

DYFED-POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
16TH NOVEMBER 2017

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. To note the report and make recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner as to the conduct of Police Accountability Board meetings.
2. To determine whether to continue to send observers to these meetings

Reasons:

At its meeting in July 2017 the Panel accepted an invitation from the Commissioner to send observers to the next meeting of the Board.

Report Authors:

Cllr Rob Summons

Mrs Helen Thomas

Designation:

Panel Member

Panel Member

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DYFED – POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

16TH NOVEMBER 2017

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

The Police Accountability Board is a public forum at which the Police and Crime Commissioner scrutinises the work of Dyfed-Powys Police Force and holds the Chief Constable to account. A copy of the Terms of Reference of the Board is annexed to this report. On the 3rd November 2017 Panel Members Cllr Rob Summons and Mrs Helen Thomas attended a meeting of the Board. The following points were noted;

1. The Commissioner acted in a thorough manner and provided effective challenge throughout the proceedings
2. The relationship between the Commissioner and Chief Constable was well balanced.
3. It was clear from the meeting that the Commissioner and Chief Officers of the force were working well together to deliver the goal of improving the force for the common good of the people of Dyfed-Powys.
4. No members of the public or press were present
5. A number of agenda items on the agenda published online had no supporting documents attached and no summary of what the particular agenda item was about. This would make it difficult for a member of the public to really understand in advance what was going to be discussed. This matter has been addressed previously directly with the Commissioner. It is understood that it is a technical issue which will be resolved in conjunction with a new website which is under construction.
6. In the past some agenda items have been marked as '(Exempt)' without any explanation as to why and what this meant.

Whilst the Commissioner should be commended for his robust scrutiny of the Chief Constable and for holding these meetings publically, more could be done to promote openness and transparency in the work of the Board. It is therefore suggested that the Panel make the following recommendations to the Commissioner;

1. That if there are agenda items in respect of which no report is being published the agenda should include a summary of the key facts or issues being discussed, so that the public can better understand what is to be considered and be able to make a more informed decision as to whether or not to attend.
2. That where a particular agenda item is to be treated as exempt from publication the reasons for non-publication should be set out in the agenda with reference to a published set of criteria together with an explanation as to what this means in terms of the conduct of the meeting. This will reassure the public that information is being withheld for proper reasons and only where it is in the public interest to do so.
3. That, a meeting be held with the Commissioner and his staff to discuss the way forward in the future. This meeting to discuss questions from the public, press releases, panel member's liaison with the Commissioner and general scrutiny matters.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

NO

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Host Authority File	LS-0511/19	County Hall, Carmarthen