

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 12
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Report of Jane Webb, Secretariat, Peterborough City Council

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION OF POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANELS

1. PURPOSE

The Panel are asked to consider joining the newly created Association of PFCPs (Police, Fire and Crime Panels.)

2.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For the Panel to consider if it wishes to become a Member of the National Association of PFCPs with the associated cost of £500 per year.

3. BACKGROUND

The creation of a national representative body was supported by almost all Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) attending last year's national conference, and the consensus of those attending was that a Special Interest Group (SIG) within the Local Government Association (LGA) would be the most appropriate model to adopt.

A Steering Group was established to develop this model further (including Terms of Reference, composition, membership, cost), with a view to circulating a final proposal to all Panels by March 2018.

The inaugural meeting, which took place on 19 April 2018 to review the formation of the SIG, agree its outline terms of reference and initial work programmes and elect a Chair and Vice Chair. A summary of the decisions reached is set out below.

Agreement to form an LGA Special Interest Group

16 Panels confirmed their commitment to establishing a SIG, which met the requirement for a minimum of 10 LGA members:

- Bedfordshire
- Cleveland
- Derbyshire
- Dorset
- Essex
- Hertfordshire
- Kent & Medway
- Merseyside
- Norfolk
- Northamptonshire
- Northumbria
- Nottinghamshire

- South Yorkshire
- Sussex
- West Midlands
- West Yorkshire

It was agreed that the SIG would be known as the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels (NAPFCP), it being emphasized that all Panels in England and Wales were eligible to participate, whether or not 'Fire' was included in their remit.

4. KEY ISSUES

Terms of Reference

The following Terms of Reference were agreed:

1. To provide a forum for collaborative discussion of issues relating to and impacting on Police and Crime Panels and Police, Fire and Crime Panels (PCPs/PFCPs)
2. To share ideas and experience in response to the expanding role of the PCCs and PFCCs and thereby PCPs/PFCPs
3. To create a mechanism for direct liaison between PCPs/PFCPs and the Home Office
4. To provide an opportunity for dialogue with relevant bodies such as the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, Association of Police and Crime Chief Executives and others.
5. To support the development of joint PCP/PFCP responses to relevant consultations
6. To promote professional standards
7. To share good practice and create guidance and other supporting materials for PCPs/PFCPs.
8. To ensure stability and collective memory in a landscape where PCPs/PFCPs can have significant changes in membership
9. To provide capacity for horizon scanning across all PCPs/PFCPs
10. To promote better understanding of the role of PCPs/PFCPs.

Management, support structure and subscriptions

The following were elected to serve until the AGM, which will take place at the National PCP conference in November 2018:

- John Gili-Ross (Independent Member, Essex PFCP) – Chairman
- John Adams (Vice-Chair, Dorset PCP) and Alison Lowe (Chair, West Yorkshire PCP) – Vice-Chairmen
- Paul Cain (Independent Member, Hertfordshire PCP – Treasurer

It was agreed that the membership subscription should be set at £500 initially

Initial work plan and next steps

The Chairman was tasked with applying to the LGA Leadership Board formally to establish a SIG, other Panels to invite them to join the NAPFCP, as well as introductory letters to other key bodies such as the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.

It was agreed that a constitution for the NAPFCP should be developed with a view to seeking approval at the AGM.

The following issues would form the focus of activity in the first year:

1. Meetings with relevant partner organisations and the Home Office
2. The development of guidance for PCPs on handling complaints
3. Updating the existing suite of LGA/Centre for Public Scrutiny Guidance for PCPs
4. Exploring the impact of changes to FRA governance and the enhanced role for PCCs in this area
5. A review of panel resourcing

6. Promoting and sharing best practice
7. Increasing the public's understanding of the role of Panels

5 IMPLICATIONS

The cost of joining the Association will be £500 per year and will come from funding provided by the Home Office for this Panel (with a caveat that the Association will not be able to lobby the Home Office for additional powers.)

6. CONSULTATION

None

7. NEXT STEPS

An update to be brought to the Panel after the PCP Conference in November.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

None

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Letter from the Chairman of the National Association of Police Fire and Crime Panels
Appendix 2 - Advice Note - NAPCPs - Eligible Expenditure Advice

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