



Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall

REPORT TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT - April 2013

1. Introduction

This report presents to the Police and Crime Panel a summary of the activity conducted by the Police and Crime Commissioner in the weeks since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting on 8 February 2013. The report also looks forward to forthcoming planned events and engagements in coming weeks.

2. Decisions taken

Date	Decision taken	Details	Link to decision register on PCC website
14 Feb 2013	Precept and budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2% police precept increase on Council Tax (<i>followed Police and Crime Panel endorsement on 8 Feb 2013</i>)The council tax requirementFour year spending strategyCapital programme and financing	9-14/2/2013
25 Feb 2013	Treasury Management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provides for an Investment and borrowing strategyApproves use of PCC bankers and investment fund managers	To be published shortly
26 Feb 2013	Commissioning budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To apply equal % reduction in partnership funding in allocations to recipients of Police Partnership funding and those schemes previously funded by the Home Office and Ministry of Justice	10-13/2/5
26 Feb 2013	Appointment of Chief Constable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To accept Police and Crime Panel's recommendation to appoint Shaun Sawyer as Chief ConstableTo appoint Shaun Sawyer as Chief Constable	11-14/2/13

In addition to those decisions listed above, three people have been selected by way of an open recruitment process to form an Appointments and Remuneration Committee. The Committee will provide advice to the Commissioner and the Chief Constable relating to the pay and conditions for OPCC staff and police staff members of the Chief Officer Group of the Force.

The Committee member's names will be published once the necessary vetting processes are complete.

3. Community engagement and meetings

The Commissioner has undertaken the following engagements in recent weeks. In addition to these listed below, the Commissioner meets with the Chief Constable at least once a week. The Commissioner also holds formal weekly meetings with the Chief Executive and Treasurer, and Joint Management Board meetings with the Chief Officer Group once a month.

February appointments and meetings

- Visit Ilfracombe community activity
- meeting with Devon Senior Voice,
- meeting with Andrea Torode from Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service
- Restormel district Neighbourhood Watch AGM
- visit to Torquay, Paignton and Brixham Police bases
- meeting with Hannah Hart of the Local Criminal Justice Board
- Rural Crime Conference, Wadebridge
- visit to Newquay SAFE
- meeting with Rachel Cerfontyne of Independent Police Complaints Commission
- meeting with Frances Done, Chair of Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
- meeting with Damian Green MP, Policing Minister
- meeting with Tim Jones, South West Local Enterprise Partnership
- meeting with Plymouth Race Equality Council
- meeting Plymouth People First (a self Advocacy organisation for adults with a learning disability)
- observing Community Speedwatch in action in East Devon
- Association of Police & Crime Commissioners Information Event on Criminal Justice, London
- accompanied police officers on patrol in Helston and Falmouth
- visits to operational police units, Middlemoor, Exeter

March appointments and meetings

- attendance at Community Safety Partnership chairs' meeting, Exeter
- meeting with George Eustace MP, Truro
- meeting with Georgie Constable of Victim Support
- visits to operational police units, Middlemoor, Exeter
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- attendance at UNISON AGM, Exeter
- meeting with Oliver Colville MP, Plymouth
- meeting with Voluntary Sector Forum Cornwall, Truro
- meeting with young people from Volunteer Cornwall to discuss Human Rights, Truro
- meeting with Chief Superintendent Davies, Devon police commander
- meeting with Chris Hurden, PCSO trainee regarding
- meeting with Virginia Pearson, Joint Executive Director of Public Health
- attendance at Devon Armed Forces Roundtable discussion, Exeter
- meeting with Dr Dan Gilling, Plymouth Law School, Plymouth University
- Talk to Rotary Club of Saltash
- meeting with Governor of HM Prison, Exeter
- evening shift with Exeter police officers

The Commissioner's weekly diary of engagements is published on the OPCC website [here](#).

The Commissioner has also made a number of short video clips which are available from the PCC's YouTube channel, available [here](#).

4. Correspondence received

The OPCC has received 680 items of correspondence since taking office on 22 November 2012. Figure correct at time of preparing this report. This is more than that received by the Police Authority in the previous twelve months.

The most common topics of correspondence received were

- Neighbourhood Watch Schemes – not having sufficient communication from the Police and Community Messaging System is not being used
- Volunteers – poor access to police volunteer programme / process is long winded and not user friendly
- Commissioning – requests for funding
- Roads policing – defective headlights and an increase in number of deaths / loss of roads policing unit
- Wildlife crime – calling for action on investigation and prosecutions
- Hunting Act – calling for increased prosecutions
- Alcohol misuse – concerns and offers of collaborative working

The PCC has 1075 followers on Twitter (up 312 from January) and 118 followers on Facebook (up 12).

5. Media activity

February

- Press conference regarding appointment of Chief Constable, Police and Crime Plan and Council tax precept decision
- Radio interview PALM FM, Torquay
- Press and radio briefings to mark 100 days in office

March

- interviewed by Express & Echo, Exeter
- interview recorded with Radio Plymouth and live interview with BBC Radio Devon
- interview with Plymouth Herald
- Articles in *Cornwall Life* and *Devon Life* magazines
- Radio interviews conducted for Heart FM, Radio Exe, Pirate FM and BBC Radio Cornwall

6. Responses to national reports

The Police and Crime Commissioner has issued a response to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's national report into police integrity, entitled '*Revisiting Police Relationships*'. The HMIC report and the PCC's response are available from the OPCC website [here](#).

The Police and Crime Commissioner has also issued a response to proposals by the Ministry of Justice for reforming the delivery of offender services, entitled

'Transforming Rehabilitation'. The response is available from the OPCC website [here](#).

7. Complaints handling

The OPCC has accepted a delegation from the Police and Crime Panel to conduct initial handling of non-criminal complaints. This is subject to a separate report to the Police and Crime Panel.

The majority of complaint- related correspondence received by the Commissioner's office has been outside the remit of the OPCC and has been passed to the Force's Professional Standards Department. These are predominantly individual cases with specific issues and therefore themes are not evident.

However some broad topics have arisen on more than one occasion:

- 101 – poor follow up after call taken & delays following initial call answer
- Incivility of police officers/staff/PCSOs
- Crime reports not being prosecuted (either by the Police or Crown Prosecution Service)
- Lack of action by police – to low level/neighbourhood issues (such as anti social behaviour)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITY

8. Key meetings and engagements currently scheduled for April

- East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership Annual Conference
- Torbay Neighbourhood Watch
- interview with Torquay Herald Express
- meeting with Dru Sharpling, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary
- meeting with SEEDS (Survivors Empowering and Educating Domestic Abuse Services), Exeter
- meeting with regional PCCs and Chief Constables, Exeter
- 'Question Time' event, Chudleigh
- Association of Police & Crime Commissioners Information Event on Community Safety, London
- meeting with Shekinah Mission, Plymouth
- meeting with League Against Cruel Sports, Exeter
- Talk with Ivybridge Town Council
- attend CATS (Community Action Through Sport) awards, Bude

In addition to the events diarised above, the Commissioner is organising a full programme of engagement events in the summer months. This will be published as soon as possible.

9. Planned OPCC events

In the coming weeks, the Commissioner will be taking a 'walk-through' the Criminal Justice System to better understand the nature of issues affecting the co-ordination and closer working with statutory agencies. This will involve visits to the Criminal Justice Unit / Witness Care Unit in Exeter, Crown Prosecution Service, Magistrates Court, Community Payback schemes in Cornwall, Truro Crown Court, Probation service and Youth Offending Service in Torbay.

Other key events planned for coming weeks

April – Voluntary services consultation event, Wadebridge

May – *Meet the Commissioner*, Devon County Show, Exeter

June – Preventing Alcohol abuse, partnership event

10. Forthcoming publications

Community Engagement Strategy

Contact for further information

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Report prepared 25 March 2013