

D&C Police briefing paper for Plymouth Council Scrutiny panel on 9 Jan 2013

1. Context setting – national requirements and policy drivers

Central Government policing performance aim – to reduce crime

Comprehensive Spending Review has impacted significantly on police budgets over past 3 years – likely to continue.

New national Strategic Policing requirement (replaced Protective Standards) – national standards for each Force to work with other police forces to prevent and respond to:

- Terrorism
- Threats to public order
- Civil emergencies
- Large-scale cyber incident
- Organised crime
- Major events and incidents, such as the Olympics.

Police authorities were removed as of Nov 2012 and replaced with an elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and a Police and Crime Panel in each force. The PCC's key aim is to represent public concerns, ensuring the policing needs of communities are met. Through the police and crime plan he will set the direction and budget for policing. This will involve:

- Setting the strategic direction and accountability for policing
- Working with partners to prevent and tackle crime and re-offending
- Invoking the voice of the public, the vulnerable and victims
- Contributing to resourcing of policing response to regional and national threats
- Ensuring value for money.

2. Headline budget messages – key areas of budget reduction and likely impact on partners and service users, performance against high level delivery of efficiency plans.

The Government budget settlement announcement is due on 19 Dec 2012. The Implications of this settlement for Devon and Cornwall Police will then be reviewed against predicted draft budget and options for enabling any further reductions to be developed. There is a national cap set for precept increase of 2% with an option to accept grant of 1% to help with freezing the local precept. The PCC will decide on preferred option and seek agreement at Police and Crime Panel meeting in February 2013.

3. Risks and issues to delivering the city priorities including plans to tackle any underperformance and highlight areas of challenge where dependent on partners to resolve issues.

Current performance for Plymouth for year of 2012/13 –

- Large reduction in total crime of 10% down on 2011/12 with Plymouth being 6th best in its CSP family group of 15.

- Significant reductions in serious acquisitive crime – robbery, domestic burglaries and vehicle crime
- Focus on violence with injury, especially ENTE related, has now lead to almost 4% drop on previous year.
- Reduced levels of ASB, plus opportunities of Families for the Future programme to tackle ASB and youth crime in multi-agency approach.
- Victim satisfaction for victims of crimes, ASB and for BME victims is good, with public confidence and visibility measures both on target
- Main underperformance for the city has been a reduced level of positive outcomes for victims of crime, particularly for serious crimes of violence with injury, domestic abuse and sexual offences. Focus is on increasing proactivity and targeting of offenders and locations, alongside the raising of investigation quality and court file standards. Partnership links are with SARC, DA and sexual offence partnership delivery group and victim services, CPS and courts.
- In addition Plymouth has seen recent rise in reported sexual offences, with almost 11% more than same period last year, a rise of 30 offences since April 2012.

Plymouth City 2020 Partnership priorities to deliver the city vision are growth, aspiration, reducing inequality and value for communities.

Currently the D&C Police Force vision is to be the best rural, coastal and urban police service, with current strategic priorities of reduce crime and bring offenders to justice, improve satisfaction in policing service, maintain visibility, engagement and problem solving in communities and protecting people from harm.

The current Plymouth Geographic Policing business plan for 2012/13 was developed to progress the changes required to support both of these visions and contribute to the City and Force priorities.

A Peninsula Strategic Assessment has been produced and agreed through joined up work with all 8 Community Safety partnerships and the police. This assesses the crime and disorder threats, risk and priorities for the whole peninsula and includes aims and activity to progress the key issues. The peninsula priorities from this document are

- Domestic, family and sexual abuse
- Alcohol, violence and the night time economy
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reoffending

These peninsula priorities will inform the new strategic priorities to be set by the Police and Crime Commissioner for 2013/14 and beyond. The PCC draft strategic priorities and plan are being developed and will be placed on the Office of the PCC website for public consultation during January. Other events and engagement methods will take place to ensure that this consultation is as representative as possible. The PCC's police and crime plan will be worked on based on this consultation and It is intended to go to the Police and Crime Panel for agreement in February 2013, at the same time as the decision on the precept and confirmation of the new Chief Constable.

4. Details of planned major changes to service delivery where the changes have the potential to impact on partners and communities e.g. through reduction in spend, significant changes to targets and level of service delivery or location of delivery.

There has been a reduction in police officers and police staff across the Force area and any further reduction will be dependent on budget decisions. However this has been based on principles of dealing effectively with threat, risk and harm to individuals and communities, and maintaining public engagement and reassurance.

There is Force wide work on reducing demand to police by ensuring issues are signposted effectively to partners for appropriate service.

In addition, there are a number of Force wide reviews to improve service delivery within reduced resources, including safeguarding and integrated geographic policing model.

The new police station in Devonport is now open and there is the likely development there of a community hub that extends service provision to community groups (in line with the development of a cooperative council).

There will be a migration out of the current Plympton site into Crownhill and Devonport stations, with an operating base at Plympton replacing current building subject to lease agreements.

Development of Joint commissioning processes may lead to possible changes to who and what service is delivered in the future, but unknown as yet.

5. Critical risks to delivering services provided in partnership; including areas of support required from partners to improve delivery and identification of blockages.

The Local CSP and Peninsula Strategic Assessments identified priorities for whole Force area and for each CSP area, along with recommendations for further assessment/information gathering to ensure that partnership activity addresses those areas of highest risk to individuals and communities.

- Plymouth and Force wide – gaps in mental health services/protocols
- Uncertain SARC funding
- Capacity and funding of Domestic Abuse services
- Alcohol Strategy/Plan
- Capacity of voluntary sector

There is a recognised risk that there will be significant Impact of welfare reforms over next few years. Plymouth has seconded a PCSO to work with the Council for 3 months on developing a plan for addressing any potential risks, and the Force is developing an action plan for tackling potential impact across a number of areas – crime, domestic abuse, vulnerability etc

Chief Superintendent Chris Singer
Commander of Plymouth Geographic Policing
Devon and Cornwall Police

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