

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Legislation

As a result of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, a Police and Crime Commissioner is elected for each of the police force areas in England and Wales. The next elections will be held on 2 May 2024.

Police and Crime Commissioners

The responsibilities of Police and Crime Commissioners are essentially the same as those of the former police authority. Although the commissioner is directly accountable to the electorate, a local authority police and crime panel has been established to provide a check and balance in relation to the performance of the commissioner. The panel's purpose is to scrutinise the exercise of the commissioner's statutory functions, rather than the force itself.

Police and Crime Panel

- The four local authorities in the Humberside police force area are required to establish a police and crime panel to scrutinise, support and challenge the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside.
- While each of the local authorities will have a role in supporting the work of the panel, one local authority needs to take on the role of hosting the police and crime panel. North Lincolnshire Council currently undertakes this role, albeit the hosting arrangements are subject to annual review.
- The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act makes detailed provisions for the composition of the panels, depending on the number of local authorities in a force area. For the Humberside area, the panel consists of ten councillors.
- The panel are also required to appoint two independent co-optees.
- No allowances will be paid to any members of the panel, apart from travel expenses (up to a maximum of £920).

Independent Co-optees

- The co-optees must either live or work in the Humberside area.
- The co-optees must have an active involvement in a sector of the community (e.g. business, voluntary/community sectors, etc), and have the ability to represent the cross section of views and concerns of the public.
- The following cannot be considered for a position on the panel
 - anyone under 18 years of age,
 - the Police and Crime Commissioner or a member of their staff,

- MPs,
- members of the National Assembly for Wales, the Scottish Parliament or European Parliament,
- Police Officers,
- people who do not live or work in the Humberside police force area,
- civil servants engaged in political activity, local authority councillors.
- The minimum number of meetings a year is four, but it is likely that more meetings than this will be held, as special meetings will be required to look at the precept that the Police and Crime Commissioner sets, the Police and Crime Plan, etc.
- As mentioned previously, no allowances (apart from travel expenses) will be paid.

Roles and responsibilities

All independent co-optees are full voting members and will have access to the same level of support and information as the councillor members on the Panel. The core role of both councillor members and independent co-optees on the Panel is to:

- Scrutinise the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that they are discharging their functions effectively.
- Bring any specialist knowledge, skills, experience and expertise they may have to the scrutiny work of the Panel.
- Ensure that there is an effective independent challenge to the Police and Crime Commissioner and that this challenge is constructive to support them in carrying out their role.
- A co-opted member of the Police and Crime Panel is expected to:
 - Attend all formal meetings of the Panel.
 - Establish good relations with other members, officers and co-optees.
 - Attend additional meetings e.g. working groups or evidence gathering sessions, as required.
 - Prepare for each meeting by reading the agenda papers and additional information to familiarise yourself with the issues to be covered during the meeting. Prior to the meeting, considering the questions you may wish to put to the Police and Crime Commissioner and other expert witnesses.
- At the meetings, you will need to listen carefully, ask questions in a way which is non-judgmental, respect confidentiality and help the Panel to make practical suggestions for improvements in services.

- Assist in the preparation of reports and the formulation of recommendations. This may involve volunteering to participate in a task group to conduct a scrutiny review.
- Attend training and development events as needed.
- Abide by the Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure which set out how the Police and Crime Panel will operate in the Humberside area.
- Keep abreast of the key issues in relation to the responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the priorities within the Police and Crime Plan.
- Contribute to achieving an open, accountable and transparent decision making process in relation to policing and community safety issues in the Humberside area.