

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Police and Crime Panel** held in Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 17 October 2019 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor L Hovvels (Chair)

Durham County Council:

Councillors D Boyes, J Nicholson, S Quinn, A Savory, M Simmons and H Smith

Darlington Borough Council:

Councillors Dulston, Heslop and B Jones (Vice-Chair)

Independent Co-opted Members:

Mr N J H Cooke and Mr D K G Dodwell

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brookes, Crathorne and Crumbie.

2 Substitute Members

Councillor H Smith as substitute Member for Councillor P Brookes, Councillor S Quinn and substitute Member for Councillor P Crathorne and Councillor E Heslop as substitute Member for Councillor H Crumbie.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 28 June and 20 September 2019 were confirmed by the Panel as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 Recent Media Activity

The Panel noted a report of the Media and Engagement Officer, Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an update of press

coverage concerning the work of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner since the previous meeting (for copy see file of Minutes).

6 Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's Annual Report

The Panel considered a report of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which presented the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's Annual Report for 2018-19 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner informed the Panel that the Annual Report for 2018-19 followed a different format to previous versions in that it was short and succinct and was primarily an electronic document which contained links to more detailed information on the PCVCs website.

Councillor Hovvels considered that the new format was user friendly and easier to read. The inclusion of photographs also helped to humanise the Report.

Councillor Boyes informed the Panel that the Annual Report read very well and welcomed the new format of it. Councillor Boyes asked whether the list of priorities in the Plan were to be changed. The Acting PCVC replied that an Acting Commissioner could not change a Police and Crime Plan.

In response to a question from Mr Cooke about funding the Acting PCVC informed the Panel that although the recent increase in funding for police officer recruitment was welcomed, long-term funding plans were unknown. The funding formula was likely to change over the next three years with an expected negative impact on Durham. The Acting PCVC added that his office would continue to argue for fair funding for the Constabulary.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

7 Quarterly Performance Report

The Panel considered a report of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an update on performance against the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan 2018-2023 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Hovvels thanked officers for the update, which was very comprehensive. Councillor Boyes referred to the grading of the Constabulary as 'outstanding' at reducing and preventing crime in four of the PEEL inspections it had undergone. He considered that this was due to the continued emphasis on neighbourhood policing and was pleased that the

newly appointed Chief Constable, Jo Farrell, had stated that this was a key part of policing policy in the Constabulary.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

8 Commissioning Update

The Panel considered a report of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an update of key considerations at the Commissioning Board in July 2019 (for copy see file of Minutes).

In reply to a question from Mr Cooke about the monitoring of year-end balance sheets of those organisations from which services were commissioned, the Head of Governance and Commissioning informed the Panel that if the organisation was an already established partnership group then year-end delivery and financial performance was provided. If it was a newly procured service, then feedback and performance management was part of the contract with the organisation.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 PCVC Decision Records

The Panel noted a report of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an update on the decision register since the last meeting, and forward plan (for copy see file of Minutes).

10 Work Programme and Panel Activity

The Panel noted a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships, Durham County Council which provided information on Panel activity for the period 1 April to 30 September 2019 (for copy see file of Minutes).

At the conclusion of the meeting the Chair, Councillor Hovvels passed on the best wishes of the Panel to the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner.

Signed
Chairman of the meeting held on 9 January 2020