

Key Decision Required:	No	In the Forward Plan:	No
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LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

3 DECEMBER 2018

EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To enable the Leader to agree the revised panel arrangements for the Police, Fire and Crime Panel and to reconfirm Councillor Lynda McWilliams as Tendring District Council's representative on the panel, with effect from 1 February 2019.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Police and Crime Panel was established in 2012 to hold the Police and Crime Commissioner to account.
- In October 2017 the Police and Crime Commissioner assumed responsibility for the fire service and the name of the role changed to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. At the same time, the Police and Crime Panel became the Police, Fire and Crime Panel. As a result, the functions of the panel have also changed. It is necessary to update the 'panel arrangements'. These need to be agreed by all 15 local authorities in the Essex police area, which are ECC, the two unitary councils and the 12 borough, city or district councils. The panel arrangements have also been updated to reflect the experience of operating the panel over the first 6 years of its existence.
- The fifteen Essex councils each appoint one member to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel. They are also required by law to approve the statutory panel arrangements which govern operation of the Panel. The Panel is required by law to adopt its own rules of procedure.
- The current panel arrangements need to be revised as the Panel's functions changed when the Commissioner became the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.
- One significant change proposed in the draft Panel Arrangements is that, early in 2018, the Panel decided that it wished to introduce the facility to pay allowances to Members of the Panel. This is permitted by law but only if expressly allowed by the Panel Arrangements. The current arrangements do not allow allowances to be paid. The draft arrangements introduce a new rule which permits the Panel to adopt a scheme of allowances. This would allow payment of allowances to local authority panel members and also to the co-opted panel members. The cost of those allowances, if introduced, would be met by a Home Office grant so there would be no cost to ECC or the other authorities. It should be emphasised that the revised draft panel arrangements do not themselves introduce allowances, they would just allow the panel to do so if it thought it appropriate. Members of the Panel would not be required to receive an allowance unless they wanted to.
- The functions and part 1 of the Constitution (the 'panel arrangements' attached at Appendix A) are to be approved by the local authorities. All 15 local authorities have been asked to approve this no later than 1 February 2019 when the arrangements will

come into force if they have been approved by all authorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- a) the Panel Arrangements attached at appendix A be agreed with effect from 1 February 2019; and
- b) Councillor Lynda McWilliams be confirmed as Tendring District Council's representative on the Police, Fire and Crime Panel with effect from 1 February 2019.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

Having appropriate representation at external meetings and on outside bodies ensures that the Council has a broad forum on which to take forward its priorities.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

Councillors attending Outside Bodies and external meetings are entitled to claim mileage allowances as part of their approved duties.

Risk

The Council's reputation and its ability to contribute to local and national issues may be damaged if it withdraws support from external meetings and outside bodies. It is therefore important to ensure that the Council does have appropriate and adequate representation.

LEGAL

The decision is made in accordance with part 3.30 paragraph 2.(4) of the Constitution which gives delegated authority to the Leader for working with Council's partners and stakeholders, on statutory bodies, the voluntary sector, the business community and other national and local organisations.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and the Council will give consideration to these issues in determining which external meetings and groups to attend.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None

APPENDICES

Appendix A Police, Fire and Crime Panel for Essex - Functions and part 1 of the Constitution