

**Lancashire Police and Crime Panel  
Operational Procedure**

**1 Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel**

- 1.1 The Chairman will be appointed by the Panel at its Annual meeting each year and will be drawn from amongst the councillors sitting on the Panel.
- 1.2 The Deputy Chairman will be appointed by the Panel at its Annual meeting each year and will be drawn from amongst the councillors sitting on the Panel.
- 1.3 In the event of the resignation of the Chairman or Deputy Chairman or the removal of the Chairman/Deputy Chairman, a new Chairman/Deputy Chairman will be appointed at the next meeting and will be drawn from amongst the councillors sitting on the Panel.
- 1.4 The Panel will elect a councillor member to preside at a meeting if the Chairman and Deputy Chairman are not present
- 1.5 The Panel may consider the removal of the Chairman during the year if it is satisfied that he/she:
  - a) has, without reasonable excuse, failed to carry out the duties for a continuous period of six months;
  - b) has acted improperly, recklessly or negligently in relation to his/her duties;
  - c) is otherwise unable or unfit to perform his/her duties;
  - d) or that the circumstances are such that they are exceptional and would warrant the removal of the Chairman eg. a conviction or caution in respect of a relevant criminal offence.

**2 Meetings of the Police and Crime Panel**

- 2.1 There shall be a minimum of four ordinary meetings of the Panel held in public in each municipal year in order to carry out the functions of the Panel. The Panel will determine the schedule of dates and times of its ordinary meetings each year, including a date for its Annual Meeting.
- 2.2 Extraordinary meetings of the Panel may also be called from time to time by the Chairman or by four members of the Panel giving notice to the Secretary to the Panel.
- 2.3 An extraordinary meeting may also be called by the Secretary to the Panel if he/she considers it to be necessary.

- 2.4 Ordinary meetings of the Panel will:
- Receive any declarations of interest from members.
  - Approve the minutes of the last meeting.
  - Consider reports from officers and Panel members.
- 2.5 The Secretary to the Panel will give notice to the public of the time and place of any meeting in accordance with Access to Information requirements. At least five clear working days before a meeting, the Secretary shall send notice of the meeting to every Panel member. The notice shall give the date, time and place of each meeting and specify the business to be transacted, and shall be accompanied by such reports as are available.
- 2.6 The publication of reports or recommendations is subject to the exclusion of any exempt or confidential information as defined in the rules on access to information in the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

### **3 Quorum**

- 3.1 A meeting of the Panel cannot take place unless not less than one third of the whole number of its members is present.
- 3.2 In the event of a meeting being inquorate, it shall stand temporarily adjourned for 15 minutes and if, thereafter, there is still not a quorum the meeting shall stand finally adjourned. At the point of adjournment, or subsequently, the Chairman may agree arrangements for the meeting to be reconvened.

### **4 Work Programme**

- 4.1 The Panel will set its own work programme and, in doing so, may wish to take into account the priorities defined by the Commissioner and the wishes of its members.
- 4.2 The work programme must include the functions described in the Terms of Reference for the Panel.

### **5 Agenda Items**

Any member of the Panel shall be entitled to give notice to the Secretary of the Panel that he or she wishes an item relevant to the functions of the Panel to be included on the agenda for the next available meeting.

### **6 Reports from Police and Crime Panel**

- 6.1 Where the Panel makes a report to the Commissioner on the discharge of its functions, it must choose to publish the report or recommendations

- 6.2 The Panel must by notice in writing require the Commissioner, as appropriate, within one month of the date on which the Commissioner receives the report or recommendations to:
- a) Consider the report or recommendations;
  - b) Respond to the Panel indicating what (if any) action the Commissioner proposes to take;
  - c) Where the Panel has published the report or recommendations, publish the response;
  - d) Where the Panel has provided a copy of the report; or recommendations to a member, provide a copy of the response to the member.
- 6.3 If the Panel cannot unanimously agree on the terms of any report to the Commissioner then a report agreed by the majority of the Panel will be submitted for consideration together with a separate report prepared by the minority.

## **7. Police and Crime Commissioner and Officers Giving Account**

- 7.1 The Panel may scrutinise and review decisions made or actions taken in connection with the Commissioner's role.

As well as reviewing documentation, in fulfilling its scrutiny role it may require the Commissioner, and members of the Commissioner's staff, to attend before the Panel (at reasonable notice) to answer any questions which appear to the Panel to be necessary in order to carry out its functions.

- 7.2 Where the Commissioner, or a member of the Commissioner's staff, is required to attend the Panel under this provision the Secretary will inform them in writing giving, where practicable, reasonable notice of the meeting. The notice will state the nature of the item on which he or she is required to attend to give account and whether any papers are required for production for the Panel. Where it is necessary to produce a report, sufficient time will be given to allow preparation of that report.
- 7.3 Where, in exceptional circumstances, the Commissioner is unable to attend on the required date an alternative date for attendance may be arranged, following consultation with the Chairman of the Panel.
- 7.4 If the Panel require the Commissioner to attend a meeting, the Panel may (at reasonable notice) request the Chief Constable to attend on the same occasion to answer any questions which appear to the Panel to be necessary in order for it to carry out its functions.

## **8 Attendance by Others**

The Panel may invite people other than those referred to in Paragraph 7

above to address it, discuss issues of local concern and/or answer questions. It may, for example, wish to hear from residents, stakeholders, councillors who are not members of the Panel and officers in other parts of the public sector.

## **9 Task Groups**

- 9.1 Time limited task groups may be established from time to time by the Panel to undertake specific, task-based work.
- 9.2 Task groups may not co-opt other persons.
- 9.3 The special functions of the Panel specified in paragraph 9.4 below may not be discharged by a task group of the Panel.
- 9.4 In this paragraph 'special functions' means the functions conferred on the Panel by:
  - a) Section 28(3) of Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act (the Act) (scrutiny of Police and Crime Plan).
  - b) Section 28 (4) of the Act (scrutiny of annual report).
  - c) Paragraphs 10 and 11 of Schedule 1 of the Act (review of senior appointments).
  - d) Schedule 5 of the Act (issuing precepts) Part 1 of Schedule 8 of the Act (scrutiny of appointment of the Chief Constable).
- 9.5 The work undertaken by a task group will be scoped and defined by the Panel beforehand, together with the timeframe within which the work is to be completed and the reporting time for the outcome of the work.

## **10 Carrying out 'Special Functions'**

Reports and recommendations made in relation to the functions outlined in the Terms of Reference will be carried out in accordance with the procedure outlined at section 7 above.

### **10.1 Senior appointments**

- 10.1.1 Where the Panel exercises its powers to review the Commissioner's proposed appointments of Chief Constable, Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, the meetings held to confirm these appointments must be held in public.
- 10.1.2 The Panel will be notified by the Commissioner of the need for a confirmatory hearing in respect of proposed senior appointments. This will be held at the next available meeting of the Panel unless the appointment timescale requires an earlier hearing, in which case an extraordinary meeting will be arranged.

- 10.1.3 In relation to the appointment of the Chief Constable, the Panel is required to hold a hearing within the period of three weeks from the day on which it receives notification from the Commissioner.
- 10.1.4 At a confirmatory hearing the candidate is requested to appear for the purpose of answering questions relating to the appointment. Following this hearing, the Panel is required to review the proposed appointment and make a report to the Commissioner.
- 10.1.5 For a confirmatory hearing for the proposed appointment of the Chief Constable, in addition to the requirement to review and report, the Panel must make a recommendation on the appointment and has the power to veto the appointment.
- 10.1.6 Having considered the appointment, the Panel will be asked to either:
- a) support the appointment without qualification or comment;
  - b) support the appointment with associated recommendations, or
  - c) veto the appointment of the Chief Constable (by the required majority of at least two thirds of the persons who are members of the Panel at the time when the decision is made).
- 10.1.7 If the Panel vetoes the appointment of the candidate, the report to the Commissioner must include a statement that the Panel has vetoed the appointment with reasons.

## **10.2 Appointment of an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner**

- 10.2.1 The Panel must appoint a person to act as Commissioner if:
- a) no person holds the office of Commissioner;
  - b) the Commissioner is incapacitated; or
  - c) the Commissioner is suspended.
- 10.2.2 The person appointed as acting Commissioner must at the time of the appointment be a member of the Commissioner's staff.
- 10.2.3 In appointing a person as acting Commissioner in a case where the Commissioner is incapacitated, the Panel must have regard to any representations made by the Commissioner in relation to the appointment.
- 10.2.4 The appointment of an acting Commissioner ceases to have effect upon the occurrence of the earliest of these events:
- a) the election of a person as Commissioner;
  - b) the termination by the Panel, or by the acting Commissioner, of the appointment of the acting Commissioner;
  - c) in a case where the acting Commissioner is appointed because the Commissioner is incapacitated, the Commissioner ceasing to be incapacitated, or

- d) in a case where the acting Commissioner is appointed because the Commissioner is suspended, the Commissioner ceasing to be suspended.

### **10.3 Proposed precept**

10.3.1 The Commissioner will notify the Panel of the precept which he/she is proposing to issue for the financial year. The Panel must review the proposed precept and make a report to the Commissioner including recommendations.

10.3.2 Having considered the precept, the Panel will either:

- a) support the precept without qualification or comment;
- b) support the precept and make recommendations, or
- c) veto the proposed precept (by the required majority of at least two thirds of the persons who are members of the Panel at the time when the decision is made).

10.3.3 If the Panel vetoes the proposed precept the report to the Commissioner must include a statement that the Panel has vetoed the proposed precept with reason and the Panel will require a response to the report and any such recommendations.

### **10.4 Complaints**

10.4.1 Non-criminal complaints in relation to the Commissioner or other office holders should be dealt with and/or delegated in accordance with the Act and the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 .

### **10.5 Suspension of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

10.5.1 The Panel may suspend the Commissioner if it appears to the Panel that:

- a) the Commissioner has been charged in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man with an offence, and
- b) the offence is one which carries a maximum term of imprisonment exceeding two years.

10.5.2 The suspension of the Commissioner ceases to have effect upon the occurrence of the earliest of these events:

- a) the charge being dropped;
- b) the Commissioner being acquitted of the offence;
- c) the Commissioner being convicted of the offence but not being disqualified under Section 66 of the Act by virtue of the conviction; or
- d) the termination of the suspension by the Panel.

10.5.3 In this section references to an offence which carries a maximum term of imprisonment exceeding two years are references to:

- a) an offence which carries such a maximum term in the case of a person who has attained the age of 18 years, or
- b) an offence for which, in the case of such a person, the sentence is fixed by law as life imprisonment.

## **10.6 Suspension and Removal of the Chief Constable**

10.6.1 The Panel will receive notification from the Commissioner if he/she suspends the Chief Constable.

10.6.2 The Commissioner must notify the Panel in writing of his/her proposal to call upon the Chief Constable to retire or resign together with a copy of the reasons given to the Chief Constable in relation to that proposal.

10.6.3 The Commissioner must provide the Panel with a copy of any representations from the Chief Constable about the proposal to call for his/her resignation or retirement.

10.6.4 If the Commissioner is still proposing to call upon the Chief Constable to resign, he/she must notify the panel accordingly (the 'further notification').

10.6.5 Within six weeks from the date of receiving the further notification the Panel must make a recommendation in writing to the Commissioner as to whether or not he/she should call for the retirement or resignation. Before making any recommendation the Panel may consult Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary and must hold a scrutiny hearing.

10.6.6 The scrutiny hearing is a Panel meeting held in private to which the Commissioner and Chief Constable are entitled to attend to make representations in relation to the proposal to call upon the Chief Constable to retire or resign. Appearance at the scrutiny hearing can be by attending in person, or participating by telephone or video link.

10.6.7 The Panel must publish the recommendation it makes at 10.6.5 by any means the Panel considers appropriate and must send a copy to each of the constituent councils.

## **11. Rules of debate**

The Panel to determine.

## **12. Public participation**

The Panel to determine.