

**Annual Meeting
of the Council**

20th May 2013

BUDGET FOR THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Rebecca Blake, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non-key

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To seek approval of the budget for the Police and Crime Panel for 2013-14.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is requested to RESOLVE that

- 1) the budget for the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel for 2013-14 be approved;**
- 2) authority to approve the budget in future years, providing no financial contribution is sought, be delegated to the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council;**
- 3) the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services update the Constitution accordingly.**

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Council agreed in May 2012 to join the Police and Crime Panel for West Mercia. Councils in each Police force area have a statutory duty to maintain a Panel. The formal agreement for the Panel requires each participating authority to agree the budget for the costs of supporting it. The support is provided by the County Council, which is known as the Host Authority.
- 3.2 There are no costs to the Council as the Home Office provides funding to each Host Authority. The confirmed funding for this financial year is £53,000 for running costs plus an additional £920 per annum per member to fund necessary expenses (to cover attendance at meetings and travel expenses). The funding notionally allocated towards member expenses is not ring-fenced, so can be used flexibly to support the Panel.

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3.3 This means the annual budget for the Panel in the West Mercia area is £68,640. The budget is based on the grant money received from the Home Office. No additional financial contribution to support the Panel is being sought from the Local Authorities in the West Mercia area.

3.4 The following table shows indicative costs for the Panel for 2013-14:

Service	Indicative cost £
Professional Officer Support	45,000
Meeting Support	5,200
Contingency	2,800
Sub Total	53,000
Members Expenses	15,640
Total Budget 2013/2014	68,640

Financial Implications

3.5 There are no financial implications for the Council since the support costs are funded by the Home Office and no additional contributions are being sought.

Legal Implications

3.6 The agreement that the Council entered into when it agreed to participate in the Panel, requires that each authority approves the budget.

Service / Operational Implications

3.7 None.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.8 None.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

The funding from the Home Office is limited and steps have been taken to minimise expenditure wherever possible.

5. APPENDICES

None.

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6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Council 21st May 2012 including the Panel arrangements.

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