

<b>CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 9</b>
<b>21st July 2021</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

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### **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER’S APPROACH**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) with an overview of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) role, how he intends to take forward his role, and how the Police and Crime Plan (the “Plan”) will be developed.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to note the contents of this report.

#### **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 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the “Act”) sets out the statutory duties, role and responsibilities of Commissioners. The Act sets out the requirement for the duty to issue a Plan.

- 4.2 The Policing Protocol Order 2011 (the “Protocol”) sets out the way in which various bodies involved in policing governance will exercise their functions in relation to each other. This includes Commissioners, Chief Constables and Police and Crime Panels. The Protocol is clear that an effective and constructive working relationship between these bodies is likely to be achieved where communication and clarity of understanding are at their highest, one which will enhance policing.

#### **5. HOW THE COMMISSIONER PROPOSES TO TAKE FORWARD HIS ROLE**

- 5.1 Tackling crime and keeping communities safe is the Commissioner’s key priority.
- 5.2 The Commissioner sees being the voice of local people as key to the effectiveness of his role, adopting a style of clear, honest and transparent language in all of his approaches, whether speaking to residents, businesses, media or stakeholders.
- 5.3 Using the 6-point plan produced for his election campaign, the Commissioner has prioritised the revisiting of local residents and business owners across the county allowing for ongoing and meaningful conversations with local communities, whilst also carrying out his statutory role.
- 5.4 As a result of this commitment, in his first few weeks in office, the Commissioner has made

public engagement a priority, carrying out numerous visits across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

- 5.5 Further visits are planned and will continue through the term of office, to our cities, towns and villages, in all our district and city council areas.
- 5.6 Furthermore, the Commissioner has taken every opportunity to speak to local media about the way in which he will carry out his role, being clear on what he sees as his mandated priorities to tackle crime and keep communities safe. Interviews have so far been carried out with BBC Cambs, (Radio and Look East), Peterborough Telegraph, Cambridge Independent, Fenland Citizen and Heart FM.
- 5.7 The Commissioner has also committed to holding regular briefings with representatives across the county with six district roundtable briefings for councillors from parish, district and county level to join online (evening) sessions where local issues can be discussed. The events also offer crime prevention presentations from local partners, such as the Scams Partnership and SpeedWatch.
- 5.8 The Commissioner's approach to correspondence from members of the public is to take each issue and provide the most appropriate response in a timely and supportive manner, i.e. where a member of the public is expressing dissatisfaction with the service they have received from the Constabulary, contact will be made by his office and where appropriate referred to the Constabulary's Complaints Reform Team as per the Complaints Handling procedure.
- 5.9 Members of the public with specific issues are also invited to have 1-1 telephone/MS Teams meetings with the Commissioner. In the six weeks to the end of June, the Commissioner received over 250 pieces of correspondence.
- 5.10 The Commissioner's approach to invitations from local and national charities, partners and campaign groups seeking his support is to engage on a local level, with the support of his team to understand how he can use his position to influence a countywide partnership approach. Examples of where this has been put into practice already include:
- A meeting with cycle theft campaign groups;
  - A meeting with local farmers and the National Farmers' Union in Fenland;
  - Meeting those involved in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the Government's Safer Streets project to take forward learning;
  - Speaking with local business representatives about what can be done to improve community safety in retail areas and work with partners to tackle assaults against retail workers.
- 5.11 Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour is not the responsibility of the police alone and the Commissioner will work closely with partners to address the issues of concern to the public.
- 5.12 The Commissioner is committed to ethical policing, hence on his first day in office not only did he swear the Oath of Acceptance of Office, he also declared his commitment to the police Code of Ethics.

## **6. COMMISSIONER'S POLICE AND CRIME PLAN**

- 6.1 Key to ensuring Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a safe place is the Commissioner's Plan. The Commissioner has a statutory duty to issue a Plan as soon as practicable after taking office – specifically before the end of the financial year which they are elected (i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022). The Plan must determine, direct and communicate the Commissioner's priorities during their period in office and set out for the period of issue:

- the Commissioner's police and crime objectives for the area;

- the policing of the police area which the Chief Constable is to provide;
  - the financial and other resources which the Commissioner is to provide to the Chief Constable;
  - the means by which the Chief Constable will report to the Commissioner on the provision of policing;
  - the means by which the Chief Constable's performance in providing policing will be measured;
  - the services which the Commissioner is to provide or arrange to support crime and disorder reduction, or help victims or witnesses of crime and anti-social behaviour; and
  - any grants which the Commissioner is to make, and conditions (if any) of those grants.
- 6.2 The statutory requirements relevant to the Plan's development include arrangements for obtaining the views of the community, including victims of crime, on policing, and co-operative working with the Chief Constable and other responsible authorities and criminal justice bodies.
- 6.3 Following conversations held with residents, local businesses and community groups during the election period and latterly the community engagement he has been undertaking since the election, the Commissioner has identified a number of emerging themes. The strategies and shared objectives of organisations working within the criminal justice system, along with government policy documents have also informed the emerging priorities and will shape the final Plan. Alongside this, the Plan will also reference the National Crime & Policing Measures, the Strategic Policing Requirement and the HMICFRS Reducing Crime Themes.
- 6.4 In order to gather this evidence, the Commissioner started consulting the public, partner agencies and stakeholders for four weeks from Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June ending on 30<sup>th</sup> July. This involves ongoing engagement and dialogue with the Chief Constable and members of the Constabulary. A series of events have also been planned to enable local people to have their 'voice' reflected within the Plan. Feedback received will build upon the Commissioner's election manifesto.
- 6.5 The public consultation will focus on checking with respondents that the emerging priority areas and approach to the Plan is supported. Those areas are:
- Community priorities
  - Crime prevention
  - Supporting victims and witnesses
  - Ethical policing
  - Robust enforcement

A graphic explaining what these priority areas mean in more detail is attached at Appendix A.

- 6.6 The Commissioner is also keen to engage with members of the Panel throughout the process and will be inviting the Panel's views on how to facilitate this.

## **7. FUTURE APPROACH**

- 7.1 The Commissioner is fully aware of the need to be transparent and accountable, thus enabling scrutiny by the public. The Commissioner wishes to work within the spirit of, and akin to, certain aspects of local government access to information provisions. This includes publishing the agenda and reports of governance meetings in advance.
- 7.2 The Commissioner welcomes having an informed and good working relationship with the Panel. It is envisaged this relationship is twofold: both to enhance the challenge and support the Panel provides to the Commissioner in the exercise of his statutory functions and also to enable the

Panel to have more of an insight into the Commissioner's role.

## **8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents>

The Policing Protocol Order 2011

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/2744/made>

Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan consultation

<https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/>

## **9. APPENDIX**

Appendix A 'Emerging Themes from Community Engagement'