

# Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16 February 2015

## Police and Crime Panel



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### Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

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#### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with progress of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) for the Durham Constabulary Force area.

#### Background

2. This report builds upon information previously presented to the Committee and the aim of this report is to provide an update to Members in relation to the following areas from the Panel's meeting on 3 February 2015:
  - Consultation on Council Tax Police Precept 2015/16
  - Mutual Gain Initiative
  - Commissioning Activity
  - Review of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel – Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working Agreement
  - Joint working arrangements between the Police and Crime Panel and Overview and Scrutiny Committees

#### Detail

3. **Consultation on Council Tax Police Precept 2015/16**  
Following consideration of a report from the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Panel agreed with the proposal to set the Council Tax requirement at a level that resulted in a 1.98% increase in Council Tax for the year ending 31 March 2016. The panel also acknowledged the Commissioners approach to undertaking consultation through town centre walkabouts, an online survey and attending meetings with the Area Action Partnerships, Town and Parish Councils and Voluntary and Community Sector Forum.
4. **Mutual Gain Initiative**  
Chief Superintendents Graham Hall and Ivan Wood, with support from Inspectors Mick Button and Darren Walton provided the Panel with information on a community engagement initiative called Mutual Gain that had been carried out in Darlington and Seaham. In summary, the initiative aims to develop better relationships with communities, give communities a voice and through partnership working enable participation in the policing of their area to deliver on community priorities, reduce crime and improve confidence. The panel were informed of successful partnership working and outcomes within the two pilot areas. In addition an evaluation by Durham University had also highlighted many positive outcomes to community engagement, confidence and financial benefits that could be achieved.

5. ***Review of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel – Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working Agreement***

The Panel reviewed and agreed to continue with its Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working Agreement with the Police and Crime Commissioner. In summary, the Agreement sets out expectations to support a positive and constructive relationship between the PCC and PCP. It also provides a framework for the development and agreement of additional protocols/procedures to deal with specific issues including procedures for dealing with complaints against the PCC or Deputy PCC, Confirmation Hearings for Chief Constable and Statutory Officer posts and Information Sharing.

6. ***PCP Joint working arrangements between the Police and Crime Panel and Overview and Scrutiny Committees***

The joint working arrangements document has been in place since October 2012 to ensure communication and avoid duplication of activity between the Panel and overview and scrutiny arrangements at Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council. Since initial agreement of this arrangement, reports containing activity from the Panel's meeting have been shared with Overview and Scrutiny at both constituent authorities and the Panel agreed to continue the existing arrangement and review on an annual basis.

**Recommendation**

7. Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within the report and comment accordingly.

**Background Papers**

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance – None**

**Staffing – None**

**Risk - None**

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None**

**Accommodation - None**

**Crime and Disorder** – information contained within this report is linked to Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan and establishment of a Police and Crime Panel to scrutinise the elected Police and Crime Commissioner.

**Human Rights – None**

**Consultation – None**

**Procurement – None**

**Disability Issues – None**

**Legal Implications** – the Panel's responsibilities within the Police, Reform and Social Responsibility Act is referenced within the report