

<b>SHADOW CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 9</b>
<b>12 September 2012</b>	

## **Report of Head of Business Support and Head of Legal Services, Peterborough City Council**

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### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report outlines the finances for the Panel, including the expenses and allowances of Panel Members.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Panel notes the arrangements for management of the finances of the Panel.

#### **3. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- 3.1 The report is in accordance with the inter-authority agreement of July 2012 concerning the arrangements of the Panel.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 As host authority for the administration of the Police and Crime Panel, Peterborough City Council will receive a grant from the Home Office to fund the operation of the Panel. This grant is expected to be £53,300 per financial year for support and running costs, plus up to £920 per Panel member to cover their necessary expenses. The grant will commence in October 2012 and be paid pro-rata for the period October 2012 – March 2013.
- 4.2 According to the panel arrangements agreed by all of the Cambridgeshire authorities, the annual cost of the Panel is to be reduced by the figure of grant from the Home Office or any other source with any additional costs to be borne between the Authorities equally.
- 4.3 A draft budget for the operation of the Panel shall be drawn up by the Host Authority in February of each year, and shall be approved by the Authorities. It is expected that all costs will be contained within the budget where possible.

#### **5. KEY ISSUES**

- 5.1 *Costs of the Panel*  
In the absence of an approved budget for 2012/13, the resources available to fund the support and running costs of the Panel to March 2013 are limited to the anticipated grant of £26,650. It is anticipated that future budgets may similarly be set within the level of grant available.
- 5.2 Although it is difficult to estimate the costs of operating the Panel in the first 6 months, it is likely that the budget available will be used primarily to provide officer support for the operation of the Panel. Other expected costs include support for the independent (co-opted) members of the Panel, accommodation and administration for the meetings.

- 5.3 *Expenses*  
The necessary expenses of Panel Members will be limited to £460 per Member in 2012/13.
- 5.4 There appear to be no clear rules regarding the payment of expenses to members of the Panel. The total sum for Panel members' expenses is paid in the form of a grant to the host authority and it will therefore be for the host authority to administer the system for payment of allowances. The rules regarding claims for expenses by the host authority is set out in part 3 of the Members allowances scheme at Appendix 1.
- 5.5 *Allowances*  
Under section 28 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 it is for the participating authorities to agree whether they wish to pay the Panel members an allowance for their role on the Panel. No provision was made by the Home Office for payment of an allowance within the annual grant for the Panel.
- 5.6 Within Cambridgeshire it was agreed that payment of any allowance would be decided by each of the authorities for the first 6 months of the Panel's operation. Following that members allowances for the Panel should be referred to the next annual meeting of each authorities' Independent Remuneration Panel to conclude whether they wish to make any allowance for their members.
- 5.7 Any allowance for co-opted members would come from the grant for the Panel.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The costs of supporting the operation of the Panel are intended to be contained within funding provided by the Home Office for this purpose.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Consultation on the proposals for the membership of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel has been undertaken with the Secretary of State and the Local Government Association. Once membership is confirmed, the manner in which the Panel allocates its budget is a matter for the participating authorities. The Police Authority has been consulted on the contents of this report and officers of the local authorities and the Police authority have been collaborating in a working group to assist in the formulation of the Panel.

## **8. NEXT STEPS**

- 8.1 A draft budget for the operation of the Panel for the forthcoming financial year shall be drawn up by the host authority in February, for approval by the Authorities.

The budget will be monitored in accordance with the normal arrangements of the host authority, and reported to future panel meetings on a regular basis.

## **9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011  
Terms of reference for the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel  
Panel arrangements for the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel

## **10. APPENDICES**

- 10.1 Appendix 1 – Members allowances scheme Peterborough City Council (part 3 expenses)