

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 7
15th September 2021	Public Report

Report of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Contact Officer – Jim Haylett

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

UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) with an update on the development of the the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner’s) Police and Crime Plan (the “Plan”).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 Item 1 – To review and make a report or recommendation on the draft police and crime plan, or draft variation, given to the panel by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
(Please note: It is worth noting that the Plan is not yet in draft stage).

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 to issue a Plan.
- 4.2 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. 31st March 2022).
- 4.3 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.

4.4 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.

5. COMMISSIONER'S POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

5.1 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 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, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue (HMICFRS) Reducing Crime Themes.

5.2 In order to further inform the Plan, the Commissioner started consulting the public, partner agencies and stakeholders for four weeks from 30th June ending on 30th July. This involved ongoing engagement and dialogue with the Chief Constable and members of Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the "Constabulary"). A series of events also took place to enable local people to have their 'voice' reflected within the Plan. Feedback received will build upon the Commissioner's election manifesto and will form one part of the evidence base to inform the Plan.

5.3 The public consultation focused on checking with respondents that the emerging priority areas and approach to the Plan are supported. Those areas are:

- Community priorities
- Crime prevention
- Supporting victims and witnesses
- Ethical policing
- Robust enforcement

5.4 The strongest message from the public was around visibility of police officers which, from the comments made, is strongly linked into accessibility. Taken together this means the public want to see more police officers on patrol, particularly in rural towns and villages, and for the Constabulary to be more accessible in terms of the public being able to feed in concerns, reporting issues within their communities and gaining feedback after reporting a crime or suspicious activity.

5.5 Issues to be addressed, not surprisingly, cover a huge range of matters many of which are not for the police to solve alone. The Plan will need to articulate how the police and other partners are listening to the public and working with them to act on their concerns and supporting them to assist themselves. This will require support for partnership working while building on evidence about where there are most problems whether it is rural or business crime, anti-social behaviour or speeding. Strong partnership working is crucial and needs to be at the heart of the new approach. Developed with Community Safety Partnerships and local authorities, the way public services, charities and communities work together to reduce and prevent offending can be strengthened, bringing together efforts across the community to work towards shared long-term outcomes.

5.6 Further partnership work is needed to understand and tackle the root causes of crime and

serious violence through early intervention and rehabilitating people who have offended, while reducing opportunities for people to commit crime. A comprehensive approach to prevention is required, from early intervention with children and young people to prevent problems occurring in the first place; through to early intervention when young people and adults first come into contact with the criminal justice system; right through to rehabilitating those already more entrenched in the criminal justice system; and prevention measures to reduce opportunities to commit crime.

- 5.7 The Plan will need actions to ensure vulnerable people are supported and that victims and witnesses are at the heart of the criminal justice system, reflecting that what victims want when they report a crime isn't exceptional; they want someone to listen to them, take them seriously and take positive action. They want to be kept safe, and kept updated on the investigation. They don't want to wait months or years to see their offender taken to court – they want to be supported by specialist and experienced staff to recover from the experience. When agencies change the way they do things they want to them think how it could impact on them.
- 5.8 Ensuring the police act fairly, with integrity and in the best interests of the public is key to gaining public trust and confidence in the Constabulary. The Plan will need to explain actions to ensure the police 'do the right thing in the right way' and how the Commissioner will hold the Chief Constable to account for having processes in place to ensure policing principles and standards of professional behaviour are embedded in everyday policing. It will also include how the Constabulary can ensure environmental sustainability as to how it can work differently now and in the future.
- 5.9 While crime prevention is key, when crime does happen the police are there to uphold the law to keep Cambridgeshire and Peterborough safe. This theme will highlight the key role that police officers and staff have in upholding the law, but also that this takes place in partnership with other agencies within the criminal justice system and beyond. From a multi-agency problem-solving approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in our local communities; through to pursuing those people who commit a lot of crime in our communities such as burglary, robbery and theft; monitoring those who present a serious risk of harm in our communities; and tackling serious and organised crime.
- 5.10 The Commissioner is also keen to engage with members of the Panel throughout the process and a discussion session with members of the Panel will be facilitated.

6. 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/>

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