

Police and Crime Panel

Meeting to be held on 8th July 2013

Update from the Police and Crime Commissioner

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer).

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Executive Summary

This report sets out a summary overview of the formal decisions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner and key activities undertaken by the Commissioner and his staff since the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel in February.

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."

Decision making

This update provides the Panel with information on the formal decisions the Commissioner has taken and those taken under delegated authority under the provisions of the Interim Scheme of Governance since the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel.

A schedule of Decisions is attached at Appendix 'A'. Further details on all these decisions are available for scrutiny on the Commissioner's Website at

<http://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/Transparency/Reports,-Meetings-and-Decisions/Reports-Meetings-and-Decisions.aspx>

Publication of Information

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Lancashire believes that transparency is essential for the delivery of services. As a publicly funded organisation the PCC has a duty to be transparent in relation to business operations and outcomes to make sure we deliver value for money.

The PCC is committed to being fully compliant with the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 which sets out the information all Police and Crime Commissioners must publish to enable the people of their area to assess—

- (a) the performance of the Police and Crime Commissioner in exercising the their functions, and
- (b) the performance of the Chief Constable in exercising his/her functions.

The Police and Crime Commissioner may also provide (whether by publication or other means) information about—

- (a) the exercise of the PCC's functions, and
- (b) the exercise of the functions of the Chief Constable.

The relevant information is available on the Police and Crime Commissioner's Website at www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk

Police and Crime Plan

Following the review of the draft Police and Crime Plan at the February meeting of the Police and Crime Panel it was agreed that an update would be provided to the Panel in six months time.

The Commissioner noted the comments from the Panel and, following further discussions with the Chief Constable and partners, the final version of the Police and Crime Plan was formally published on the Commissioner's web site on 29 March 2013. The Plan details the Commissioner's Aims and Priorities whilst reflecting the priorities of other community safety and criminal justice partners and the concerns of the residents of Lancashire.

The Commissioner is now delivering on the priorities and commitments contained in the Plan and it is proposed that an update report is provided to the Panel at the October meeting.

Performance

The Commissioner has set four priorities in his Police and Crime Plan:

- Defend Frontline Policing
- Champion the Rights of the Victim

- Protect Vulnerable People
- Targeted Initiatives to Tackle Crime and Re-Offending

Each of the priorities is underpinned by a number of areas identified by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). These areas have been documented in a business delivery plan which has provided the criteria for the development of a scrutiny framework to enable the Commissioner to hold the Chief Constable to account.

The Commissioner has established the following scrutiny arrangements.

Quarterly Constabulary / OPCC Strategic Scrutiny Meetings – qualitative and quantitative information relevant to the Commissioner's priorities both at force level and supplemented by additional information providing a broader Lancashire context of activities that involve other organisations in particular areas of business. Two of these meetings have now taken place and information is made available on the OPCC's website.

The most recent of these scrutiny meetings took place on 20 June 2013. It was attended by the Commissioner and his team and the Chief Constable and two of his senior officers. The Chief Constable presented information relating to the performance around the four priority areas identified above. An overview of the performance information presented can be found on the Commissioner's website.

Generally, the focus of the discussions was around the current financial position and affordability models. There is a separate section on finance in this report.

The Commissioner and his team noted that performance overall was positive with crime overall continuing to reduce; however a number of areas were highlighted as shown below.

1. The number of police officers and staff continues to decrease; however front line policing continues to be protected. The Citizens in Policing initiative (specials, volunteers and cadets) will be crucial to increasing capacity and capability in the County.
2. In relation to domestic abuse, victims were still confident enough to report the abuse however it was noted that there had been an unexplained fall in reporting since November 2012. The possible reasons for this were currently being analysed.
3. Child sexual exploitation reporting had increased significantly over the last 3 years and was a significant area of policing, not only in Lancashire, but on a national scale.
4. There had also been an increase in serious non-domestic assaults – the Constabulary were currently analysing the information to identify any particular trends or hotspots.

Ongoing Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) inspections, considered by the PCC:

- 1. Stop and Search (S&S) – a national thematic review due to be published shortly** – the focus of the review was around the use and effectiveness of S&S powers across the service. APCC Afzal leading on a review of the Lancashire Position
- 2. Valuing the Police 3 (VtP3)** – now completed across all forces. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) were in Lancashire in April, activity included analysis of key documents and public perception surveys. The Commissioner and his team were involved in the review. A force and national thematic report is expected in mid-July. APCC Jassi will review this report with the Constabulary.
- 3. Review of Professional Standards Department (PSD) - Capacity and Capability** - In an oral statement to Parliament on 12 February 2013, the Home Secretary outlined plans for transfer of resources from Force PSDs to the Independent Police Complaints Commission, to improve their capacity and capability to carry out investigations into all serious and sensitive allegations. HMIC are expected to publish a national thematic report of their findings. The PCC was represented at the national PSD conference in Cheshire and supports a move to greater transparency for the public in respect of allegations against the police.
- 4. Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Rape** - HMIC are currently scoping a programme of work expected to begin in the summer and which will culminate in an inspection of Child Rape and Child Sexual Exploitation in every force area. It is thought that the intention is to include an inspection of recording processes and to pick up on issues raised during the Savile review. The Commissioner has considered the approach within Lancashire and notes the increase in historic cases in Lancashire and also the comments from the Deputy Children's Commissioner and the Home Affairs Select Committee in respect of the Lancashire approach. He is represented on the working group set up by Kier Starmer to consider changes to practice on prosecutions in this area.
- 5. Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)** - HMIC have outlined their intended approach to the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) Inspection, which is currently being piloted in West Mercia. The Commissioner represents the APCC on the National Police Protective Services Board and has concerns that individual forces ability to respond to national issues is likely to be hampered by the additional reductions in budget announced in the spending review. He has written to the Home Secretary accordingly.
- 6. Crime Recording** - HMIC have confirmed that they will inspect crime recording in all forces, after concerns raised by the media, the public and the service itself around accuracy of crime recording, amidst claims that some forces were downgrading certain offences to demonstrate falling crime rates. The Commissioner has received reports from the chief constable to say that this is not an issue in Lancashire.

7. **Serious Organised Crime** - *'From Street to Strategic'* is a thematic review of national, regional and local, serious organised crime capability. HMIC were looking in particular at issues around collaboration, levels of support that regional units provide to forces, the constraints presented by boundaries and the potential uncertainty around future funding. Publication of the national thematic report is awaited. The Commissioner has a briefing from the Home Office Organised Crime Group scheduled for late August. He has considered the provision in Lancashire with APCC Webster and the constabulary. He is satisfied that resources are being aligned to areas of the greatest risk. Serious and Organised crime is one of the issues that has impacted on assault figures and this is being addressed.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) also holds the Constabulary to account through a number of other forums:

- **Constabulary / OPCC Strategic Planning Meetings (monthly)** – overview of strategic finance, forecasting, planning and organisational change, review of key performance and people issues and key policing developments.
- **Constabulary / OPCC Meetings (monthly)** –full dialogue between the OPCC / Constabulary Chief Officer team about strategic issues, new developments and planning and to discuss any particular areas requiring more in depth scrutiny.
- **Fortnightly meetings between the Commissioner / Chief Constable** –key areas of work or matters raised in the OPCC Strategic Planning meetings.
- **Fortnightly OPCC Strategic Planning Meetings** - Commissioner and his team to discuss performance / report back on activity and developments which enables the Commissioner to be fully briefed on areas of business that need to be discussed more fully with the Chief Constable.

The scrutiny framework and presentation of performance is being supported by the implementation of outcome based performance on the measures contained in the Police and Crime Plan.

Finance position

In the current economic climate all government bodies are facing financial challenges and police and crime budgets are no exception. A key priority for the Commissioner is to ensure that there are robust plans in place to manage the reductions in funding in a planned and managed way. It has previously been reported that between 2010 and 2016 savings of £63m would have to be found. Recent announcements regarding funding for future years means that further savings will be needed and plans are being developed with the constabulary on how these can be achieved. Whilst the detail of the budget reductions won't be announced until much later in the year it is estimated that the June announcement could add up to a further £12m to the funding gap. This means that over a 6 year period the funding for Police and Crime budgets in Lancashire will have reduced by approximately 25%.

The pace of change is not slowing down and the ability to deliver savings on such a large scale is becoming increasingly difficult. In spite of this, good progress has

been made in delivering the savings required to date and in 2012/13 the revenue budget was underspent by a total of £5.608m of which £5.507m has been placed in reserves and £0.101m has been added to the vehicle replacement budget. The savings have mainly arisen through the management of vacancies and overtime, early achievement of organisational reviews (ORs) and a general spend less approach to all parts of the budget.

The OR programme was established to deliver the savings required as a result of the reduction in government funding and the early achievement of some reviews will contribute to the additional budget savings that are required in 2013/14. In delivering the ORs and the transformational change that it leads to, some additional one-off costs will be incurred. In recognition of this, a transition reserve was created by the former police Authority to manage these costs and also mitigate against the risk of some ORs not delivering the required level of savings.

At the end of the 2012/13, general reserves were £12.3m and represent around 4.8% of the 2013/14 budget of £258.733m. Other earmarked reserves total £15.2m and include £6.8m held in the transition reserve. At this stage, the level of reserves are considered to be appropriate given the challenges ahead. The position on reserves, in the context of the overall financial strategy, will however be closely monitored and reported throughout the year.

Capital Budget

The 2012/13 capital programme progressed well with some key projects delivered during the year including;

- Voice and Data infrastructure within the ICT framework
- Improvements to the radio network
- Improvements, upgrades and replacement of key ICT systems
- Improvements to premises including the completion of the extension to the main HQ building that was required to assist in the delivery of the constabulary's accommodation strategy
- Vehicle replacement programme

During the year there was an underspend of £6.447m of which £6.125m has been carried forward to 2013/14 for schemes that have been delayed or deferred and £0.322m related to underspends on schemes that were completed during the year at a lower cost than anticipated.

Public Engagement Activity

The Commissioner continues to be delighted with the response from communities since taking office. He has also undertaken a series of activities, since his appointment, 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.

A schedule of Activity undertaken by the Commissioner since his appointment is attached at Appendix 'B' to this report.

June saw the launch of the Citizens in Policing programme which will extend the opportunities for volunteering in policing through the Special Constabulary, Volunteer Police Cadets, Police Support Volunteers, Community Volunteers and watch schemes. Launched to coincide with National Volunteers Week, the Commissioner met several of our Special Constables and Volunteers to thank them for their commitment and learn more about their roles.

The Commissioner is currently midway through a number of road shows, having already visited the districts of Lancaster, Wyre, Hyndburn and Rossendale and will be visiting the rest of the 14 districts throughout the rest of July. The aim of the road shows is to engage with residents, to identify Community needs and expectations and promote the Citizens in Policing programme.

On Thursday, July 11, The Commissioner will be meeting Baroness Newlove to discuss victims' services before hosting a lunch reception bringing together key partners who can showcase the work they are doing to support victims across Lancashire.

The Commissioner is currently taking part in a series of special operational training visits. In June, the commissioner joined officers for riot training, and over the coming weeks he will observe operational firearms training and tactical pursuit and containment training.

In September the Commissioner will be addressing students at Blackburn College, who are studying law/criminology/community policing etc about his role – encouraging community engagement and getting a younger audience interested and aware.

Finally, the Commissioner is working with the Constabulary on a domestic abuse programme and awaiting the outcomes of the business crime survey so we can move forward – both of these priorities are in the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.

Community Safety Plans

The Commissioner is committed to working with District Community Safety Partnerships and has ensured that their priorities have been taken into account in developing the Police and Crime Plan. To provide greater tie in with the districts the Commissioner will look to include a section specific to the priorities and outcomes for each of the CSPs in the next refresh of the Plan. The Commissioner is, however, mindful that the CSPs already produce a Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan and would not wish to duplicate existing work.

Community Action Fund

The Commissioner launched the Community Action Fund at the end of May with a £50,000 fund to support the voluntary, community and faith sector to deliver projects and schemes that support the Commissioner's aims and priorities.

Applications for the Fund are now being received and the Commissioner has approved payments to five local groups and organisations totalling £7,750. Full details of the applications are available on the Commissioner's Decision Page at 2013/05.

The Fund is administered on behalf of the Commissioner by Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC) who undertake an initial review of applications to ensure that they are correctly completed and match the Fund criteria and conditions. Satisfactory applications are then forwarded to the Commissioner for consideration as part of his regular Decision Making Sessions. Decisions are taken on an ongoing basis within four weeks from the receipt of the application.

ASB Fund

The PCC has committed £50K to support Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) work within the Lancashire 12 area and through the Lancashire Community Safety Strategy Group (LCSSG) has tasked the ASB Group with advising the PCC on the most effective use of this fund.

The PCC is waiting for confirmation from the ASB Group on proposed allocation of this fund and it is anticipated that this will be received in early July.

Consultations

Business confidence consultations

The Deputy PCC has been leading on concerns expressed by the Business community. He has met with the Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses, Institute of Directors and LANPAC and it was agreed that a programme of research including an online survey and one to one interviews be commissioned to provide a better understanding of the nature, cost and extent of crime against business.

To ensure that the survey represented the views of as many local businesses as possible the PCC team liaised with a number of organisations who work with businesses in Lancashire (LANPAC, the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), the Chamber of Commerce and the Institute of Directors) and arranged for an invitation and link to the survey to be sent to all of their members.

Over 400 businesses have taken part and over 200 respondents have indicated their willingness to take part in stage 2 which will involve conducting a number of one-to-one interviews with respondents from each of the industry sectors who consider business crime to be an issue to some extent, victims of business crime with various levels of reporting (including non-reporters), a mixture of those who have been satisfied and dissatisfied with the overall service and of those having had contact with the local Neighbourhood Policing team. This work was praised by Lord Wasserman the Conservative peer and commended

Further analysis is still needed (one to one dialogue etc with those who have said they are willing to have additional discussions / face to face contact) and when

complete the information will be distributed through the business network, ie Chamber of Commerce, Lancashire Federation of small businesses, Institute of directors and LANPAC members.

BME Consultation

In March this year the PCC and his team hosted a BME Community Consultation Event with the aim of engaging with members of the BME communities across Lancashire to have open and constructive discussions and to seek community views on:

- The key policing issues which are important to BME communities;
- Views and expectations on how communities want to work with us in dealing with policing matters affecting BME communities;
- How we can engage in regular and ongoing dialogue with members of BME communities e.g. to scrutinise those areas of policing that impact upon them and to improve services;

with the overall aim of providing attendees with an opportunity to highlight issues of importance to them and their communities; to influence how policing is scrutinised; and to help shape future consultation processes.

Alongside this event, BME specific results from the Policing Priorities survey were reviewed to provide an overall summary of feedback from our local BME communities so far, to identify the key issues for these communities, ascertain expectations of the PCC and policing in general and evaluate potential involvement of working with BME communities in the future.

From this, a rolling programme of 'summits' will be developed to be held across Lancashire enabling local community representatives or representatives of community organisations to explore ways of improving trust and confidence about specific aspects of policing identified (Hate Crime, Stop and Search, Counter Terrorism and Child Sexual Exploitation).

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The requirement for an independent Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire is in accordance with the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

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

Paper	Date	Contact
Various information available on the PCC website		I Dickinson, Office of the PCC 01772 533462
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate N/A		