

REPORT OF THE  
Cabinet  
PART I

**253. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – PANEL ARRANGEMENTS**

1. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (“the Act”) introduces changes to the arrangements for governance of the Policing Service. In November 2012, police authorities will be abolished and replaced by a Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”) for each policing area. The Commissioner will be responsible for securing the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force for the area, and hold the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of his/her functions. The Commissioner will also be responsible for issuing and keeping under review a Police and Crime Plan, setting out local policing priorities and how policing is to be resourced.

2. The Act also requires the local authorities for each policing area to establish a Police and Crime Panel to review and scrutinise the Commissioner’s actions and decisions, with a view to supporting the work of the Commissioner. The Panel’s duties include reviewing the draft Police and Crime Plan, and the Commissioner’s proposed precept, and making a report on these to the Commissioner. The Panel may also require the Commissioner and members of his/her staff to attend before it to answer questions. The Panel will have the power to veto a proposed appointment of Chief Constable, and the Commissioner’s proposed precept, subject (in either case) to two thirds of members voting in support.

3. The Cabinet has received a paper outlining the statutory role of a Police and Crime Panel, and the proposed basis on which a Panel should be established for the Hampshire Policing Area (i.e. Hampshire County Council, the 11 district councils in Hampshire, and the unitary authorities for Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton). The development of these terms has been the subject of discussion and agreement at HLOWLA leaders’ meetings on 27 January and 30 March 2012, and with the other 14 constituent authorities. It has been agreed that Hampshire County Council will act as Lead Authority in establishing the Panel. Appended to the Cabinet report is the draft “Panel Arrangements” i.e. the terms on which the Panel is proposed to be established. These cover a range of detailed matters, including term of office, resignation and change of Members, costs and allowances, and arrangements for professional support. The Home Secretary is providing funding of £53,300 (in a full year) towards the costs of maintaining the Panel, and £920 (in a full year) per Member, towards the expenses incurred by a Member. The objective is to maintain the costs of the Panel within the funding provided. A copy of the report and appendix can be accessed here:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings> and typing in reference number 3876.

4. The Panel for the Hampshire Policing Area must consist of 15 Members each appointed by their local authority, and a minimum of 2 co-opted members appointed by the Panel. Neither co-opted member may be a member of a local authority within the Hampshire Policing Area. Up to 3 additional co-opted members may be appointed by the Panel, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State. These may

be, but do not have to be, Members of local authorities within the Hampshire Policing Area.

5. In making appointments to the Panel, an authority has a duty to secure that (as far as reasonably practicable) the “balanced appointment objective” is met. This is the objective that the local authority Members of a Panel (when taken together) represent all parts of the Police Area, represent the political make-up of the local authorities in the Police Area (when taken together), and have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively. To enable the Council to make its appointment in this way, information on the overall political make-up of the 15 local authorities in the Hampshire Policing Area is being updated following the local elections on 3 May 2012, and will be available for consideration at the Council meeting.

6. In addition to appointing a Member to the Panel, each authority is able to identify a second Member who can deputise for them in their absence, subject to appropriate notice being given by that authority’s Chief Executive. This is to help ensure that all parts of the Hampshire Policing Area are represented at Panel meetings.

7. The Panel will commence its statutory role in November 2012, following the election of the Commissioner. Before then, the Panel will meet to attend to preliminary business, including the election of a Chair, adoption of rules of procedure, the co-option of members, and induction in police policy matters. The date set for the inaugural meeting is 29 June 2012 at the Castle, Winchester.

8. Finally, further statutory regulations and guidance are due to be issued by the Home Secretary in due course. It is therefore proposed that the Chief Executive has delegated authority to make any further amendments to the Panel Arrangements that may be necessary to ensure statutory compliance.

9. Cabinet accepted the recommendations in the report and therefore makes the following recommendations for Council’s approval:

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That :

1. The recommended terms on which the Police and Crime Panel should be established are endorsed.
2. Subject to (c), the Panel Arrangements in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report of 30 April 2012 are approved.
3. The Chief Executive be authorised to agree any further minor amendments to the Panel Arrangements necessary to ensure statutory compliance, once the Home Secretary’s regulations and guidance have been published.
4. A member be appointed as the Council’s Appointed Member to the Panel (see Item 12 on the Agenda).
5. A member be identified to act as “Deputy Member” (see Item 12 on the Agenda) and, where the Appointed Member is temporarily unable to attend a

Panel meeting or otherwise undertake Panel business, the Chief Executive be authorised to give notice of temporary change of membership for a period of up to 28 days, to enable the Deputy Member to deputise in the Appointed Member's absence.