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Developing the Police and Crime Plan 2024-2029

19th July 2024

Purpose of Report

1. To provide clarity to the Police and Crime Panel on the process of developing and adopting a new Police and Crime Plan for the Commissioners new term of office.
2. To provide an update to the Police and Crime Panel on the Commissioner's planning, development and implementation of a new Police and Crime Plan.

Legislation

3. The Police and Crime Commissioner is responsible for securing efficient and effective police and criminal justice services, holding the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of an effective and efficient policing service, and setting the budget and strategic direction of police services. The Police and Crime Plan is the key strategic plan through which the Commissioner will sets out her vision and objectives for the services over which she has responsibility.
4. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act) requires Police and Crime Commissioners to issue a Police and Crime Plan within the financial year in which each ordinary election is held and as soon as practicable after the commissioner takes office.
5. Section 6 of the Act sets out the steps for consulting on and agreeing the Plan.
“Before issuing or varying a police and crime plan, a police and crime commissioner must—
 - (a) prepare a draft of the plan or variation,*
 - (b) consult the relevant chief constable in preparing the draft plan or variation,*
 - (c) send the draft plan or variation to the relevant police and crime panel,*
 - (d) have regard to any report or recommendations made by the panel in relation to the draft plan or variation,*
 - (e) give the panel a response to any such report or recommendations,*
 - and*
 - (f) publish any such response.”*

6. The Police and Crime Plan, once issued, will have effect until the end of the financial year in which the next ordinary election is expected to take place (currently 2028/2029) or another Police and Crime Plan is issued.

Current development

7. Following the Police and Crime Commissioner election in May 2024, Commissioner Hernandez has worked with OPCC officers and the Chief Constable to scope a new Police and Crime Plan which is now under development.
8. In scoping the new Plan, the Commissioner has had regard for the legislative requirements which set out what must be included in a Police and Crime Plan, as set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (s.7) and the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR).
9. The Commissioner has also analysed a range of data and intelligence, both quantitative and qualitative to assess police and crime need, threat, risk and demand in Devon and Cornwall. This includes insight from sources including:
 - The Peninsula Strategic Needs Assessment 2022-2023
https://devonandcornwall.s3.amazonaws.com/peninsula-strategic-assessment-refresh-2022_23-final.pdf
 - HMIC PEEL Assessments
 - <https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/peel-reports/devon-and-cornwall-2021-22/>
 - <https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/peel-reports/devon-and-cornwall-2023-25/>
 - Devon and Cornwall Police crime and risk information
 - OPCC budget surveys and customer contact analysis
10. Initial scoping and analysis have identified the following key priorities:
 - Drugs and alcohol
 - Antisocial behaviour
 - Violence (including Violence Against Women and Girls)
 - Theft
11. The Commissioner intends to ensure consistency with her previous approach and retain the overall aims of the plan which is to have safe, resilient, connected communities where everyone has a part to play.
12. The Commissioner has proposed that the Police and Crime Plan will set out how she intends to hold the Chief Constable to account for delivering against each of these priorities, and lead partners to address these priorities in the following settings:
 - In our towns and cities
 - In our rural and coastal communities
 - On our roads
 - In your home and neighbourhood

13. The Police and Crime Plan will include a clear set of commitments to address the four priorities in each setting and be supported by a set of key performance indicators to be reported to the Police and Crime Panel through a scorecard. These commitments and performance indicators will be presented to the Panel in draft form ahead of public consultation in September 2024.

Timetable and next steps

14. The Commissioner is currently undertaking further research and analysis alongside consultation and engagement with the Chief Constable. This will inform the development of an initial draft Police and Crime Plan to be proposed to the Police and Crime Panel at the September Panel meeting, prior to the launch of a formal public consultation.
15. A four-week public consultation will take place in September, during which time qualitative feedback will be sought from the public via an online consultation. This will be supplemented with quantitative feedback gathered from a range of partners.
16. The feedback from the public and stakeholders will be presented to the Police and Crime Panel alongside a final draft in November 2024, with the final Plan issued thereafter.

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