



## **Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel**

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

### **COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT Safe, Resilient and Connected Communities**

This is a report of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Alison Hernandez, drawing the Police and Crime Panel's attention to a number of matters that have arisen, or progress that has been made, since the last Panel meeting in July 2022.

#### **1. Retirement of Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer QPM**

Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer QPM formally notified me of his intention to retire from Devon and Cornwall Police in March 2022, having made the decision some months previously. He left the service in August 2022 following a distinguished career, culminating in leading Devon and Cornwall Police for nine years. Mr Sawyer had been the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police since 2013. It is the largest geographical police area of any territorial force in England. Prior to this appointment he was Deputy Chief Constable having relocated from the Metropolitan Police where he led many high-profile investigations including the murder of Jill Dando and the Ladbroke Grove rail disaster. He joined the police in 1986 and went on to lead several specialist operations including covert policing and counter terrorism.

Mr Sawyer is a very well-respected leader not only within the counties of Devon and Cornwall but across UK policing. He has exceeded all expectations in this role and pushed the boundaries of UK policing to achieve the best results for the communities he serves. His recent successes included the development and delivery of the approach to tackling modern slavery for UK policing and the creation of 999 cadets which have a lasting legacy across the UK, not just in Devon and Cornwall. His leadership of the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking portfolio transformed the way in which the police respond to this pervasive crime. He has ensured that all UK police forces have trained staff in a UK-wide network to identify and respond to modern slavery and human trafficking. Through Mr Sawyer's leadership the Volunteer Police Cadets is the nationally recognised police uniformed youth group throughout England & Wales and in Scotland known as Police Scotland Youth Volunteers.

Mr Sawyer has held a number of national portfolios for the National Police Chiefs Council, most recently leading the new performance framework for the National Police Chiefs Council and playing an active leadership contribution to the Prime Minister's National Policing Board. His role in policing the G7 summit head in Cornwall in 2021 was exemplary. He was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the New Year's Honours in 2018.

I am certain the Panel members, along with all who have worked alongside him, wish him well in his next endeavour.

#### **2. Commissioning Services to Tackle Anti-social Behaviour**

The Panel will be aware that tackling anti-social behaviour is one of the key priorities in my Police and Crime Plan. I am therefore delighted to be able to report on two new services which have been



commissioned by my office to help communities facing anti-social behaviour – they are a new service for victims of anti-social behaviour and a new service aimed at targeting and diverting young people who are engaging in anti-social behaviour.

#### New service for victims of Anti-social Behaviour

My new anti-social behaviour service for victims went live on 1<sup>st</sup> August. It is hosted by the OPCC's strategic delivery partner, Victim Support. The service is for all clients experiencing anti-social behaviour including those who were already in receipt of Victim Support's services. Victim Support has reported that they have received excellent quality applications for job roles within the new service which will be fully mobilised and functional by mid-September. Ahead of the go live date Victim Support have been working with partners across the geography in order to build good referral pathways and they are embarking on sharing a series of presentations on the new service for partners and key stakeholders. They have been keen to build strong working relationships across the geography in order to highlight the availability of the new service. This included being part of the activities of Plymouth City Council during Anti-social Behaviour Awareness Week in July.

#### Youth Outreach Anti-social Behaviour Service

I have committed £250,000 per year for a minimum of three years to tackling the issue of young people who are engaging in anti-social behaviour. Following a competitive procurement process, I am delighted to inform the Panel that a successful bid was received from a consortium of youth service providers who are now offering a youth outreach and diversion service across Devon and Cornwall. The successful bid was led by DYS Space who will provide the service across the area of Devon county. They are joined by Young Devon providing the service in Plymouth, Torbay Youth Trust in Torbay and Young People Cornwall for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

The providers have been working since early August to develop a referral system with both anti-social behaviour officers within Devon and Cornwall Police and with the anti-social behaviour officers at county, unitary and district level local authorities, with a go-live date of 15 August. The service aims to engage with groups of young people within 48 hours of receiving a referral, to build trust and offer alternative activity by connecting with local activities for young people within their local area. The service is led by qualified youth workers; over the coming months volunteers will also be recruited and trained to support the team. A further update on this service as it begins to take shape will be provided to the next panel meeting.

### **3. Anti-social Behaviour Awareness Week**

During Anti-social Behaviour Awareness Week (18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July) I supported efforts to promote guidance, help and support for victims of anti-social behaviour by promoting mechanisms such as the Community Trigger, which can lead to a case review for complainants who feel their cases have not been dealt with effectively. In addition to media engagement, several members of my office staff supported outreach and engagement efforts by Plymouth City Council's housing and anti-social behaviour officers, who were joined by Devon and Cornwall Police and partners including Stop Loan Sharks and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service. Over five days we supplied personnel and a community engagement vehicle, attending five locations selected because of their relatively high rates of anti-social behaviour. The exercise enabled several dozen people affected by anti-social behaviour to meet and discuss the issue directly with the experts who are tasked with helping them.

#### **4. Grants available to reduce Anti-social Behaviour**

##### Cornwall

In July, I launched the latest round of my community grants scheme and invited interested organisations to apply for grants between £1,000 and £5,000, dedicated to reducing the impact of anti-social behaviour. The grant process is being run by the Cornwall Community Foundation.

Rounds for the Community Grants Scheme are divided into the Police and Crime Plan's four priorities of reducing drugs harm, violence, antisocial behaviour and improving road safety. In total I have allocated £182,500 to the scheme.

Applications closed in mid-August and they will be considered by the panel when they meet later this month. Examples of projects eligible for funding are: sports and creative arts diversionary programmes, radio/film making activities, drop-ins for young people, intergenerational schemes, mentoring projects, education initiatives and parental support programmes.

I am always amazed by what our communities can do with relatively small sums of money, and it is often residents of our towns, villages and cities who have a clear idea of what makes a difference and where funding is most likely to give positive results.

##### Devon

The Community Grants Scheme has now opened in Devon where it is hosted by Devon Community Foundation. As in Cornwall, applications are sought from organisations seeking to combat anti-social behaviour in their communities. The scheme is open until 12 noon on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

#### **5. OPCC Anti-social Behaviour Training**

In August, I invited ASB Help to deliver a training course to my office, ensuring all my team have a detailed knowledge of what constitutes anti-social behaviour and the options available to partners to address anti-social behaviour including both legal and non-legal tools.

My team play a key role in engaging with the public and helping direct them to the right type of support. Through our partnership activity we can bring different parts of the system together to address anti-social behaviour, and my role in undertaking Community Trigger Reviews provides a unique oversight of local processes in individual cases. The excellent training offered by ASB Help gave my team an opportunity to refresh their knowledge and ensure that we are continuing to drive improvement in the response to anti-social behaviour across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. As previously shared, we have already trained over 500 officers on all the powers and tools available to them to tackle anti-social behaviour.

#### **6. Hate Crime**

The Panel has previously been provided with performance data showing that hate crime has increased by nearly 50% since June 2019. A hate crime is any criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate towards a person's protected characteristic, such as race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity or disability.

In the last 12 months there were just over 2,500 hate crimes recorded in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. This is a significant increase since the easing of covid-19 restrictions, with the highest numbers seen in both summer periods of 2020 and 2021. Following discussions at the last

Police and Crime Panel, I have spoken with the force Diverse Community Team lead to find out more about how hate crime is affecting our communities, what the force is doing to tackle it and how my office can assist. The force has undertaken analysis of the data which shows that the most common crimes with a hate element are public order offences, which predominately comprises 'racially or religiously aggravated public fear' and 'public fear or distress' offences. The most common hate types reported are racial in nature (1,385 crimes) but the greatest increase in hate crime has been seen in sex or gender related crime reports. This clearly gives concerns for community cohesion amongst our communities.

I am encouraged that more people have the confidence to contact the police to report hate crime and will continue to encourage reporting. The number of hate crimes reported by emails has increased by 200% over the last three years, and there has also been a notable increase in hate crime disclosed as part of an ongoing investigation.

Devon and Cornwall Police have in place a public scrutiny panel which actively reviews reports and cases. I have asked the Chair of this panel to brief me in detail on their findings at my next Executive meeting. This will form the basis of agreeing the scope for my scrutiny of the handling of hate crime by the force, which I announced at the last panel.

I have, since April 2021, established new victim care services for people with disabilities and those from a minority ethnic background to offer more tailored support to victims.

I will update the panel in due course on the force and my office's work across this area of concern.

## **7. Harm to Hope Strategy**

On 15th June 2022, The Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Probation wrote to the Chief Constable and I notifying us of the publication of the 'Harm to Hope' Drug Strategy Local Guidance and the requirement to establish Local Combating Drugs Partnerships.

Drugs is a key priority within my Police and Crime Plan and the Local Guidance provides a significant opportunity for partners to work together on a key shared policy objective, in which policing will play a vital role. I am pleased to be working with the four Upper Tier Local Authorities across Devon and Cornwall to establish the new partnership arrangements and ensure that we maximise the opportunity to work in partnership to reduce the harm caused by drugs in our communities.

## **8. Violence Against Women and Girls Commission for Plymouth**

In May 2022, the Commission for Plymouth published its report on Male Violence Against Women and Girls. <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/newsroom/plymouthnews/violenceagainstwomenandgirls>

The Commission, which was established in the aftermath of the horrific murder of Bobbi-Anne McLeod in November 2021, comprised specialists in domestic abuse, health improvement and child protection as well as key partners such as the police, the university, and city council among others. The Commission considered evidence from over 1,300 local people and spent many hours listening to feedback from individuals and organisations and reading dozens of written submissions from those who work with victims. I have supported the Commission throughout its work, and I am pleased that my office was able to be an active participant in the evidence sessions held by the Commission.

The report makes 15 key recommendations to ensure that Plymouth drives a culture change that challenges male violence against women and girls and better supports women and girls who have been subject to male violence and creates safe places and spaces for women and girls. Amongst its recommendations the Commission says Plymouth should:

- Commit to being a city that does not tolerate sexist or misogynistic language and behaviour

- full stop;
- Support men and boys to be 'active bystanders' who feel confident to challenge inappropriate behaviour and language;
- Create a culture where it is safe to have open and honest conversations about sexism, misogyny and male violence and its impact on women and girls;
- Ensure that women and girls are empowered to speak out against harassment and supported in reporting violence and abuse;
- Ensure that women and girls who have been subjected to male violence get the support they need at the right time and place and only need to tell their story once;
- Drive the culture change needed to challenge male violence against women and girls
- Create safe places and spaces;
- Ensure the building blocks are in place to enable real change to happen.

My office and Devon and Cornwall Police are continuing to take forward a range of initiatives to support women and girls across the city over the year in support of our Police and Crime Plan and the Devon and Cornwall Police Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Plan for 2022/23. This has included supporting the successful Safer Streets Fund 4 bid led by Plymouth University, delivering bespoke policing interventions and securing additional investment in victim services across the peninsula including £600,000 focused on prevention of child sexual exploitation and the delivery of enhanced therapeutic support for victims of sexual violence.

I have publicly welcomed the findings of the Commission. These recommendations are multi agency and the response to them will also be a partnership one. I look forward to working alongside our partners within Safer Plymouth over the coming months as we further examine and take forward the Commission's recommendations.

## **9. Funding - £617,000 for Victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence**

In April 2022, the Ministry of Justice requested that we undertake a needs assessment process, whereby local providers of support to victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence were invited to tell us about the demand on their services.

I am delighted to report that my office, working with those local providers, has been awarded £617,000 in funding which will be used to fund services for victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Devon and Cornwall over the next three years.

Based on local needs analysis and provider information a specification has been drawn up by my office, it has been divided into 5 peninsula-wide lots:

- Service for child sexual exploitation (£200,000)
- Therapeutic provision for children and young people affected by sexual abuse/violence (£200,000)
- Peer group support for women affected by sexual abuse / violence (£50,000)
- Peer group support for men affected by sexual abuse / violence (£50,000)
- Therapeutic support for adults affected by sexual abuse / violence (£100,000)

The invitation to tender was live on the Blue Light Portal during August. Analysis of the bids is now underway. I will be able to report to the next panel meeting how and where the funding has been distributed.

## **10. Safer Streets Fund 4**

I was delighted with the announcement in August that partners across Devon and Cornwall were successful in securing over £3million in Home Office Safer Streets Funding. Devon and Cornwall partners secured full funding requests for five place-based crime prevention projects across the

peninsula. We were the only police force area to successfully secure five bids which aim to reduce violence against women and girls and anti-social behaviour incidents to improve feelings of safety in public spaces. In addition to the £3million external funding, partners also identified over £1million in match funding for the applications.

My office directly supported the submissions from Torbay Council, Cornwall Council and North Devon District Council. Bids were also submitted by Exeter University and Plymouth University to continue to build on the work the cities achieved through their previous Home Office Safer Streets and Safety of Women at Night funding.

Key themes present in all five of the successful projects include:

- **Strengthening the local environment** by increasing capable guardianship (for example through use of street marshals, policing patrols or the presence of CCTV or enhanced street lighting), improving surveillance and reducing opportunities to commit crime and anti-social behaviour.
- **Safe night out programmes** which raises the hospitality trade's awareness and communities' awareness to violence against women and girls related crimes.
- **Public communications** through targeted campaigns, specific to the locality addressing residents and visitors' feelings of safety.

In Torbay, we will be delivering targeted prevention and enforcement activity, through enhanced deployment anti-social behaviour response units, a new 'Violence Against Women and Girls' rapid response car pilot and positive diversionary activities at key locations.

In Cornwall, we will be delivering interventions in Truro to address anti-social behaviour and violence against women and girls and to provide enhanced support to those with complex needs. This funding will enable them to recruit a specialist psychiatric nurse who will be able to work with vulnerable individuals addressing their complex needs. This pilot project will provide partners with an opportunity to assess this approach and consider how effective it is in addressing the needs of the identified cohort.

In North Devon, we will be developing a bespoke licensed premises rating scheme in Barnstaple, supported by more street marshals. This will be delivered alongside a Youth Intervention Worker who will work with young people at point of contact with the police or when concerns are identified from educational establishments.

In Exeter, the University of Exeter has been successful in bidding for funding for street lighting improvements and CCTV, alongside the creation of a safe space to support individuals and potential victims during the night-time economy. Volunteers will be trained to provide victims and vulnerable people with access and/or referrals to professional support focusing on assessment, recovery and pastoral care.

In Plymouth, the University of Plymouth has been successful in bidding for funding for a mobile CCTV van to act as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour and violence against women and girls. The bid also includes significant investment in youth diversionary activities, and the introduction of a night bus service with a bus marshal on targeted days to ensure safe homeward travel in the early hours when other transport is unavailable.

I look forward to seeing the outcomes and improvements from these projects as they develop over the next 12 months creating safer streets across Devon and Cornwall and would be happy to update the Panel as this work develops.

## **11. Local Criminal Justice Board Update**

As Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board, I host a planning day each year with Board members to review our mission and objectives to ensure the actions are focused on mitigating risks and improving performance across the whole criminal justice system. In August 2022, we agreed that our joint focus for the next twelve months would be in relation to improving the service within the criminal justice system for victims and witnesses, reducing re-offending and increasing public confidence and trust with greater communication and engagement.

This year I have commissioned Young Citizens to deliver a Court awareness project for young people in Devon and Cornwall, which is based on initiatives previously introduced within Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. The programme seeks to raise public confidence and understanding in the criminal justice system and will:

- Provide an understanding of how the criminal justice system works, including how the police bring a prosecution case to court and how they support victims and witnesses, the role of the judge and how they determine sentences, the role of prosecution and defence, the role of probation and pre-sentencing reports, and how legal aid works.
- Enable opportunities to learn about career opportunities within the criminal justice system, what it's like to work with victims and witnesses, what a role of a barrister entails, and what it's like to be a judge.
- Give an insight into the consequences of crime, including how it impacts on life choices, what a criminal conviction will mean for a person's future opportunities, travel; higher education (entry to university for some subjects), job prospects, social stigma, and the dangers of county lines, knife crime and drugs.

I am also commissioning an independent evaluation of the initiative to fully understand the benefits and value of this investment.

I am also proud to report that Devon and Cornwall are the first Local Criminal Justice Board to successfully develop and implement an agency-wide scrutiny process designed to identify good practice and areas for learning, to better understand gaps and demands on services and influence changes in policy and working practices to improve service delivery to victims. The scrutiny panel is made up of representatives from the courts, youth justice service, Police, Crown Prosecution and Probation Service. The panel dip-samples criminal cases that have been finalised through the criminal justice system to explore whether or not the 12 victim rights have been fulfilled, assessing the level of service given to each case.

The Victims Code of Practice scrutiny terms of reference have been shared with our colleagues within the Ministry of Justice who are keen to share best practice with other local criminal justice boards also seeking to introduce the process. To date, two panels have taken place which have reviewed domestic abuse and rape cases to enable us to have greater insight into the service provided to those victims across all agencies within the criminal justice system. A further panel will take place in late September to review serious road collisions.

## **12. Exploration of a Criminal Justice Hub for North Devon**

My office is looking to enhance the consistency and visibility of provision of criminal justice agencies in North Devon and Torridge - communities located some distance from services, which are often provided centrally from Exeter some 60 miles to the south. The current provision is a temporary police station in Barnstaple, spread across two sites and a magistrates court which sits three days a week for criminal courts. There is also a fire station on the outskirts of the town and a number of other public sector offices.

Initially coordinated by my office, representatives from across the criminal justice system with Devon County Council and North Devon District Council have come together under the One Public

Estate Programme to explore the options which may be available to improve the provision of services by way of a criminal justice hub in the north of Devon. This has secured funding through the One Public Estate Programme to contract specialist consultants to commence a feasibility study to explore this matter further.

### **13. Independent Custody Visiting Scheme**

The custody visiting scheme engages volunteers to be trained and carry out unannounced visits to places where people are detained in police custody. I am pleased to report that the Devon and Cornwall custody visiting scheme has recruited a further 20 members of the public this year who are the 'eyes and ears' of the community. They are trained on the application of Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, human rights, diversity, and equality. Their reports provide reassurance that the legal rights and entitlements are given to detainees, and that the conditions of detention are appropriate. The visitors' reports show that there have been no unresolved issues of concern regarding the welfare and dignity of detainees in police custody across all six centres in Devon and Cornwall since January 2022.

In April of this year, a thorough review of the custody visiting scheme was completed. The revised guidelines outline the way that visits are conducted and the management of volunteers. The guidelines are available on the OPCC website. Visits are arranged to take place throughout the week and to check centres when they may be at their busiest due to high volumes of people being held in custody. A member of OPCC staff meets regularly with a representative of police custody for Devon and Cornwall to hold the police to account and provide transparency to the process.

### **14. Police Officer and Police Staff Survey**

In July, I launched my survey for staff and officers to ask them to rank what the top leadership qualities needed to be for the next Chief Constable, and to give their thoughts on future investment priorities.

Results of the survey were used to frame the questions put to shortlisted candidates at the interview stage of the Chief Constable recruitment process.

It was important that the workforce had a say because they live day to day with the decisions and actions taken by the Chief Constable and I. Whenever I spend time with officers and staff, they are always keen to enlighten me about their experiences, so this was a formal opportunity to tell me exactly what they think and do so anonymously.

The questions that I asked staff included 'which area of the business should the Chief Constable focus on within their first six months of the role?', 'what is the most significant opportunity to enhance public confidence in Devon and Cornwall Police?', 'where would you prioritise a £1million investment for the force?' as well as asking staff to rank leadership qualities.

### **15. Keyham Anniversary**

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August, I was amongst those attending a civic service to mark the first anniversary of last year's shooting in Plymouth in which five innocent people were murdered, two were injured and countless more left traumatised. It was one of several events held around the city which allowed people to show their respects to those affected by these crimes.

During the past 12 months, under the 'Plymouth Together' banner, there has been a huge effort by my office, local charities, community groups and organisations including Plymouth Community Homes, Devon and Cornwall Police, Plymouth City Council and Victim Support to provide reassurance and support to residents of Keyham and Ford and the wider city.

The Home Office has provided additional funding to provide a reassuring additional policing



presence in the Keyham neighbourhood which is due to continue until March 2023 at the earliest. In addition, the Ministry of Justice provided funding for a range of victim services to cater for a huge variety of different individual needs, and I am pleased to learn that this funding has been extended.

As the OPCC strategic delivery partner, Victim Support were commissioned to provide a professional local team of advisors who can offer emotional and practical help and advice on the ground in Plymouth working in partnership with a myriad other organisations involved, who can provide everything from a cup of tea and a chat to specialist support for children and support for those experiencing periods of mental ill health.

In the last 12 months, A Safer Keyham has made physical improvements to public spaces, after consultation with local residents. This has included projects to install new play equipment in a local park and the cutting back of trees and bushes.

This funding has also paid for the installation of 70 extra streetlights, improvements to closed circuit television, the supply of security equipment such as personal alarms to local people and security improvements to people's homes. All of this designed to reassure residents.

The result of all this work is that what was already considered a low crime neighbourhood has become safer. Thanks to the good work of the Keyham Policing Team, partners and the community figures in March 2022 showed that recorded crime was down by 12%, burglaries had fallen by 41%, anti-social behaviour was down by 27% and stalking and harassment had fallen 19% when compared to the previous year.

My office and the Plymouth Together partnership are working with the University of Plymouth who are undertaking an independent evaluation of the funded activity being carried out in Keyham. As part of their evaluation, the University will be independently surveying the community this September to understand how they feel 12 months on and the impact of the funding to date. An interim report is due to be produced by the University in November.

Of course, none of this activity will undo the terrible actions of that gunman. All we can do is reassure those affected by this incident that their community, policing and those of us involved in commissioning victim services remain by their side and will do whatever we can to help.

## **16. Police perpetrated domestic abuse: Report on the Centre for Women's Justice Super-Complaint**

On 30<sup>th</sup> June Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), College of Policing and Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) published their investigation report in response to a super-complaint from the Centre for Women's Justice, which alleged that police forces were not responding appropriately to cases of domestic abuse involving police officer or police staff suspects. The full report can be accessed here: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/police-perpetrated-domestic-abuse-report-on-the-centre-for-womens-justice-super-complaint/>

The joint investigation identified systematic weakness in the police response to domestic abuse involving police suspects, often due to a failure to follow existing regulations and statutory guidance. There are six main recommendations which are aimed at raising standards in Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse investigations and in how victims are supported and engaged with. They have a focus on long-term improvement.

In brief, Chief Constables were asked to:

- audit all live and recently closed Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse cases

- ensure that Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse investigations are carried out by those with no prior connection to the case
- improve information and support for victims.

The Chief Constable has accepted these recommendations and I will continue to monitor the force's progress in this area over the coming months.

The report also recommends that police and crime commissioners make sure that their local victim services are capable of dealing with the specific risks and vulnerabilities of Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse victims and supporting them when engaging with the police complaints and disciplinary system. Prior to the publication of this report, I had already allocated funding to provide specialised support for police officer and staff victims of domestic abuse, and my office is reviewing our current offer to all victims of Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse to ensure that we are able to meet the specific risks and vulnerabilities of these victims.

## **17. Productivity and Sparsity**

Police and Crime Commissioners have received a call for information on sparsity and seasonality from the Home Office as part of the Police Funding Formula review. The Home Office is looking to understand the difference in the costs of policing areas that are more, or less, sparsely populated and information on the issues arising from seasonal changes. The submission from Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will build upon the data and evidence provided for the Special Grant Application on Rurality, Isolation and Tourism made in September 2019. The deadline for the return of this information is 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022.

## **18. Estates Update**

### Camborne Police Station Refurbishment

A refurbishment and remodelling of Camborne Police Station is underway. Most of the officers and staff have been temporarily relocated in other premises within Camborne. This will see the Police Station brought up to date to provide a fit for purpose station for the next 25 years. The refurbishment is due to be completed in the winter of 2024.

### Other estate projects ongoing across the area

- The new property and information store in Plymouth will begin migration from our existing facilities in November 2022. The practical completion of this state of the art facility is scheduled for spring 2023.
- The new sports hall currently being built on the HQ Middlemoor site is due to be completed in spring 2023. The original sports hall was demolished due to structural problems with the roof. This will be a welcomed facility for the training of new officers and staff.
- The demolition of the former police station and custody suite in Barnstaple is being carefully planned in order to minimise disruption to the Courts service and the communities. Due to structural issues the police and custody suite was relocated during the pandemic. It is anticipated the demolition will occur in late 2023.
- The planning application for the development of Exeter's former police station and magistrates' court site was presented to Exeter City Council's planning committee on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The development included a complex of student flats and residential communal living. The planning application had the Planning Officer's recommendation for approval; however it was refused by the planning committee.
- The re-opening of the public enquiry offices in Penzance, Falmouth, Newquay, Newton Abbot, Bude and Tiverton is moving forward. It is anticipated that Tiverton will open in October, ahead of schedule. The remaining offices will open during November with Bude due to open by January 2023. Recruitment of new staff is ongoing with a second

recruitment campaign currently underway. The timing of these new starters may initially limit some of the anticipated opening hours, however, once the numbers are up to the target the hours will increase to 6 days a week from 10am to 3pm.

- A planning application has been submitted for Pondground Quarry in Holcombe Rogus which is used as a live firing range. This quarry has been used by Devon and Cornwall Police since 1978 but due to an administrative oversight the planning consent lapsed. Local residents are concerned about the noise and environmental impact. A decision was taken to temporarily cease using the range whilst the planning process is followed.
- The Exmouth Police Station Project Board are currently working on the new design. The planning application will be submitted in 2023.
- The new co-location building for the police at the St Ives Fire Station has secured planning consent but has been delayed due to legal and private finance initiative issues.
- The Dartmouth co-location building between the police and the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust was completed during the summer and the temporary building handed back to the landlord.
- The installation of new windows and doors to Charles Cross Police Station in Plymouth is due to commence this autumn.



**Alison Hernandez**

Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

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Report prepared on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022