

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Subject: Consideration of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Draft Police and Crime Plan

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Executive summary

Section 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011¹ requires that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) must issue a Police and Crime Plan within the financial year in which each ordinary election is held or as soon as practical after taking up office. In preparing the Plan, the PCC is required to consult with the Chief Constable.

The Act also requires that Police and Crime Panel (PCP) review the PCC's draft Police and Crime Plan, or any variation which is attached (Appendix 1). The PCC is required to have regard to any report or recommendations made by the PCP in relation to the draft plan or any variation and give a response to any report or recommendations and publish that response. The PCC will then publish the final Plan.

The PCC and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) have a reciprocal duty to have regard to each other's priorities. In advance of the election of Police and Crime Commissioners on 15 November 2012, CSPs across the Force area prepared a joint Partnership Strategic Assessment for Crime and Disorder and made this available to the PCC, and is attached (Appendix 2).

The PCC is required to ensure the PCP has sufficient time to exercise its functions with regard to the plan. The Panel was provided with a presentation by the PCC on emerging themes and objectives for the Plan at its meeting on 17 January 2013. The draft Police and Crime Plan was issued for consultation on 18 January 2013 and circulated to the Panel members shortly after. The consultation for the Plan ends on 8 February 2013.

Implications: Police and Crime Plan, Annual Report, Peninsula Partnership Strategic Assessment, Panel Functions, Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure

It is important for the Panel to be satisfied that the draft Police and Crime Plan has met the requirements of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and has adequately taken account of the priorities of the Peninsula Partnership Strategic Assessment.

Implications: resources including finance, human and IT

Resources are a fundamental part of considering the Police and Crime Plan and so it is important to consider the Police and Crime Plan in relation to the PCC's proposed level of precept.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents/enacted>

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel reviews the draft Police and Crime Plan and considers whether it wishes to make any comments or recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner to be taken into account before the publication of the final Plan.

Agreeing these recommendations will ensure the Panel meets fully the requirements of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Alternative options considered, and reasons for recommended action

Failure to review and comment on the PCC's draft Police and Crime Plan, or any variation, may result in the Police and Crime Plan being agreed by default and the Panel would be unable to adequately fulfill its functions and would lose the opportunity to influence key decisions to be taken by the new Police and Crime Commissioner in finalising the Police and Crime Plan for Devon and Cornwall.

Background Papers

None.

I Police and Crime Plan Structure

- 1.1 Police and Crime Plans are a statutory requirement for all police force areas introduced as part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The plan is both a core planning tool for PCCs and an important mechanism for communicating their intentions to the public, police, partners, panel and other stakeholders.
- 1.2 While the style and focus of each plan is a matter for the PCC, the Act identifies information that must be contained within it. These are set out below:
- the commissioner's police and crime objectives for the area;
 - the policing of the police area which the chief officer of police is to provide;
 - the financial and other resources which the commissioner is to provide to the chief officer of police;
 - the means by which the chief officer of police will report to the commissioner on the chief officer's provision of policing;
 - the means by which the chief officer of police's performance in providing policing will be measured; and
 - the crime and disorder reduction grants which the commissioner is to make, and the conditions (if any) of those grants.
- 1.3 The Police and Crime Plan must also set out the commissioner's police and crime objectives, which will include any objectives for policing, crime and disorder reduction and the discharge of the force's national or international functions.