

## DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

**Subject:** Vice Chair attendance at the CoPaCC Conference – “PCCs & Panels: Making the Relationship Critical, Friendly and Effective”

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### Executive summary

The Police and Crime Panel Chair has nominated the Vice-Chair (Councillor Rule) to represent the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) at the CoPaCC conference – “PCCs & Panels: Making the Relationship Critical, Friendly and Effective”. The conference is being held on 16 October 2013 in London, for which there is no conference fee charged.

The PCP are invited to endorse the Chair’s nomination for the Vice Chair’s attendance at the Conference, on behalf of the PCP, in order that ‘reasonable expenses’ can be reimbursed in accordance with paragraph 13.1 of Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure.

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### Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action

It is recommended that:

- The PCP endorse the Chair’s recommendation for Vice Chair to attend the conference as noted above.
- PCP Members agree reimbursement for travel and overnight accommodation be made from the Home Office allocation to the Host Authority.
- PCP Members provide Councillor Rule with details of any input into the conference that they would like her to make on their behalf.
- PCP Members provide Councillor Rule with details of any questions that they would like her to ask at the conference on their behalf.
- Councillor Rule provides feedback in relation to the conference at the next Police and Crime Panel meeting scheduled for 20 December 2013.

As it would not be practical for all Police and Crime Panel Members to attend the conference, they will all still have the opportunity to feed into the conference discussions via the Vice Chair, and will have the opportunity to be briefed on the conference discussions and outcomes, following the event.

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### Alternative options considered, and reasons for recommended action

The alternatives would be:

If the PCP do not agree to support the Vice Chair's attendance at the Conference, then the PCP will be less able to influence discussions and debate at a national level about Panel work, or benefit from feedback to the PCP on what has been learned and best practice from other PCPs.

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## **Background Papers**

None

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### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Panel Chair has nominated the Vice-Chairman (Councillor Rule) to represent the Police and Crime Panel at the CoPaCC conference – “PCCs & Panels: Making the Relationship Critical, Friendly and Effective.” The conference is being held on 16 October 2013 in London. The conference is sponsored by auditors, Grant Thornton (the largest external auditor of police bodies in England and Wales).
- 1.2 The conference will examine what can be learned from existing Police and Crime Panel arrangements for scrutinising Police and Crime Commissioners and discuss how these approaches might be strengthened. It will include keynotes from expert speakers, plus delegate discussion and debate. The day's proceedings will be drawn together in a report, which will be submitted to the House of Commons' Home Affairs Select Committee, as evidence for its Autumn examinations of governance arrangements for Police and Crime Commissioners.
- 1.3 The following link provides further details of the finalised agenda.

<http://copacc.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/copacc-pcp-pcc-conference-16oct13-final.pdf>

### **2.0 Funding**

- 2.1 There is no charge for Police and Crime Panel Members to attend the conference, however, costs for travel and overnight accommodation would be incurred.
- 2.2 The Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure state that “if acting in the capacity of the Chair/Vice Chair of the Panel” expenses will be paid from the amount allocated by the Home Office.
- 2.3 The PCP are, therefore, invited to consider and endorse the Vice-Chair's attendance at the conference and that travel and overnight accommodation expenses will be duly reimbursed to her.