

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 4
11th June 2020	Public Report

Report of Acting Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

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MONITORING THE DELIVERY OF THE ACTING POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER’S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CRISIS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) on the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Acting Commissioner”) response to the Covid-19 crisis.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to note the reports attached at Appendices 1 and 2 and refer to the two letters of response to questions raised by the Panel as referenced in the ‘Background Documents’ section below.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 Item 6 – to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner’s functions.

Item 8 - To support the effective exercise of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Covid-19 situation means that business cannot be as usual. In order to respond to the emergency and fulfil statutory responsibilities, the Acting Commissioner, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the “Constabulary”) has to work differently within each of their statutory powers and remit.

- 4.2 The Government expects the Acting Commissioner to play an important role in supporting the Chief Constable to keep the public safe during the coronavirus outbreak. Equally, there is a government and a public expectation that arrangements to hold each police force to account on behalf of its communities will continue. Consequently, in the current unprecedented times of national crisis, the Acting Commissioner has to take a proportionate governance approach, one which focusses on how policing is supporting the needs of those in the county during the current crisis. However, at the same time the Acting Commissioner needs to balance this against the necessity for transparency, the importance of responding to public concerns, and need to provide reassurance when things are progressing as required.

- 4.3 As such the Constabulary and the OPCC have both (to date) produced four specific reports to the Acting Commissioner’s Business Co-ordination Board (the “Board”) regarding their response to the Covid-19 crisis. The OPCC’s reports are attached (as Appendices) in order for the Panel to carry out its role to support and scrutinise the Acting Commissioner. Links to the Constabulary’s reports are provided below. In addition, the Board has also received reports regarding the consequential impacts of the crisis, such as financial monitoring reports, and arrangements regarding Independent Custody Visiting, which can also be found on the Acting

Commissioner's website on the link below.

- 4.4 The Acting Commissioner also has arrangements in place to continue to be involved directly or through his office, in key countywide governance forums such as the Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board and the Criminal Justice Board, and link appropriately with the Local Resilience Forum structures which ensure effective management of the current crisis locally.
- 4.5 The Coronavirus Act also brought in regulations in respect of how Police and Crime Panels can continue to hold meetings remotely in order to carry out their statutory role of support and scrutiny of the Acting Commissioner. The Acting Commissioner has discussed these scrutiny arrangements with the Chair of the Panel. To date, two teleconference calls involving the Acting Commissioner and his staff, and the Panel Chair, Vice-Chair and support staff have taken place which provided the opportunity for the Panel to continue to scrutinise and support the Acting Commissioner. The Acting Commissioner has then provided a written response to any questions asked, which are then published on the Panel's website.

5. APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – 'OPCC Response to Covid-19', Agenda Item 6.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 30th April 2020

Appendix 2 – 'OPCC Response to Covid-19', Agenda Item 7.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 26th May 2020

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

'Police and Crime Plan 2017-20 – Community Safety and Criminal Justice', Police and Crime Commissioner

<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/>

'Acting PCC response to telecon with Panel on 15th April 2020', letter to Chair of Police and Crime Panel, 20th April 2020

<https://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/Decisions>

Business Co-ordination Board meeting, 30th April 2020

'Covid19 Constabulary Response', Agenda Item 5.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 30th April 2020

<https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/accessing-information/decision-making/business-coordination-board/bcb-30th-april-2020/>

'Acting PCC response to telecon with Panel on 14th May 2020', letter to Chair of Police and Crime Panel, 22nd May 2020

<https://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/Documents>

Business Co-ordination Board meeting, 30th April 2020

Constabulary Covid-19 Update', Agenda Item 6.0, 26th May 2020

<https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/accessing-information/decision-making/business-coordination-board/bcb-26th-may-2020/>