

Agenda item 10

Police and Crime Panel

17 March 2017

Suffolk PCP Chairman and Vice Chairman Temporary Arrangements

Summary

1. The objective is to make provision for the event whereby it may be necessary to appoint temporary Panel Chairman or Panel Vice Chairman roles for a short period.

Focus of the agenda item

2. The factors that have given rise to this subject are set out in the Background below.

Recommendations

3. In order to make provision for the possibility of an event whereby the current Chairman either, (a) is not re-elected as a County Councillor or, (b) is re-elected as a County Councillor but not appointed as a member of the Police and Crime Panel, and (c) the current Vice Chairman is no longer in post, it is recommended:
 - (i) That the Panel nominates and chooses from amongst its non-County-Council members a Panel member who, if required, could serve either as temporary Chairman for a period to be specified within 8 May to 21 July, or as temporary Vice Chairman.
 - (ii) That officers supporting the Panel should notify the Panel by 8 May 2017, or on 25 May 2017, or as and when the current Vice Chairman might need to step down from the Panel, if there is a need to invoke the temporary arrangement.

Background

4. The Suffolk Police and Crime Panel is constituted under [Panel Arrangements](#) that were agreed by the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group. The Panel's [Rules of Procedure](#) (RoP) sets out the annual appointment of the Panel Chairman and Vice Chairman. However the RoP does not make explicit provision for circumstances that might require appointment of a temporary Chairman or Vice Chairman for a short period.
5. There is a potential situation that could arise during 2017 in which the Panel could be without both Chairman and Vice Chairman for a short period of time.
6. The current Panel Chairman is a County Councillor, standing for re-election in the forthcoming Suffolk County Council local elections on 4 May 2017. In the event that the Panel Chairman is not re-elected as a County Councillor, then a vacancy will arise

for the role of Chairman, between 8 May and 21 July 2017, when the Panel will elect its Chairman for 2017/18.

7. The current Panel Vice Chairman is an independent co-opted member of the Panel. The Vice Chairman has indicated that due to a change of circumstances and potential move outside Suffolk it could be necessary to step down from the Panel before the meeting on 21 July. In which case, the current Vice Chairman would not be able to cover temporarily the role of Chairman, should the need arise.
8. The political affiliation of the eleven councillors on the Panel is politically balanced across the whole County in proportion to the numbers of councillors in all eight local authorities in Suffolk. Four of the eleven seats on the Panel are for County Council members. Any changes in political balance resulting from the County Council election would not be known until 8 May 2017. County Council Political Group appointments of the four County Council members on the Panel will not be known until 25 May 2017, when the County Council will hold its Annual General Meeting.
9. It is proposed to use the opportunity of the Panel meeting on 17 March 2017 for the Panel to propose and agree a member of the Panel who could act either as a temporary Chairman, should the need arise within the period 8 May – 21 July 2017, or as temporary Vice Chairman, should the need arise sooner.
10. A notification of whether or not there is a need to invoke the temporary arrangement would be made by officers by 8 May 2017, following the results of the County Council elections, or on 25 May 2017, following confirmation of who are the four County Council members of the Panel, or as and when the current Vice Chairman might need to step down from the Panel.
11. In the event that the current Chairman is re-elected as a County Councillor and also continues to be appointed as one of the four County Council members of the Police and Crime Panel, then the current Chairman's tenure of office will continue unchanged until 21 July 2017 when the Panel will appoint its Chairman (and Vice Chairman) for 2017/18.

References (online)

12. Suffolk Police and Crime Panel – 'Panel Arrangements': <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/community-and-safety/crime-and-public-safety/police-and-crime-panel/2014-04-07-PCP-Panel-Arrangements.pdf>
13. Panel 'Rules of Procedure' (RoP): <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/community-and-safety/crime-and-public-safety/police-and-crime-panel/2012-10-23-Rules-of-Procedure.pdf>
14. LGA, 2012, 'Police and crime panels - Guidance on terms of reference and rules of procedure': http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=1569e4da-03cc-43a9-9804-82de20ae9c5a&groupId=10180

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