

# Dorset Police and Crime Panel

10



Date of Meeting	10 September 2015
Officer	Chief Executive, Dorset County Council
<b>Subject of Report</b>	<b>Response to the Recommendations from the Committee on Standards in Public Life</b>
Executive Summary	<p>The Parliamentary Committee on Standards in Public Life is now long established and its focus is to ensure that good ethical principles, often referred to as the ‘Nolan Principles’, are demonstrably enshrined and demonstrable in the delivery of public service. There are seven key principles, these are Selflessness; Integrity; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Honesty; and Leadership.</p> <p>On 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015 the Committee published a report entitled ‘<i>Tone from the top – leadership, ethics and accountability in policing</i>’.</p> <p>The Chair of the Committee, Lord Bew, issued a letter to all Police and Crime Panels (PCP) on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015. It asked that all PCP’s provide a full and considered response to the Committee by 29<sup>th</sup> November 2015, in respect of two specific recommendations. Whilst a copy of the letter is included for information as Appendix A, to summarise, the Committee were seeking written assurance that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) To provide robust scrutiny, the PCP should review the PCC’s Annual Report as part its routine work in public session.</li> <li>ii) As a matter of good practice that PCC’s should openly publish a forward plan of subject matters that will lead to key decisions, and that each PCP should also produce a forward plan to set out the information that will be required from the PCC to enable them to carry out that work.</li> </ul> <p>In its report the Committee on Standards in Public Life also endorsed recommendations previously made by the Home Affairs Committee that PCP’s inquire and</p>

	<p>report in whatever circumstances lead to a chief constables service being brought to an end.</p> <p>In seeking to assist the panel in its consideration of a formal response, officers have reviewed previous work plans of the PCP and have provided a draft response for consideration by panel members. This is included as Appendix B.</p>
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Email: [public@public-standards.gov.uk](mailto:public@public-standards.gov.uk)

Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: N/A
	Use of Evidence:A review of previous work of the Dorset Police and Crime Panel.
	Budget: No budget, VAT or other cost implications have been identified arising directly from this report.
	<p>Risk Assessment:                  Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council’s approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:                  Current Risk: LOW                  Residual Risk: LOW</p> <p>Other Implications: None</p>
Recommendation	The Panel are invited to fully review and consider the recommendations from the Committee on Standards in Public Life, review the draft response provided by officers and reach a view on the final response of the Dorset PCP..
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure that the Panel’s scrutiny arrangements are effective, robust and demonstrate good ethical governance principles.
Appendices	<p>Appendix A –Recommendations received from the Committee on Standards in Public Life.</p> <p>Appendix B – A draft response from officers to these recommendations.</p>
Background Papers	Letter to all PCP’s from the Committee on Standards (dated 27 July 2015)
Report Originator and Contact	<p>Mark Taylor, Head of Assurance, Risk and Audit                  Tel: 01305 224982                  Email: <a href="mailto:m.taylor@dorsetcc.gov.uk">m.taylor@dorsetcc.gov.uk</a></p>

APPENDIX A

Room GC.05  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Tel: 020 7271 2948/0855

**Committee on  
Standards in  
Public Life**

Chair  
Police and Crime Panel

27 July 2015

Dear Panel Chair

On 29 June the Committee on Standards in Public Life published the report 'Tone from the top - leadership, ethics and accountability in policing'. The report followed an eight month inquiry which considered whether the accountability model for local policing was effective in supporting and promoting high ethical standards.

Within the report the Committee made a number of recommendations. Recommendation 9 and 10 are for Police and Crime Panels:

#### Recommendation 9

Police and Crime Panels should review the PCC's Annual Report in public session attended by the PCC as part of their annual scrutiny programme and make any recommendations as appropriate.

#### Recommendation 10

As a matter of good practice:

- PCCs should publish a forward plan of decisions identifying the subject matter of the decision, why it is key, the meeting at which the decision is due to be taken, who will be consulted before the decision is taken and what reports/papers will be available for inspection; and
- Police and Crime Panels should produce a forward plan of work specifying, as appropriate, the information required from PCCs in order for them to carry out that work.

The Committee also endorsed within their report recommendations made by the Home Affairs Committee and would like to bring this to the attention of Police and Crime Panels:

Recommendation 19

The Committee endorses the Home Affairs Committee's recommendations that:

- Police and Crime Panels inquire and report into the circumstances whenever a chief constable's service is brought to an end irrespective of whether the Schedule 8 scrutiny process is formally engaged.

The Committee would be grateful ask for a full and considered response to be provided to these recommendations by 29 November 2015 at the latest. I would be happy to discuss the report and recommendations in further detail if this is helpful.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Bew". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Lord Bew  
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life

**APPENDIX B**

**Recommendations from the Committee on Standards in Public Life to all Police and Crime Panels**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b><i>Proposed Draft Dorset PCP Response (as prepared by officers)</i></b>
<p>Recommendation 9 - Police and Crime Panels should review the PCC's Annual Report in public session attended by the PCC as part of their annual scrutiny programme and make any recommendations as appropriate.</p>	<p><i>This recommendation is fully supported by the Dorset Police and Crime Panel. Such an approach already forms an important part of the Panels routine local practice, with meetings open to the public to attend.</i></p>
<p>Recommendation 10 – As a matter of good practice;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCCs should publish a forward plan of decisions identifying the subject matter of the decision, why it is key, the meeting at which the decision is due to be taken, who will be consulted before the decision is taken and what reports/papers will be available for inspection;</li> </ul> <p>and;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police and Crime Panels should produce a forward plan of work specifying, as appropriate, the information required from PCCs in order for them to carry out that work.</li> </ul>	<p><i>As this is not a current requirement under the specified information order of the Police and Social Responsibility Act, therefore there is not currently a forward plan for decisions. However, in seeking to ensure openness, inclusivity and transparency for the wider public the Office of the PCC will always seek to publish and provide advance notice of those decisions that have been assessed as key ones (e.g. budget, precept, senior officer decisions etc.). Some of the other decisions that the PCC is required to make are not so easily forecasted. It therefore remains important to recognise that (in terms of good and effective governance) there is a balance to be struck between forward planning and the ability of the PCC to make effective and timely decisions.</i></p> <p><i>This recommendation is fully supported. The Dorset Police and Crime Panel routinely considers a forward plan of work at each of its formal public meetings. Specific items and topics are identified, agreed and included on this work plan for the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide the necessary information to aid effective and timely scrutiny by the panel.</i></p>

<p>The Committee also endorsed within their report recommendations made by the Home Affairs Committee and would like to bring this to the attention of Police and Crime Panels:</p>	
<p>Recommendation 19 –The Committee endorses the Home Affairs Committee’s recommendations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Police and Crime Panels inquire and report into the circumstances whenever a chief constable’s service is brought to an end irrespective of whether the Schedule 8 scrutiny process s formally applied.</li></ul>	<p><i>This recommendation is fully supported by the Dorset Police and Crime Panel. The Dorset Police Crime Panel’s Rules of Procedure clearly set out the requirement for notification of circumstances where the chief constables service is to be brought to an end to ensure robust and timely scrutiny of any such proposed action.</i></p>