

ORIGINATOR: POLICY OFFICER (LH)

DECISION NUMBER: 15-2018

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP - DISSOLUTION

SUMMARY:

1. Independent Advisory Groups were developed nationally to enhance the understanding of the role and impact of the police service on diverse communities and engender trust and confidence in such communities.
2. The Suffolk Independent Advisory Group was formed in 2007 to advise and make recommendations to the Police Authority and Constabulary.
3. The IAG membership is at a historic low restricting effective functioning of the group however its purpose is being effectively delivered through a variety of other methods and means.
4. Having considered the viability of the group and the options available to the Constabulary to fulfil the function of the IAG, the PCC and the Chief Constable agreed the dissolution of the IAG.
5. The PCC and Chief Constable would like to record their thanks to all IAG members involved since 2007.

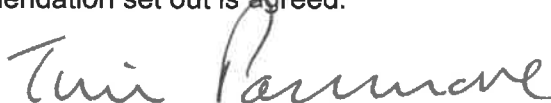
RECOMMENDATION:

1. The PCC is recommended to document and formally endorse the decision to dissolve the Suffolk Independent Advisory Group.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out is agreed.

Signature



Date

7th May
2018.

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. ROLE AND PURPOSE OF INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUPS

- 1.1 Independent Advisory Groups were developed nationally within police forces and police authorities to enhance the understanding of the role and impact of the police service on diverse communities and engender trust and confidence in such communities.
- 1.2 Where effective they can result in valuable insight and personal views on policing policies and practices and the impact of these on local communities.

2. THE IAG IN SUFFOLK

- 2.1 The Suffolk Independent Advisory Group (hereinafter referred to as "the IAG") was formed in 2007 to advise and make recommendations to the Suffolk Police Authority¹ and Suffolk Constabulary in:
 - reviewing and improving the investigation and prevention of hate crime;
 - creating a police service that is fully inclusive of diversity;
 - creating a police service that does not unlawfully discriminate;
 - the handling and resolution of critical incidents;
 - improving the trust and confidence of Suffolk's diverse communities in their police service;
 - any other aspect of the policing of Suffolk which impacts upon minority communities.
- 2.2 IAG advice in Suffolk is given individually by members and not as a representatives of their community.
- 2.3 The breadth of the IAG activities has included:
 - Policy development - providing independent advice on developing plans, policies and procedures, which help shape the way Suffolk is policed;
 - Consultation, for example on Suffolk Constabulary's Diversity Strategy and the PCC's Police and Crime Plans;
 - Observation of training and input into Constabulary Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) training days;
 - Input to Community Impact Assessments including Op Sumac (2007) and Op Phonetic (2017);
 - Stop and Search (policies and scrutiny);
 - Attendance at community events (2007-2017) including Hate Crime week (2007-2017);
 - Input to the development of the Constabulary website relating to accessibility (2016/17);
 - Expression of community views on major changes in policing including the development of the Police Investigation Centres and Review of Custody (2009) changes to air support arrangements (2015), introduction of Taser (2009) and Body Worn Video (2017).
- 2.4 A comprehensive summary of IAG activity is available in the annual reports published on the PCC website. The report for 2017-18 will be available in June 2018.

¹ The Police Authority was succeeded by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

3. REVIEW OF THE IAG

- 3.1 The effectiveness of the IAG has been reviewed at various points since its formation and changes implemented to try and increase the diversity of the group in particular.
- 3.2 The IAG membership is at a historic low of five members restricting effective functioning of the group. The IAG has discussed the development of a 'digital IAG' and rebranding the group to encourage more representative membership from the breadth of communities in Suffolk. These alternative options have been considered by the IAG, the Office of the PCC and Constabulary and have been discounted.
- 3.3 The PCC, Constabulary and IAG Chair have agreed that the purpose of the IAG was being effectively delivered through a variety of other methods and means, most notably:
- The Stop and Search Reference Group, co-ordinated by Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE);
 - Stop and Search accountability through publicly available reports and the Constabulary report to the PCC's Accountability and Performance Panel;
 - Suffolk Constabulary's Strategic Equalities and Inclusion Board and annual report to the PCC on Workforce diversity and the Diversity Strategy;
 - Suffolk Constabulary's Rural Advisory Group;
 - The PCC's Business Liaison Group;
 - Suffolk Constabulary's community contacts, social media engagement and Safer Neighbourhood Team local engagement;
 - Progress with workforce diversity and positive action recruitment;
 - ISCRE policy advice and role as 'critical friend';
 - The PCC's programme of community engagement including public meetings, community group and individual engagement.
- 3.4 Having considered the viability of the group and the options available to the Constabulary to fulfil the function of the IAG, the PCC, his Senior Management Team and the Chief Constable discussed and agreed the dissolution of the IAG at their meeting on 14 March 2018. This was in accordance with the Terms of Reference and Working Guidelines for The IAG, Section 10 'Dissolution', which says 'The IAG may at anytime be dissolved by joint resolution of the PCC and Chief Constable'.
- 3.5 This decision was subsequently confirmed with the Chair of the IAG. The decision has subsequently been communicated to IAG members, relevant Constabulary departments and those individuals most involved with the IAG.
- 3.6 The PCC and Chief Constable would like to record their thanks to all IAG members involved since 2007.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The annual IAG budget of £2,200 will be subsumed into the PCC Corporate budget.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 5.1 The PCC will continue to monitor how the Chief Constable fulfils his duties and deliver, with him, on the Police and Crime Plan objective to engagement constituents, partners and stakeholders including engaging diverse communities (Objective 2, action 23) and to improve workforce diversity so that the organisation is more representative of our communities (Objective 2, Action 22).

5.2 Other implications and risks as set out in the table below have been considered and appropriate action taken.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 The PCC is recommended to document and formally endorse the decision to dissolve the Suffolk Independent Advisory Group.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	NO
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	YES
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	YES
Have human resource implications been considered?	YES
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	YES
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	YES
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	YES
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	YES

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.

Signature: 

Date *4 May 2018*

OFFICIAL