

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel

31st March 2021

Title: Panel Governance Review

The Panel is invited to consider and approve the proposed amendments to the following documents:-

1. Panel Operating Arrangements (Appendix A)
2. Panel Rules of Procedure (Appendix B)
3. Panel Complaints Protocol (Appendix C)

1. Summary

The Panel has taken the opportunity to review its governance documents to ensure that it runs as effectively as possible and continues to fulfil its statutory functions. A small sub-group of Panel Members met on 19th January 2021 to undertake the review (Councillor Shearer, Councillor Craig and Councillor Westwood) with the support of the Panel's Governance Specialist.

The initial set up arrangements for the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel were overseen by a Joint Selection Committee of the Avon and Somerset Council Leaders (LJSC) in 2012.

The Panel Operating Arrangements document emerging from these discussions was agreed by the LJSC on 11th June 2012 and adopted by the Panel on 31st October 2012. It is attached as Appendix A to this report and was last reviewed in July 2020 to reflect the formation of Somerset West and Taunton Council (following the merge of West Somerset Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council) and to address amendments required as a result of the pandemic and postponement of the PCC elections.

In accordance with Schedule 6 Part 2 section 3 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Panel is required to seek the endorsement of the

Constituent Authorities before any amendments to the document can be adopted.

The Panel's Rules of Procedure are attached as Appendix B to this report and guide how business is conducted, ensuring that the Panel meets its statutory requirements.

Unlike the Operating Arrangements, the Panel can determine and make changes to this document. They were last reviewed on 13th December 2018.

The Panel's Complaint Protocol is attached as Appendix C. Its purpose is to explain how complaints against the Commissioner are dealt with by the Panel and reassure the public that complaints are dealt with fairly and appropriately. The Panel has review and amend this document and it was last reviewed on 13th December 2018.

Working arrangements agreed with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in 2012 require the Panel to consult with the OPCC before any amendments are made. This has taken place. The proposed amendment attempts to address the resource issue created by complaints/dissatisfaction with the PCC's failure to uphold a Police Complaint Review

2. Purpose of the report

The Panel is invited to consider and approve the proposed amendments which are highlighted for ease of reference.

3. Conclusion

The Panel operates within a governance framework previously agreed by the Constituent Authorities in 2012 and by the Panel itself. Over the passage of time and based on the experience of the Panel in the intervening period, various amendments have been usefully incorporated into these documents. The Panel is invited to consider/agree the proposed amendments and discuss any further proposals that may be considered necessary at this time.

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