

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

16th June 2016

Title: Host Authority Arrangements 2016/2020

RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is invited to:-

- 1) Note the current position in relation to the transfer of the Host Authority arrangements.
- 2) Endorse the proposed amendments to the Panel Arrangements document at paragraph 2.6 and 2.7 (related paragraph also highlighted at 7.1).
- 3) Agree the amendments to paragraph 7.2(ii) and (iii) relating to expenses.

1. Summary

The initial set up arrangements for the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel were overseen by a Joint Selection Committee of all Avon and Somerset Council Leaders (LJSC). Following various discussions between the component authorities leading up to the Panel's establishment, the LJSC confirmed Bristol City Council as the Host Authority on 23rd April 2012. This arrangement included the provision of administrative and other specialist support to the Panel, and the related Home Office funding has been drawn down and administered by Bristol City Council during this period.

There was general agreement between the authorities that the direct costs of the Panel would be contained within the Home Office funding allocation (initially £53,000). However, if at any time Panel costs exceeded the funding available, it was also agreed that the shortfall would be met by the 10 councils through a mechanism to be agreed. This was subsequently incorporated in the Panel Arrangements document and agreed by the Panel on 31st October 2012. A copy is attached as Appendix A to the report.

Enquires suggest that the mechanism referred to above was not put in place, the most likely reason being that the Panel has operated within budget since its establishment. It would be prudent for this mechanism to now be put in place and this will require the Leaders of the respective councils to agree the content of a suitable agreement/indemnity. However, the initial thoughts of the Panel are sought in advance of this.

2. Host Authority - arrangements for the future

The Host Authority and support arrangements for the future were informally discussed by the Panel at its last meeting on 14th March 2016.

On the 7th April 2016, the City Director at Bristol City Council contacted the constituent authorities, formally seeking a volunteer to act as lead authority for the next 4 year term and referencing the agreement emerging from the LJC agreement to fund any shortfall in Panel costs.

As a result of further discussions, the Monitoring Officers at Bristol City and North Somerset Councils are in the process of finalising the transfer of the Host Authority and officer support arrangements to North Somerset. This will require:-

- An amendment to the existing Panel Arrangements document approved in 2012 to reflect the transfer of the role to North Somerset – paragraph 2.6.
- Endorsement of the proposed amendment at paragraph 2.7 – to be actioned and concluded outside of the meeting with the component authorities to secure agreement on the issue of any shortfall in costs.
- The Home Office to be notified when the transfer concludes to enable the available funding of £70,000 to be claimed.

3. Date of Transfer

It is anticipated that a date for the transfer and confirmation of officer support arrangements will be notified to the Panel on the 16th June 2016.

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