

Police and Crime Panel

Meeting to be held on 29th January 2013

Report from the Police and Crime Commissioner

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Executive Summary

The Police and Crime Panel is charged with reviewing or scrutinising decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner and supporting the effective exercise of the Commissioner's functions.

This report sets out a summary of the formal decisions taken by the Commissioner and key activities undertaken by both the Commissioner and his staff between the 22nd November 2012 and 14th January 2013.

Recommendations

The Panel is asked to

1. consider and note the report; and
2. consider if it wishes to make a report or recommendations to the Commissioner in respect of any matters in this report.

Background and Advice

Within the Panel's Terms of Reference, are the following matters:

- "6) To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Commissioner in connection with the discharge of his/her functions.
- 7) To make reports or recommendations to the Commissioner with respect to the discharge of the Commissioner's functions.
- 8) To support the effective exercise of the Commissioner's functions."

This first update from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire (the Commissioner) provides the Panel with information on the formal decisions the Commissioner has taken and the key activities that he and his staff have been undertaking between the 22nd November 2012 and 14th January 2013

Commissioner's Decisions

This report makes reference to decisions taken directly by the Commissioner and not those taken under delegated authority within the Commissioner's and Chief Constable's Interim Scheme of Governance.

1.1. 2012/01

Agreed, jointly with the Chief Constable, to adopt an interim governance framework, on the basis of an Interim Scheme of Governance, Financial Regulations and Contractual Standing Orders. These framework documents will be reviewed in March 2013 and annually thereafter.

1.2. 2012/02

Approved, jointly with the Chief Constable, the establishment of an interim combined Audit Committee for the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable for the period from 22nd November 2012 to 31st March 2013 (with an option to extend until 31st March 2014). The interim Committee comprises four members of the former Police Authority's Audit and Standards Committee and its remit will cover audit, risk management, financial reporting, equalities and health and safety.

It is a legal requirement to appoint an Audit Committee and these arrangements have ensured that the Committee is established and discharges its duties as soon as possible. The interim Committee will operate whilst longer term arrangements are put in place. The first meeting of the Committee is to be held on 25th February 2013.

1.3. 2012/03

Decision to notify the Police and Crime Panel that the Commissioner proposed to appoint Mr Ibrahim Master as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire.

1.4. 2012/04

Decision, after following procurement procedures, to award a contract to Xerox UK Ltd, for the supply, installation and maintenance of multi-functional devices, network printers, and facsimile machines for the period 1st November, 2012 to 31st October, 2017, with the option to extend the contract until 31st October, 2019.

1.5. 2012/05

Agreed, jointly with the Chief Constable, Constabulary occupation of leased accommodation to support a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Leyland, in partnership with other safeguarding agencies, on a three year basis, with an annual break clause.

1.6. 2012/06

Agreed to support the development of a national HOLMES 3 project for the development, and procurement in summer 2013, of an upgraded critical ICT system which is used for the investigation and management of the most serious crimes and disasters; also provisionally approved one off capital funding contribution of £0.530m and ongoing revenue funding of £0.090m per annum (for 6 years) from Lancashire to support the project.

1.7. 2012/07

Noted the forecast out turn position on the 2012/13 capital programme and agreed to make additional contributions from revenue to fund some additional capital requirements identified during the course of the year.

1.8. 2001/08

Noted a summary of the forecast financial position for 2012/13 based on information available to the end of October 2012.

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Under the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act), the Commissioner may appoint a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and such other staff as he thinks appropriate to enable him to exercise the Commissioner's functions. The role of the Commissioner is much wider than that of the former Police Authority, with different duties in relation to community safety, new commissioning powers and new duties in relation to criminal justice and victim services. There is an increased emphasis on engagement with communities and on working with partners to deliver efficient and effective services.

The Commissioner and the Chief Executive carried out an interim review of the support that the Commissioner needs to deliver his priorities as Commissioner. The former arrangements to support the Police Authority were not adequate to discharge the Commissioner's functions. There needs to be a greater emphasis on Casework to reflect the increased level of contact from the public. The Commissioner also needs additional support in respect of community engagement to facilitate his programme of engagement with people. In addition, there is a need to bring in additional resources to facilitate delivery of new duties in respect of the commissioning, community safety, criminal justice, and victims roles.

The roles of the staff that transferred under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 have been altered to reflect this. The senior strategic team has been strengthened by accepting the secondment of a full time Assistant Chief Executive from Probation and three part time Assistant Commissioners to develop new areas of working around victims, criminal justice, performance and collaboration. In making the appointments from former independent members of the Police Authority, the Commissioner has been mindful of the importance of ensuring a safe transition to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Local Partnerships

A key priority for the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner has been to meet local Leaders and Chief Executives as well as Community Safety Partnership and Criminal Justice partners.

Community Engagement

The Commissioner is delighted with the response from communities since taking office, with over 250 direct contacts to the office. He has begun a series of activities aimed at making sure that community voices are heard on priorities that people would want to see reflected in the Police and Crime Plan and the Budget.

1.9. Policing Priorities Research

A telephone survey has been undertaken to obtain a statistically robust and representative sample of respondents across the county. The interviews were split across each of the local authority areas. In addition, an online survey was launched (with hard copies being available in all Lancashire libraries) asking residents to identify policing priorities for inclusion in the Police and Crime Plan. A total of 1933 completed questionnaires have been received.

1.10. Policing Priorities Roadshows

January has seen the start of a series of roadshows across the county, in which the Commissioner (alongside the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and Community Safety Partnership colleagues) has gone out to meet with local residents to discuss their policing priorities to help shape the Police and Crime Plan.

1.11. Domestic Abuse Campaign

The Commissioner supported a multi-agency domestic abuse campaign launched in December. The 'Handled with Care' domestic abuse campaign, aimed to encourage victims to seek help, and was supported by the Commissioner through the funding of radio adverts during the festive season.

1.12. Digital/Social media

The Commissioner's website and social media channels continue to be a source of information and the weekly e-bulletin 'round-up' is reaching an audience in excess of 10,000.

Holding to Account and Scrutiny

The Commissioner meets regularly with the Chief Constable and full proposals on arrangements for holding the Chief Constable to account will be brought to the Panel's next meeting.

Commissioning Strategy

The Commissioner has confirmed that he will allocate funding for community safety activity to the three top tier authority areas at the same level as they received in 2012-13. Discussions have taken place with all the relevant partners regarding the use of this funding and agreeing outcomes in line with those identified in the developing Police and Crime Plan.

An initial Commissioning Framework is being developed to support the Commissioner in the discussions regarding the allocation of the Community Safety Fund for 2013-14. This Framework will be further developed during 2013 to support a more extensive commissioning approach for the 2014-15 budget.

Police and Crime Plan

The Police and Crime Plan is currently under development in consultation with the Chief Constable, partners and taking into account views received from the public. This will include information on the Commissioner's objectives and priorities for policing and crime and arrangements for holding the Chief Constable to account.

The draft plan will be brought to the next meeting of the Panel on 12th February 2013.

Consultations

N/A

Legal Implications

This report is made in accordance with the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, and in particular section 28 of that Act.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
Briefing reports for the following Decisions 2012/1-3 and 2012/5-8 inclusive	22 nd November 2012 to 14 th January 2013	Ian Dickinson 01772 533415 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner