

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Subject Police and Crime Commissioner's Report on Activities and Decisions

Date: 9 April 2013

Author: Sarah Hopkins, Community Safety and Partnerships Manager

Organisation: Host Authority, Plymouth City Council

Contact: Tel: 01752 305542
Email: sarah.hopkins@plymouth.gov.uk

Executive Summary:

The Police and Crime Panel exists to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), and also to support the PCC in the effective exercise of his functions, acting as a critical friend.

In promoting openness and transparency the PCC has provided the Panel with a report (Appendix I) which he proposes to provide to the Panel on a regular basis, regarding the activities and decisions he has made to date. The report also details any forthcoming planned events.

The Panel is invited to consider the usefulness and frequency of such a report.

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel considers whether:

- it is helpful for the Panel to receive a regular report from the PCC in this format
- it wishes to make any suggestions for the future content and frequency of these reports.

The Panel has a duty to scrutinise decisions made or any actions taken by the PCC in connection with the exercise of the PCC functions and this report provides another method for the Panel to do so.

Alternative options considered, and reasons for recommended action:

The Panel is considering a separate report today on options for fulfilling their scrutiny function and proposals for scrutiny items.

Background Papers: None

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Legislation requires that the Police and Crime Panel must:

- Review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the relevant Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the commissioner's functions; and
- Make report or recommendations to the relevant PCC with respect to the discharge of the commissioner's functions.

1.2 The Police and Crime Panel is a scrutiny body. It exists to scrutinise the police and crime commissioner, and also to support the PCC in the effective exercise of his function, acting as a critical friend.

2.0 Background:

2.1 The PCC has affirmed that he is committed to providing strong leadership in preventing and reducing crime and re-offending and addressing community safety needs across the force area.

2.2 To ensure openness and transparency the PCC has provided the Panel with a report which he proposes to provide to the Police and Crime Panel on a regular basis, regarding activities of, and decisions made by, the PCC to date.

2.3 The report also provides detail of any forthcoming planned events and engagements in the coming weeks.

2.4 The Panel has a duty to scrutinise decisions made or any actions taken by the PCC in connection with the exercise of the PCC functions and this report provides another method for the Panel to do so.

2.5 The Panel also is asked to consider the content and frequency of the report. The PCC has expressed a wish that this is supplied for each Panel meeting.

2.6 It is a comprehensive report and Panel members will need to consider whether the detail provided gives enough information to enable them to have a complete overview of the PCC's functions and activities to date, or whether the report includes too much detail and a more concise report would be suitable.