

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 7
18 March 2015	Public Report

Report of Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Contact Officer – Dorothy Gregson

Contact Details – cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk 0300 333 3456

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVE FIVE – MAINTAIN THE RESILIENCE OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Police and Crime Panel (“the Panel”) on the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner’s (“the Commissioner”) progress made towards Objective Five of the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”) – ‘Maintain the resilience of protective services’.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the report.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 6 – To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action take, by the Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner’s functions.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Commissioner sets the overall budget for policing in Cambridgeshire. The Chief Constable is responsible for operational deployment. This deployment is informed by dynamic assessments of threat, risk and harm which continually taking place at the national, regional and local level. The challenge has been to ensure that Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”) can meet local demands whilst contributing to the wider regional and national demands on policing as required by the Policing Protocol Order 2011, against a background of austerity.
- 4.2 The *Strategic Policing Requirement* was first issued by the Government in July 2012 (as revised 2015). This document sets out the Home Secretary’s view of the national threats that police forces must prepare for and the appropriate national policing capabilities that are required to counter those threats. The Strategic Policing Requirement respects the operational independence of the police service, advising what, in strategic terms, it needs to achieve, but not how it should achieve it.
- 4.3 The particular threats specified in the Strategic Policing Requirement, and referred to as the national threats are:
- terrorism;
 - civil emergencies;
 - organised crime;
 - public order threats; and
 - large-scale cyber incidents.

4.4 The Constabulary's obligations to meet the Strategic Policing Requirement are met through collaborative arrangements.

5. EXISTING COLLABORATED PROTECTIVE SERVICES

5.1 Counter Terrorism

5.1.1 As with serious and organised crime, the Constabulary is able to draw on national, regional and local layers of resources to tackle the threat posed by terrorism. Each region is served by a Counter Terrorism Unit.

5.1.2 The benefits of preventing people from becoming violent extremists are well recognised and as part of the collaboration arrangements with Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary we have a "Prevent" Team. They have an established referral process whereby anyone at risk of radicalisation can be referred for intervention and support. The bulk of the work of the unit relates to awareness and training of local partner agencies including Safeguarding leads, Schools, Colleges, Hostels and Housing staff. Further training events have been arranged to address the Prevent duties placed on Local Authorities by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

5.2 Eastern Region – Eastern Region Special Operations Unit

5.2.1 The purpose of the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit is to tackle organised crime. The nature of organised crime groups is that they operate across force boundaries and as such require a response that is similarly not constrained.

5.2.2 In addition, the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit represents the region on the national stage with regards serious and organised criminality. Attending and feeding back from the various national forums in this highly specialised area of policing is a significant part of the Eastern Region Special Operations management role in support of the region.

5.2.3 The units within Eastern Region Special Operations Unit include the:

- Regional Intelligence Unit
- Regional Asset Recovery Team
- Regional Confidential Unit
- Northern Investigation Team
- Southern Investigation Team
- Regional Specialist Support Unit
- Regional Operational Security Risk advisor
- Regional Cyber Crime Unit
- Regional Economic Crime Unit

5.2.4 There is a regional tasking process that considers all the available intelligence within the region and based upon a rigorous assessment of threat, risk and harm. The Eastern Region Special Operations Unit assets are deployed anywhere within the region. The nature of organised crime is that the pattern of offending impacts on larger geographic areas than a single police force.

5.3 BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

5.3.1 There is extensive collaboration within the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire Strategic Alliance in areas of police operations known as Joint Protective Services. This unit consists of over 600 officers, the majority of which are in the Major Crime Unit, Armed Policing Unit and Roads Police Unit. These are specialised units that provide a considerable degree of resilience for operations within Cambridgeshire. The full list of units within the Joint Protective Services is:

- Armed Policing Unit
- Camera/Tickets/Collisions
- Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism
- Dogs
- Major Crime Unit
- Operational Support
- Resilience
- Roads Policing Unit
- Scientific Support

5.3.2 The functions which involve deploying staff to incidents and events do so on the basis of an assessment of threat, risk and harm. In essence they are deployed in full force wherever there is a public need for them and in practice on a daily basis this is anywhere within the three counties.

5.4 ROADS POLICING

5.4.1 Road safety is an issue which the public often raise and therefore more detail is provided regarding the Roads Policing Unit. The work of the Roads Policing Unit in Cambridgeshire is conducted in line with the Association of Chief Police Officers Policing the Roads five Year Strategy 2011-2015. Key themes of the Strategy are shown below:

- Reduce Road Casualties
- Disrupt Criminality
- Countering Terrorism
- Patrolling the Roads
- Combating Anti-Social Road Use

5.4.2 The Unit attended over 11,213 incidents in 2014, and dealt with 2614 collisions. Reporting 10,704 motorists for road related offences and arrested 523 people for 646 offences. The Unit has seized 1,315 vehicles for no insurance/driver driving without a valid licence. Many incidents attended support local policing, providing invaluable support.

5.4.3 Enforcement of legislation by the Roads Policing Unit contributes to reducing road casualties. The Department of Transport recognise that there are four offence types that largely contribute to, or increase the risk of death and serious injury on our roads, these being seatbelt offences, mobile phone use, speeding and drink/drug driving. In 2014 in Cambridgeshire, Roads Policing Unit Officers reported the following motorists for these four offences:

- Seatbelts – 2097
- Mobile Phones – 2324
- Speed – 5319 – not including fixed sites
- Drink and Drug drivers arrested – 858

5.4.5 A key indicator in respect of roads policing is in respect of the number of people killed and seriously injured.

- 2010 - 434
- 2011 - 413
- 2012 - 381
- 2013 - 393
- 2014 - 392

As can be seen from the last five years figures there is a continuing downward trend.

6. EFFECTIVENESS OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES

6.1 Assessing the effectiveness of protective services, their capacity, capability and resilience are complex and difficult. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has undertaken a substantial part of this task through its inspections on police forces' response to the Strategic Policing Requirement. In respect specifically to the Constabulary, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary have made the following comments in their report '*Strategic Policing Requirement, Cambridgeshire Constabulary*', November 2014:

6.1.1 *"The chief constable understands his role in tackling the threat of terrorism. The constabulary, together with the counter-terrorism network, has the capacity it needs to contribute to the national counter-terrorism effort.*

The strategic alliance recognises the importance of preventing people from becoming radicalised for violent extremism and the joint protective services counter-terrorism and domestic extremism unit has produced a 'prevent' tactical delivery plan, which outlines how the forces will work to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The constabulary, together with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum have the capacity to respond to local civil emergencies and to contribute to the response to national emergencies.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary has appropriate capacity to meet threats from serious organised crime, either with its own trained staff, or through its regional organised crime unit, known as the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit.

The chief constable understands his role to provide police support units to deal with public order incidents across force boundaries. The constabulary has the capacity to make a contribution to the national requirement.

At the time of our inspection, the constabulary's plans to respond to the threat of a large-scale cyber incident were still under development. Cambridgeshire Constabulary, like most forces, is not yet able to identify or understand fully the threats, risks and harms posed by cybercrime".

6.2 Clearly from the above, the area for development is in respect of a large-scale cyber incident. The Constabulary have acknowledged a number of improvements that are required in their approach to cybercrime, both in the context of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary report where they acknowledge their reliance on the specialist resources from the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit and the National Crime Agency and in respect of computer enabled crime being a "volume crime". The Constabulary's initial actions have been to establish a Cyber Crime Steering Group, roll out the training referred to in the Inspectorate's report, and establish a Cyber Crime Unit.

7. FUTURE COLLABORATED SERVICES

7.1 Cambridgeshire and the Strategic Alliance partners Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire have agreed to work together to identify how collaboration between them can be increased to include 'Operational Support' and 'Organisational Support' services, which include functions such as Human Resources, Information Communications and Technology, firearms licensing, information management, custody, criminal justice and call handling. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the three Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables and work is progressing to develop business cases for each of the areas.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 It is worth reflecting on the achievements that this report details. At a time of unprecedented cuts to policing budgets, local frontline policing has been protected and enhanced through innovative use of technology. The Constabulary actually has more Police Constables now than in 2012 despite those cuts. This could only have been achieved with the benefit of collaboration

with neighbouring police forces on specialised areas of policing. Those collaborated functions have enabled the Constabulary to make savings, but have also given a higher degree of resilience than they would have had on their own. The Constabulary is meeting its national commitments as recognised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

8.2 The Commissioner nor the Constabulary cannot, given the future funding gaps, rest on their laurels. It is for this reason that by extending the collaboration of other functions will continue to protect Cambridgeshire's local policing capability.

9. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Strategic Policing Requirement, Home Office, 2015

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-policing-requirement>

Strategic Policing Requirement – Cambridgeshire Constabulary, HMIC 2014

<http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/cambridgeshire-strategic-policing-requirement.pdf>

This page is intentionally left blank