

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Subject: Review and Recommendations in respect of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Plans for Refreshing the Police and Crime Plan

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Executive Summary:

The Police and Crime Panel (PCP) is responsible for scrutinising and supporting the actions and decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and also has a role in supporting the PCC in the effective exercise of his function, acting as a critical friend.

Section 5(1) 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. The Police and Crime Plan is both a core planning tool for the PCC and an important mechanism for communicating his intentions to the public, police, partners, the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) and other stakeholders.

In accordance with the legislation, before issuing or varying a Police and Crime Plan, the PCC must:

- a) prepare a draft of the plan of variation,
- b) consult the Chief Constable in preparing the draft plan or any variation,
- c) send the draft plan or any variation to the PCP,
- d) have regard to any report or recommendation made by the PCP in relation to the draft plan or any variation,
- e) give the PCP a response to their report and any recommendations, and publish the response.
- f) have regard to the strategic policing requirement issued by the Secretary of State under section 37A of the Police Act 1996.

At the PCP meeting on 6 February 2015, representatives of the PCC presented the PCC's plans for refreshing the Police and Crime Plan 2014-17 and the PCP made a number of comments.

Following the PCP meeting the Host Authority drafted, in liaison with the Chair of the PCP, a report incorporating the comments made at the meeting and making recommendations on behalf of the PCP which was sent to the PCC on 10 February 2015. (**Appendix 1**).

A copy of a letter from the PCC to the Chair of the PCP dated 15 May 2015 is attached as **Appendix 2** along with a copy of the accompanying final refresh of the Police and Crime Plan 2015 which is attached as **Appendix 3**.

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

To assist the PCP, the Host Authority has provided an update (**Appendix 4**) on the PCC's progress in addressing the PCP's comments and recommendations, which has also been informed by a further detailed response from the PCC emailed to the Host Authority on 16 June 2015. Additionally the Host Authority has determined whether, in its view, due regard has been given to the comments and recommendations made by the PCP, and whether these have, or have not, been incorporated in the final refresh of the Police and Crime Plan.

The PCP is asked to formally review and agree its report to the PCC and consider the PCC's response and the final draft refresh of the Police and Crime Plan. The PCC will be given an opportunity to verbally comment on, and respond to, the report at this meeting.

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that the PCP:

- Reviews and agrees the draft report to the PCC as a final version in respect of its comments and recommendations to the PCC (**Appendix 1**),
- Reviews the PCC's response to, the draft final report (**Appendix 2**), in conjunction with the final refresh of the Police and Crime Plan (**Appendix 3**), and progress made in addressing the recommendations (**Appendix 4**),
- Determines whether it is satisfied that due regard has been given to the comments and recommendations made by the PCP, and whether these have been incorporated in the final refresh of the Police and Crime Plan, and
- Agrees to the suggestions for items for inclusion in the PCP work programme.

The above reflects the PCP role to effectively and robustly scrutinise any variation of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan in an open and transparent manner and ensure that issues of mutual concern or interest can be shared in a way that is both constructive and supportive.

Alternative options considered, and reasons for recommended action:

The alternative option would be for the PCP not to review, make a report and any comments and recommendations regarding the PCC's plans for refreshing (variation) the Police and Crime Plan, which would mean that the PCP would not have complied with its statutory functions as stated in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Background Papers: None.
