manager by 3rd March 2017, for a response to be sent on behalf of the Panel. It was also agreed that the response would be shared with other Police and Crime Panels in Wales.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that

- 9.1 the report be received;**
- 9.2 Members of the Panel to forward their comments on the Policing Vision 2025 to the Acting Legal Services Manager by 3rd March 2017 for a response to be sent on behalf of the Panel;**
- 9.3 the response by the Panel to the Policing Vision 2025 to be sent to other Police and Crime Panels in Wales, for information.**

10. CHANGES TO PANEL ARRANGEMENTS

The Panel considered a report on changes to Panel arrangements to seek approval for the removal of the restriction contained within paragraph 7.3 that Members expenses claims be capped at the equivalent of 5 full day meetings per year. The Acting Legal Services Manager informed the Panel that if they were minded to change the Panel arrangements then it would need to be approved by the Home Secretary.

The Panel agreed that they would like to remove the cap on the expenses claims for the number of meetings they could attend. It was noted that this would be required if they wished to undertake more scrutiny work.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that

- 10.1 the report be received;**
- 10.2 to seek approval for the removal of the restriction contained within paragraph 7.3 of the arrangements in relation to members expenses.**

11. PRO-ACTIVE SCRUTINY

The Panel considered a request received from the Dyfed Powys Licensing Multi Agency Forum that the Panel undertake a piece of proactive scrutiny work in relation to data sharing.

The Panel agreed that it would be a topic they may wish to consider in the future but there were other topics they wished to scrutinise before this one.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOVLED that

11.1 the report be received;

11.2 the topic for scrutiny be deferred for future consideration by the Panel.

12. WLGA TRAINING DAY

The Panel received a report on the Welsh Local Government Association Training Day for members of the four Welsh Police and Crime Panels held on 29th November 2016. The training session consisted of presentations and workshops.

It was noted that feedback from attendees was that future sessions should be more focussed on training elements rather than information giving, especially for the new Members of Panels after the Local Government Elections.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.

13. MEETINGS AND VENUES

The Panel considered a report on future meeting dates and venues of meetings of the Panel, including whether to continue to rotate meetings between the four counties and to alter the rota of meetings. It was highlighted that the current arrangements were hindering the host authority's Media and Marketing Team's efforts to raise the media profile of the Panel.

It was noted that the new website would be updated with pictures of the Members and it was suggested that for the Chair to start a video blog. However, the equipment required for such activities was in Carmarthen and to facilitate this it would be required for the Annual General Meeting and the October meeting to be held there.

It had been suggested that all meetings could be held in Carmarthen, however, the Panel felt that the meetings being rotated between the local authority areas encouraged more public engagement. Members queried if the grant for the Panel took into consideration mileage, as some rural areas (such as Dyfed Powys) required more travelling. It was noted that it was unclear how the grant amount for each area was calculated.

Members requested ID cards so that the Panel could be recognised and it would also help to raise the profile of the Panel. The Panel also raised that Members should be kept informed of any changes to senior ranks in the Police force. It was highlighted that the new Chief Constable would be attending the meeting in March and it was agreed that this information would be included in the induction sessions for the new Panel.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that

13.1 the report be received.

- 13.2 the meetings continue to rotate between the four counties;**
- 13.3 the current order of meetings is amended as outlined in the report.**

SIGNED: DATE: