

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

16th June 2016

Title: Appointment of a Strategic Alliance Task Group

RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is invited to:-

1. Formally appoint a Strategic Alliance Task Group;
2. Confirm the Panel Membership:-
Councillor Ashton, Councillor Brown, Councillor Wale, Councillor Weston and Independent Member Andy Sharman.
3. Consider next steps

Summary

1. Police and Crime Panels across the country are meeting more frequently than originally envisaged by the Home Office, reflecting the need for additional meetings in order to meet the extensive statutory requirements and key responsibilities.

There is an expectation that Panels will have started to undertake extra work in addition to the key statutory duties. Most Panels surveyed are now actively engaging in 'proactive' scrutiny work. This is detailed work investigating issues of priority to both the local area and the Police and Crime Commissioner and can be regarded as supportive of the Commissioner's policy development process.

Increasingly, Panels are addressing the growing trend for forces to collaborate. These developments bring a range of challenges for Panels and a natural progression for Panels in meeting these governance challenges is to share work programmes to identify areas of mutual interest.

At its 8th February 2016 meeting, the Panel resolved to form a Task Group and align with Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel to support the delivery of the Strategic Alliance between Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire. Task Groups are generally established on a time-limited basis, to focus on a specific task and present its findings and recommendations to the Panel.

Update since the last meeting

2. A number of Panel Members attended an initial briefing from the Commissioner on 25th April 2016. The Programme Director, Assistant Chief Constable Julian Moss, will also be briefing Wiltshire members on the 7th June 2016 and this will be attended by Councillor Mark Weston.

Diary commitments have prevented Panel Members from Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire Panels from coming together to agree the scope and objectives of the task group. This will be arranged as soon as possible and the objectives that emerge from this meeting will inform the role and purpose of the Task Group, frequency of meetings and desired outcomes.

Recommendation

3. The Panel is invited to formally appoint a Joint Strategic Alliance Task Group, confirm the Panel Membership and consider next steps.