

## DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

**Subject:** Scrutiny and Work Plan  
**Date:** 3 July 2015  
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### Executive Summary:

The Police and Crime Panel (PCP), established by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, is responsible for scrutinising and supporting the actions and decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

At the PCP meetings held on 9 April 2013<sup>1</sup> and 11 July 2013<sup>2</sup> the PCP agreed the criteria and considerations for carrying out detailed scrutiny reviews and a work plan of proactive scrutiny topics. The PCP also agreed to limiting itself to one 'proactive' and one 'reactive' topic per year for its detailed reviews and having the Police and Crime Plan as a standing item on future PCP agendas to assist with identifying reactive scrutiny topics.

An updated work plan for 2015/16 is attached as Appendix 1.

In 2013, the PCP scrutinised its first two topics; the 'proactive' one being "How is the Police and Crime Commissioner making his commissioning decisions and what are his future commissioning intentions?" and the first 'reactive' topic being "The Police and Crime Commissioner's staff and consultancy appointments".

In 2014, the PCP scrutinised the 'reactive' topic "The Police and Crime Commissioner's and Chief Constable's Devon and Cornwall Police Public Contact Strategy – Station Enquiry Rationalisation" and the 'proactive' topic "How is The P&CC Strengthening Relationships and Showing Leadership in Partnership Working?" Both reviews were undertaken using a select committee style approach which has since been adopted by the PCP as its preferred method of scrutiny for its detailed reviews.

This report makes recommendations for the next scrutiny topics, taking account of the previously agreed list of proactive topics, recent suggestions received from Panel members for reactive topics, and the limited resources available.

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### Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action

It is recommended that the PCP:

1. Agrees that today's scrutiny item "Is the significant reduction in engagement of Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers in Plymouth reflected Across Devon, Cornwall and the

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/mgInternet/documents/s45456/Scrutiny%20work%20programme%20report%20FINAL.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/mgInternet/documents/s47844/REPORT%20-%20SCRUTINY%20FINAL.pdf>

Isles of Scilly and, if so, what is the PCC doing to address it?” is considered as the ‘reactive’ scrutiny item for 2015

2. Agrees the next topic for proactive Scrutiny from the list in 1.5 in this report and that this item is scrutinised as part of the PCP meeting scheduled for 18 December 2015.
3. Agrees the work plan for the PCP for 2015/16 (Appendix 1).

The aim is to ensure scrutiny is undertaken in a planned way against priorities and within the limited resources available.

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### **Alternative options considered, and reasons for recommended action**

The alternatives would be to:

1. undertake scrutiny only on a reactive basis;
2. not undertake scrutiny at all; or
3. undertake a much more comprehensive programme of scrutiny.

Options 1 and 2 would severely restrict the scope and influence of the PCP’s work. Option 3 could not be delivered within existing resources. LGA guidance<sup>3</sup> advises that the PCP could limit itself to reactively carrying out just the statutory/special functions, and does not have to develop a scrutiny programme, but it does not recommend this.

Previous scrutiny by the PCP has demonstrated that this can be achieved successfully as part of scheduled PCP meetings using a select committee style approach rather than setting up Task Groups. As there are limited resources and there is no additional funding, it is recommended the PCP continues with this approach.

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**Background Papers:** None

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## **I. Introduction**

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=8d1c912f-eb6d-47ac-bbfd-6e6ecec7cac6&groupId=10171](http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=8d1c912f-eb6d-47ac-bbfd-6e6ecec7cac6&groupId=10171)

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 9 April 2013, the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) was provided with a report outlining its statutory role and functions concerning scrutinising the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The PCP agreed the following scrutiny topics:
- How is the PCC delivering the objectives in his Police and Crime Plan? **(This is already scrutinised regularly as a ‘standing item’ on every PCP meeting Agenda)**
  - How is the PCC making commissioning decisions and what are his future commissioning intentions? **(Complete)**
  - How is the PCC strengthening relationships and showing leadership in partnership working? **(Complete)**
  - How is the PCC addressing issues of inequality amongst communities of geography and communities of interest across a large diverse geographical area?
  - How is the PCC encouraging reporting and improving monitoring in the areas of domestic violence/abuse and sexual violence and support for victims
  - How is the PCC improving communication/consultation with the Public?”
  - How is the PCC improving confidence in the Police/Neighbourhood Policing across the Force area?
- 1.2 The first ‘proactive’ scrutiny topic carried out by the PCP from the list in paragraph 1.1 was “How is the PCC making commissioning decision and what are his future commissioning intentions” at its meeting on 11 October 2013. The first ‘reactive’ scrutiny topic carried out by the PCP was “The PCC’s staff and consultancy appointments” at its meeting on 20 December 2013.
- 1.3 In 2014, the PCP scrutinised the ‘proactive’ topic from the list in paragraph 1.1 “How is The P&CC Strengthening Relationships and Showing Leadership In Partnership Working?” at its meeting on 19 December 2014. The ‘reactive’ topic “The Police and Crime Commissioner’s and Chief Constable’s Devon and Cornwall Police Public Contact Strategy – Station Enquiry Rationalisation” was scrutinised at its meeting on 17 October 2014. Both reviews were undertaken using a select committee style approach which has since been adopted by the PCP as its preferred method of scrutiny for its detailed reviews.
- 1.4 At the PCP meeting held on 6 February 2015, Members agreed a ‘reactive’ scrutiny topic for this meeting “Is the Significant Reduction in Engagement of Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers in Plymouth Reflected Across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles Of Scilly and, if so, what is the PCC Doing to Address It?”. Recognising that there are limited resources available, the PCP is asked to agree this as its ‘reactive’ topic for 2015.
- 1.5 The PCP is asked to review the list of outstanding proactive topics in 1.1 and select one of the following as the next ‘proactive’ scrutiny topic for 2015:
- How is the PCC addressing issues of inequality amongst communities of geography and communities of interest across a large diverse geographical area?
  - How is the PCC encouraging reporting and improving monitoring in the areas of domestic violence/abuse and sexual violence and support for victims
  - How is the PCC improving communication/consultation with the Public?”
  - How is the PCC improving confidence in the Police/Neighbourhood Policing across the Force area?

If PCP members are in agreement, it is suggested that the selected scrutiny review takes place as part of the PCP meeting scheduled for 18 December 2015.

1.6 The PCP has the option to consider whether to carry out scrutiny as part of regular Panel meetings as suggested in paragraphs 1.4 and 1.5 above, or to set up Task Groups. If the PCP commissions a Task Group, refer to Appendix 2. However, previous scrutiny by the PCP has demonstrated that this can be achieved successfully as part of scheduled PCP meetings using a select committee style approach rather than setting up Task Groups. As there are limited resources and there is no additional funding, it is recommended the PCP continues with this approach.