

Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

Information for inclusion in District and Borough Councils' Outside Bodies reports

Background

The Suffolk Police and Crime Panel is responsible for supporting and challenging the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in the delivery of his functions. It is a joint committee, established under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The Panel has the following statutory functions, as set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011:

- Reviewing the PCC's [Police and Crime Plan](#);
- Reviewing the PCC's 2021-2022 [Annual Report](#);
- Carrying out confirmation hearings for certain senior appointments in the PCC's office;
- Carrying out confirmation hearings for the Chief Constable;
- Handling non-criminal complaints about the PCC; and
- Supporting and scrutinising the effective exercise of the functions of the PCC.

The Panel comprises elected members of local authorities across Suffolk working alongside two independent co-opted members. Together the Panel members should reflect the breadth of communities in Suffolk. The Police and Crime Panel has 13 members in total, comprising:

- Four County Councillors;
- Seven representatives from the District and Borough Councils in Suffolk; and
- Two independent co-opted members

The Panel is politically balanced, with the 11 local authority councillor representatives appointed to achieve political proportionality across Suffolk.

Meetings

The Panel holds 4 formal meetings per year, in January, March, July and October, plus additional meetings as required, for example to consider the appointment of the Chief Constable or to carry out confirmation hearings for senior officers in the PCC's office.

All formal meetings are held in Endeavour House, Ipswich. Members of the Panel also meet online to set the key lines of enquiry for each meeting, and for pre-meetings.

Latest Meeting

The Panel last met on 14 July 2023 where it elected a new Chair and Vice Chair for the year.

Following the May 2023 elections there has been some turnover on the Panel, with 7 new members joining.

The Panel scrutinised the effective exercise of the PCC's functions by reviewing actions he had taken under Objective 4 of his Police and Crime Plan 2022-25:

- "Work in partnership to improve criminal justice outcomes and enhance community safety".

Members questioned the PCC on his function to deliver community safety and crime reduction, including exploring work undertaken to improve the support available to victims, witnesses and offenders, and grants to organisations which support victims of crime.

The Panel also reviewed its own [Annual Report for 2022/23](#), and approved it for publication.