

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Subject: Consideration of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Plans for Refreshing the Police and Crime Plan 2014-17

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Executive Summary:

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.

The frequency that the Police and Crime Plan is reviewed should be determined on the basis of local need, and an annual refresh, in conjunction with wider business and planning processes is considered good practice, in order to align the existing Police and Crime Plan with budgetary cycles and the precept.

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

- a) prepare a draft of the plan or 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 its report and any recommendations, and publish the response; and
- f) have regard to the strategic policing requirement issued by the Secretary of State under section 37A of the Police Act 1996.

The PCC and Community Safety Partnerships have a reciprocal duty to have regard to each other's priorities.

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

The PCP agreed the last draft refresh of the Plan² at its meeting on 6 February 2015 subject to the comments made to the PCC by Members of the Panel and recorded on the 'webcast' (and also in the minutes³).

Section 28(3)(a) of the legislation requires the PCP to review the PCC's draft Police and Crime Plan, or any variation, and give a response and any recommendations to the PCC and publish that response.

The PCC's plans for refreshing the Police and Crime Plan are attached at Appendix I, for the PCP to discuss, review and compile a report and make any recommendations which the PCC must take into consideration before the final document is published by not later than 31 March 2016.

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that:

- the PCP reviews the PCC's plans for refreshing the Police and Crime Plan (at Appendix I) and considers whether it wishes to make any comments or recommendations to the PCC;
- and
- any recommendations made by the PCP are taken into account by the PCC before publication of the draft refresh of the plan, by not later than 31 March 2016.

Agreeing these recommendations will ensure the PCP fully meets the requirements of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Regulations whilst considering practical implications.

Alternative options considered, and reasons for recommended action:

The Panel can decide not to endorse or make recommendations to the PCC on the Police and Crime Plan or any variation. However, in doing so, this will still ensure that the PCP has met its statutory functions as stated in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Background Papers:

None

² <http://democracy.plymouth.gov.uk/documents/g5806/Public%20reports%20pack%20Friday%2006-Feb-2015%2010.30%20Devon%20and%20Cornwall%20Police%20and%20Crime%20Panel.pdf?T=10>

³ <http://democracy.plymouth.gov.uk/documents/g5806/Printed%20minutes%20Friday%2006-Feb-2015%2010.30%20Devon%20and%20Cornwall%20Police%20and%20Crime%20Panel.pdf?T=1>