

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 February 2016

Police and Crime Panel



Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

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 held on 8th January and 1st February 2016:
 - Consultation on Council tax Precept 2016/17
 - Enhancing Collaboration between Durham Constabulary and Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
 - Report of the Rape Scrutiny Panel
 - Quarter 2 Performance Report 2015/16
 - HMIC Inspections
 - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Restructure

Detail

- Consultation on Council Tax Precept 2016/17**
 3. At its meeting in January, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Mr Hogg provided the Panel with details of his proposed consultation on increasing the Policing element of the Council Tax Precept by 1.98% for 2016/17. The PCC's consultation exercise was open from 11 -27th January 2016 and was available on line and by hard copy. In addition this was to be also widely circulated including Member, Town & Parish Council's, and Voluntary Community sector agencies. The PCC also held community days to seek public opinion and attended AAP Meetings.
 4. The Panel considered findings from the consultation that gave public support to the proposed increase at its meeting in February. Members acknowledged the challenging financial pressures upon the Policing Service and agreed with a 1.98% rise in the Police element of the Council Tax Precept for 2016/17.

Enhancing Collaboration between Durham Constabulary and Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

5. The Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Hogg presented a report to update the Panel on activity to enhance collaboration between the Police and Fire and Rescue Services. The report highlighted the strong partnership working between both services and within the context of budget pressures and providing the best possible services to the public, the PCC and the Fire Authority have signed a Statement of Intent to Collaborate' in December 2015. The statement's aims are 'Better value for Money, Improved outcomes and Reduced Demand. The Panel were also informed that governance arrangements for effective decision making and a Joint Strategic Group has been established. The
6. The Panel are to receive progress update reports on collaboration and also gave support to representatives of the Fire & Rescue Service attending Panel meetings to broaden their understanding and share knowledge.

Report of the Rape Scrutiny Panel

7. As part of the North East Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy, the Durham PCC established a Police Rape Scrutiny Panel to scrutinise case files which have failed to attain the requisite evidential level for prosecution or where prosecution has failed, and to look for lessons to learn.
8. The PCC presented the first annual report of the Durham Rape Scrutiny Panel to the Police and Crime Panel. It is to note that this was a redacted version of the full report and suitable for public consumption. The report to the Panel covered its aims and purpose, membership and methodology and concluded with a number of recommendations. The Scrutiny Rape Panel agreed with the outcomes of all cases but identified recommendations from the evidence they received that aimed to maintain a consistent approach in rape investigations and victim care.

Quarter 2 Performance Report 2015/16

9. The Panel received a presentation on the Quarter 2 2015-16 Performance report from the PCC and Mr Alan Reiss, Chief of Staff to the PCC. The interactive report provided Members with performance information on Victim Based Crime, Public Confidence and Victim Satisfaction. The report is available from the PCC's website and provides information on key performance data linked to the Commissioner's priorities and anti-social behaviour at a local level.

HMIC Inspections

10. The PCC's Chief Finance Officer, Mr Gary Ridley provided the Panel with an update on the vulnerability inspection carried out by HMIC. The Panel was informed that no forces were graded as outstanding, 12 forces, including Durham, were graded as good, 27 forces were graded as requiring improvement and 4 forces were graded as inadequate.

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Restructure

11. At its meeting February 2016, the Panel considered a report from the PCC's Chief Of Staff, Mr Alan Reiss on the new staffing structure of the Office of the PCC. The report provided the Panel with rationale for the structure, its core functions and that appointment had been made to two new senior positions of the Head of Governance and Commissioning and Head of Policy and Communications.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Implications

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.

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