

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 12th October 2015

Police & Crime Commissioner Draft Annual Report 2014/15

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to present to the Panel the final Annual Report for 2014-15

RECOMMENDATION

- i) To note the response of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Panel's recommendations and requests to update the draft Annual Report 2014/15 and
- ii) to receive the final Annual Report 2014/2015 for publication by the Commissioner

1 Background

1.1. Members will recall that, at the Panel meeting on 6 July they considered the draft Annual Report from the Commissioner for 2014/15 in accordance with s28 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act.

1.2. At that meeting, Panel members raised questions relating to some of the content of the report and reviewed it and made the following requests to the Commissioner for updates to the draft:

- a) Members sought more information to support the Commissioner's claim that the Contract Management 101 service had improved throughout the year. Specifically, the Panel considered it helpful to contrast performance in 14/15 with previous years and show any trends.
- b) Members raised concerns relating to an increase in some serious crimes.
- c) Members requested adding details and the quantity of complaints against Lancashire Constabulary were included in the report
- d) The Panel sought more detail in relation to the provision of frontline policing and outlined concerns that the draft report didn't sufficiently explain the current situation and requested more detail in relation to future plans.

1.3. Further to receipt of these recommendations, the Commissioner has considered them in turn and has made the following amendments and comments:

- a) The single contact management centre began operating in 2014/15; therefore any year on year comparisons are not available on a like for like basis. However the Commissioner has added a more detailed update on the annual performance of the contact centre including peaks and troughs in performance over the 12 month period.

- b) In relation to crime figures, the Commissioner fully acknowledges that there are specific areas where crime has increased and this includes violence against the person which has increased by 5.3%. This was specifically mentioned within the initial draft annual report which also includes an appendix featuring the detailed crime figures for 2014-15.
- c) In relation to the complaints against the Constabulary, it is not within the Commissioner's remit to investigate complaints against individual members of staff within Constabulary. This falls to the operational management of the force which is a matter for the Chief Constable. However, the Commissioner does monitor complaints on a regular basis in order to hold the Chief Constable to account for and to ensure that any appropriate lessons are learned. This is done through quarterly reports to the Joint Management Board and is available for public inspection via the Commissioner's website. There is reference in the draft annual report to the Joint Management Board and its role in holding the Constabulary to account.
- d) With regards to frontline policing, there was no change to the structure of neighbourhood policing teams in 2014/15 and they continued to operate as part of the Constabulary's front line. The main changes to frontline services are referenced in the report in the chapter dealing with Defending Frontline Policing and covers changes to divisional management structures, maintenance of PCSO numbers, equipping officers with new mobile technology to improve their response, the establishment of the single Contact Centre as a significant frontline service, and reference to recruitment of more Specials, Cadets and volunteers as part of the successful Citizens in Policing programme . Later in the draft report is a chapter entitled Capital Investment Programme 2015/16 and Future Years. The section headed The Future, specifically outlines what issues the Commissioner faces with regard to the continuing reduction in budgets and plans for how this will be managed. As this detail is already included the draft report has not been amended to reflect this request.

1.4 The Commissioner has since published his response by way of a decision on line and this report presents to the Panel the final report which has now been updated with a new reader friendly layout and design.

2 Implications

2.1 The statutory responsibilities of the Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel for the consultation/consideration/scrutiny and approval of the Annual Report are set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The procedures adopted by the Panel and the Commissioner through its meetings in July and October 2015 comply with the statutory obligations placed upon them.

2.2 There are no financial implications for the Panel in considering this matter.

3 Conclusion

3.1 The Panel are therefore requested

- (a) to note the response of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Panel's recommendations and requests to update the draft Annual Report 2014/15 and
- (b) to receive the final Annual Report 2014/2015 for publication by the Commissioner.