

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Meeting to be held on the 7th December 2020

Emergency Services Network

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Executive Summary

To consider the options for Scrutiny of the Emergency Services Network (ESN)

Recommendation

The Panel is asked to consider and agree its approach to the scrutiny of ESN.

Information

Evan Morris, Vice Chairman, National Association of Police Fire and Crime Panels had an article published in Policing Insight back in mid-July, concerning the Emergency Services Network. The article (attached) was forwarded to the Panels for consideration in October 2020 and suggested some Key Lines of Enquiry in relation to this matter.

It was suggested all Panels ask questions along the lines of the following:

- What are the expected features and benefits of ESN over Airwave?
- What is the cost of maintaining the police elements of Airwave?
- What are the costs incurred to date and what are the projected costs up to ESN implementation?

- Does the PCC expect to realise the expected cost benefits originally projected for ESN?
- Does the PCC believe the ESN will be fit for purpose and likely to meet its strategic aims?
- What are the expected project risks and associated impact on budgets if these risks are not mitigated?
- If the Airwave contract expires in 2022 and ESN is not fully available, has the PCC plans to accommodate further overspend?
- Can the PCC confirm if Motorola, as has been reported, is involved with ESN which may be viewed as a conflict of interest?

The purpose of this report is therefore to ascertain if members wish to explore these issues further.

If so, the Panel may wish to establish an informal Task and Finish Group to investigate this specific issue. If so, a potential terms of reference is attached. The Police and Crime Panel will need to identify nominations for this Task and Finish Group at this meeting. The outcome would be a report for the panel to approve, with recommendations (if appropriate) for the Commissioner. As previously defined, task and finish groups should be brief, targeted, proportionate and focused.

The objective would be for the Group to conclude its work prior to the scheduled January 2021 budget meeting. It should be noted that whilst the questions posed may form part of the information gathering process, Members focus is on the activity of the Commissioner and it is suggested that the principle objective of the Task and Finish Group is to ask the Police and Crime Commissioner what impact the ESN programme is having on the policing budget for Lancashire and what steps has the PCC taken to raise these issues.

Should Members decide the Task and Finish option, the Secretary will update the Forward Plan accordingly.

Alternatively, Members may find it beneficial to have a single issue one off briefing session that all Members can choose to join in if they wish to do so and this can be facilitated early January 2021. The cost of ESN is an area members may wish to understand in more detail prior to taking a decision on the budget expenditure proposals of the Commissioner in 2021.

Consultations

N/A.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk Management

The requirement for an Independent Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire is in accordance with the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The role of the Panel is to scrutinise.

Legal Implications

The role of the Panel includes the scrutiny of the actions of the PCC in respect of his Police & Crime Plan and use of resources to deliver effective Policing across Lancashire. This report is in accordance with those responsibilities.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

NAPFCP Note and
documents

September 2020

David Fairclough
Secretary to the
Police & Crime Panel

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate N/A

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ESN TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Relevant Police and Crime Plan Priority:

Priority 1

Ensuring local policing teams remain a key part of policing our communities – you will know your team and they will know your area

- Work with partners to join up services – working better together
- Continue to grow our Citizens in Policing Programme including increased use of Neighbourhood Watch, Specials and Cadets
- Campaign and lobby for fair funding for our police services
- Make the best use of our land and buildings
- Modernise policing through better use of new technology

OBJECTIVE:

To ascertain from the Police and Crime Commissioner what impact the ESN programme is having on the policing budget for Lancashire and what steps has the PCC taken to raise these issues.

WHO?

TBA

How?

Session 1 – What is airwave? - What is ESN – Who owns the programme? – Who does it affect? – What does it do - where are we? - History - money and finance

Session 2 - PCC - what has he done – lobbied/ reports /regional discussions/Financial monitoring etc.

Session 3 - prepare report with observations/recommendations to the Police and Crime Panel

WHEN?

Members will report back to the Police and Crime Panel in January 2021