

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
2.	Date:	2 nd May 2014
3.	Title:	Website Development
4.	Organisation:	RMBC – Host Authority

5. Summary

This report is to seek approval to recommendations made by the newly established Task & Finish Group, regarding the options available for developing a website for the South Yorkshire Police & Crime Panel, which will be developed by RMBC's Online Team.

The T&F Group would like the members of the PCP to approve the development of a "galaxy" site to include a pen portrait and photograph of themselves along with the political breakdown of the panel.

That the testing of the draft website be undertaken by representatives of the community as agreed by the panel.

6. Recommendations

That the Panel agrees to:

- 1. the development of a "galaxy" website to be hosted by the RMBC website**
- 2. Decide on a group of community representatives to test the proto type web site**
- 3. Explore other media ways of engaging/interacting with the community at a later stage.**

7. Proposals and detail

Background

Under the Chairmanship of Mr Alan Carter the Task & Finish group, comprising of three other members met on 8th April 2014, to discuss the two main website options available.

option 1 - a webpage included in RMBC's revised website or

option 2 – a “galaxy” site within RMBC's website.

Research undertaken by the group was to look at other various other metropolitan areas PCP websites to obtain best practice and ideas for inclusion on the SYPCP site.

The West Yorkshire PCP site was put forward as a good example of a site that provided the right information, was easy to use, it had a logo/brand and a section for complaints.

Other suggestions were put forward in relation to the workings of the panel being more transparent and accountable via community engagement which included:- interactive website, Facebook, Twitter and webcasts.

Proposal and detail

The Task & Finish Group, having discussed the options in considerable detail and having thoroughly explored a number of alternative suggestions, came to the conclusion that the preferred option is to develop a galaxy site.

The reason for this choice is that although hosted by RMBC's website, the PCP site would be a separate entity. The format of the galaxy site does not need to follow any format of the host site, but can be as imaginative or as basic as is necessary and can have own identity including logos.

A small annual payment of approx. £20 would allow the URL site to be hidden, hiding the connection to the host site and therefore appearing on any search engine to be a stand alone site.

The galaxy site will be developed and managed by the RMBC On line Service Team, with information from the existing site used to populate the new site.

The T&F Group agreed it would be beneficial to involve community representatives, at the “proto type” stage of the development, to obtain their views and comments and would welcome the panel's contribution on this matter.

Monitoring of the website can provide information as to the number of users of the site and the type of information viewed, which can be used by the panel to assist in the engagement of the community in their work.

The idea of including a “pen portrait” and photograph of panel members on the website was considered to be beneficial as it shows accountability of the members to the public.

8. Finance

As the host authority Rotherham MBC receives a grant to manage and administer the work of the PCP which includes contributions to Members.

It has been confirmed that there will be no cost for the developing, managing and updating of the website.

An annual payment of approx. £20 for the URL requirements would be required.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Any risks and uncertainties would be mitigated by time being invested in the development of the website to ensure its suitability for purpose, with the management of the site being done by the RMBC Online Team.

10. Background Papers and Consultation

Report to South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, 20th January 2014 (J28)

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