

AGENDA ITEM 4

**TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

POLICE & CRIME PANEL

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To seek approval to the establishment of, and rules of procedure for the Police and Crime Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Committee approve the arrangements for the Police and Crime Panel and its rules of procedure.

BACKGROUND

3. A major change to the way Police forces are organised and governed was introduced in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
4. Prior to the passing of the Act, each Police force had a Police Authority that in areas such as Cleveland comprised 9 elected members and 8 independent members. The 9 elected members were appointed by a joint committee of the four constituent authorities.
5. The 2011 Act introduced the concept of a local Police Commissioner. The election for the first Police Commissioner for Cleveland will take place on 15th November 2012. One of the changes consequent upon the election of a Police Commissioner is that the current Cleveland Police Authority will cease to exist.
6. The Act also makes provision that every Police area must establish a Police and Crime Panel. The functions of that Panel shall include the review of the draft Police & Crime Plan and scrutiny of the Police Commissioner's actions.

7. All Local Authorities within the area, must agree the Panel arrangements. The panel must contain 10 members and up to 10, but no fewer than 2, co-opted members. At present the proposal is to appoint 2 members for Hartlepool Council, 3 for Middlesbrough Council and Redcar & Cleveland Council and 4 from Stockton Council. However, 2 of the Stockton appointments will be co-opted members. This proposal may not have universal support throughout the Cleveland area but it is recommended that it is acceptable to Middlesbrough Council.
8. Attached to this report is a report prepared by Stockton Council in respect of the panel arrangements and a further report covering procedure rules for the panel. Members are asked to approve both documents.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

9. Email from Stockton Council dated 6th March 2012.

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