



## **PANEL MEETING ON 16 JANUARY 2018**

### **SUBJECT: CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR POLICE AND CRIME PANELS**

#### **REPORT OF THE CLERK TO THE PANEL**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

To update the Panel on the discussions and proposals for the creation of a national representative association for Police and Crime Panels

##### **2. Background**

2.1 At meetings of representatives of Police and Crime Panels from across the country, concerns have been expressed that, unlike the Police and Crime Commissioners who have established a national association, the effectiveness and development of Police and Crime Panels has been restricted by the lack of a collective voice through which representation to the Home Office and the sharing of best practice can be channelled.

##### **3. Consultation on proposals for national representation for Police and Crime Panels**

3.1 Councillor Tim Hutchings, the Chair of Hertfordshire Police and Crime Panel, has been co-ordinating discussions on the creation of a national representative body for Police and Crime Panels.

3.2 The following three possible options for the form that a national representative body for Police and Crime Panels could take have been suggested:-

(a) An independent national association.

(b) A special interest group within the Local Government Association.

(c) A combination whereby option (b) was considered as a stepping stone to option (a).

3.3 The creation of a national representative group was supported by the majority of Police and Crime Panels and setting up a special interest group within the Local Government Association was the preferred model.

- 3.4 It was agreed that the proposals for a possible national voice for Police and Crime Panels be discussed at the Police and Crime Panels National Conference on 6 November 2017.
- 3.5 Councillors Kilgour and Welsh attended the national conference on 6 November 2017, on behalf of the Panel, when the proposals for a possible national voice for Police and Crime Panels were discussed.
- 3.6 The conference delegates supported the proposals for the creation of a National Police and Crime Panel special interest group within the Local Government Association and agreed that a steering group be set up to look at developing this proposal further.
- 3.7 To ensure that the Northumbria Police and Crime Panel was represented in the further discussions, Councillor Welsh volunteered to be part of the steering group.

#### **4. Current position on the proposals for a National Police and Crime Panel Special Interest Group**

- 4.1 Councillor Hutchings has proposed that, because so many delegates at the conference offered to be part of the steering group, it be set up as a 'virtual forum' in which key points are established and discussed via e mail.
- 4.2 It is also proposed that a meeting of all Police and Crime Panels to agree and finalise, on a one vote per panel basis, the details for a National Police and Crime Panel special interest group within the Local Government Association, including terms of reference, etc, be held in February/March 2018.

#### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Panel is asked to:-
  - (i) note the report.
  - (ii) confirm that Councillor Welsh represent the Panel on the 'virtual' forum as outlined above.
  - (iii) receive further reports as appropriate.