

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

20 June 2012

Report of the Director of Legal Services

POLICE AND CRIME PANELS

Purpose of the Report

To inform Council of the arrangements to date regarding the establishment of a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) for Derbyshire and to appoint the County Council's representative on the Panel.

Information and Analysis

The Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires Police and Crime Panels to be established for each police area. PCPs will have power to scrutinise Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) activities, including the ability to review the Police and Crime Plan and Annual Report, review precept decisions, request PCC papers and call PCCs and chief constables to public hearings.

In terms of membership of the Panel, guidance provides that initially the Panel should be made up of one member per council in the area, including Derby City Council. In Derbyshire this is likely to result in an initial membership of 5 Conservative and 5 Labour members. They will constitute the Shadow Panel which should then appoint at least two independent (non-councillor) co-opted members. The composition of the Panel will need to be increased by co-opting councillors and non-councillors to reflect the political balance of relevant authorities when taken together, along with other factors such as geography, skills, knowledge and experience of Panel members. This will obviously require further discussion locally both at officer and political levels and the Panel's proposals for additional councillor co-optees will require Home Office approval. It is recommended that Councillor Mrs C A Hart be appointed as the County Council's representative on the Panel.

Other aspects of arrangements for the Panel (for example, host authority, terms of office and filling of vacancies) will also need to be agreed by the Panel and the constituent authorities before the substantive Panel comes into being in November. These arrangements are being considered at

present. A further report will therefore be presented to the Council meeting in September to update the Council on the establishment of the PCP and also to formally adopt the Panel arrangements.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health and transport considerations.

Background Papers

Files held within the Legal Services and Democratic Services Division.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

- (a) To note the current position regarding the establishment of a Police and Crime Panel;
- (b) Councillor Mrs C A Hart be appointed as the County Council representative on the Panel;
- (c) A further report be presented to the September meeting of the Council to approve the Panel arrangements.

John McElvaney
Director of Legal Services