

FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Annual Report of the Police and Crime Panel

22 June 2023

1. Purpose

To consider the proposed Annual Report of work undertaken by the Panel which is attached to this report at Appendix 2.

2. Information and Analysis

2.1 As the Panel is aware, Derbyshire County Council was provided with a grant for 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 of up to £67,200 as the host authority in respect of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel. Payment of the Grant was subject to the standard terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement.

The Grant Agreement stipulates at paragraph 3.1 of Schedule 3 that the Key Performance Indicators to be monitored and reported on are:

- a) The number of public meetings held;
- b) Scrutiny documents and publications produced, including the Panel's annual report;
- c) Engagement with the work of the Panel by members of the public and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire Constabulary.

To demonstrate that the Panel has met the Key Performance Indicators for the year 2022 to 2023, a report of the work undertaken by the Panel for the municipal year of May 2022 to May 2023 is attached at Appendix 2.

The Panel will note that these again include the provision of an Annual Report. The production of such a report may also be considered as being best practice and contribute towards engagement with the public.

3. Alternative Options Considered

3.1 Not applicable.

4. Implications

4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of this report.

5. Consultation

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Background Papers

6.1 None identified.

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

7.2 Appendix 2 – Annual Report for the Municipal Year 2022 to 2023

8. Recommendations

That the Panel

1. Agrees the attached Annual Report at Appendix 2 to demonstrate that the Panel has met the Key Performance Indicators as specified in the Grant Agreement for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

9. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

9.1 To ensure that the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel complies with the requirements of the Grant Agreement and ensure that the performance of the Panel can be monitored.

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Appendix 1

Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The Grant Agreement requires the Recipient to put in place procedures to monitor and track spending, including committed spend, against agreed budgets and notify the Authority of any variances.

Legal

- 2.1 The functions and responsibilities of police and crime panels are set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and are to scrutinise the actions and decisions of police and crime commissioners, and provide support and challenge to the Commissioners in exercise of their functions. Panels focus their attention on key strategic actions and decisions taken by the Commissioner, including whether they have achieved the objectives set out in their Police and Crime Plan, considered the relevant priorities of their community safety partners and consulted appropriately with the public.
- 2.2 The grant is paid in exercise of the power conferred upon the Secretary of State for the Home Department under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to provide financial support to a local authority in England and Wales.
- 2.3 In order to receive the grant, the host authority must agree to the terms of the Grant Agreement and provide the information stipulated within the Agreement to enable the Home Office to monitor performance.

Human Resources

- 3.1 None directly arising out of this report.

Information Technology

- 4.1 None directly arising out of this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None directly arising out of this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 None directly arising out of this report.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 None directly arising out of this report.

Appendix 2



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022 to 2023

Background

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire (“the PCC”) has responsibility for securing an efficient and effective police force for the area. This includes setting objectives, considering budget allocation and holding the Chief Constable to account.

The function of the Police and Crime Panel (“the Panel”) is to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the PCC and provide support and challenge to the PCC in the exercise of their functions.

Membership

The membership of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel is made up of elected members from each of the Councils in the Police Force area of Derbyshire, including Derby City. Each authority nominates a member to sit on the Panel. Panels are also able to co-opt additional councillor members to ensure that the political balance of the whole area is reflected and must appoint at least 2 independent members. The Panel must ensure that the membership has appropriate skills, knowledge and experience in order to properly exercise the functions of the Panel.

The Panel elects the Chair and Vice-Chair at the Annual General Meeting. The membership of the Panel for 2022-23 was:

Ms Vicky Newbury - Chair (Independent Member)
Cllr Ged Potter - Vice-Chair, Derby City Council (Conservative)
Cllr Carol Hart - Derbyshire County Council (Conservative)
Cllr Matt Murray – Amber Valley Borough Council (Conservative)
Cllr Mary Dooley – Bolsover District Council (Labour)
Cllr Peter Innes – Chesterfield Borough Council (Labour)
Cllr Dermot Murphy – Derbyshire Dales District Council (Conservative)
Cllr Val Clare – Erewash Borough Council (Conservative)
Cllr Alan Barrow – High Peak Borough Council (Labour)
Cllr William Armitage – North East Derbyshire District Council (Conservative)
Cllr Gordon Rhind – South Derbyshire District Council (Labour)
Dr Stephen Handsley – (Independent Member)

Co-opted Members

Councillor Hardyal Dhindsa – Derby City Council – Labour
Councillor John Frudd – Erewash Borough Council – Labour
Councillor Matthew Eyre – Derby City Council – Conservative
Councillor Robert Flatley – Derbyshire County Council – Conservative
Councillor David Lomax – High Peak Borough Council – Liberal Democrat
Councillor Paul Niblock – Chesterfield Borough Council – Liberal Democrat
Councillor Deborah Watson – Bolsover District Council – Independent
The host authority for the panel is Derbyshire County Council. Meetings are held in public at County Hall, Matlock.

Schedule of Meetings

The Panel met formally 5 times during the 2022-2023 municipal year in June, September and November 2022, and January and March 2023.

Work Undertaken

The required functions of the Panel are:

- To consider the Commissioner's proposed police precept
- To monitor delivery of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan
- To review and scrutinise action and decisions taken by the Commissioner
- To handle PCC conduct complaints

At the meetings during the 2022-23 municipal year these functions were carried out as follows:

Monitor, Review and Scrutinise

1. June Meeting

At the June meeting, the Panel received an update on progress made against delivery of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Plan for 2021 – 2025. The report gave details of key work that had been undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Panel were afforded the opportunity to discuss, make suggestions and ask questions.

The Panel was also informed that the interim staffing arrangements discussed at the January 2023 meeting had been formalised and made permanent.

The Panel received a report in relation to a review of its composition, and suggested the co-option of additional Councillor members, to ensure that the Panel met the statutory balance requirements. The Panel agreed to co-opt 7 additional Councillor members in accordance with the prescribed legal guidelines.

2. September Meeting

Further to the decisions taken at the June meeting, the Panel agreed to the formal co-option of an additional 7 Council members to the Police and Crime Panel, subject to formal approval by the Secretary of State. (Details of these are referred to earlier on in this document).

The Annual Report of the Panel for 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, was presented for approval, and the Annual Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was presented for discussion and noting.

3. November Meeting

The Panel considered, asked questions, and made comments on the Police and Crime Plan for 2021-2025. The Panel also received an update on one of the key priorities identified within the plan, tackling burglaries across Derbyshire as well as a general update on the work of the PCC.

In addition, a detailed presentation was delivered in respect of the work that had been undertaken in relation to the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy that had been finalised and adopted by key partners across Derbyshire.

4. January Meeting

At this meeting, the main business was to hear from the PCC about the proposal for the precept for 2023/24. The Panel welcomed the Chief Constable to the meeting to outline her operational business case for increasing the precept.

5. March meeting

At the request of the Panel, the meeting received a report in relation to the Recruitment, Retention and Exit Interviews process within Derbyshire

Constabulary. Members of the Panel were given the opportunity to challenge the report, make comments and ask questions.

At the request of the Panel, the meeting also received a report on the vetting processes within Derbyshire Constabulary. The Commissioner explained her role in this process and she had asked the force to summarise their operational activities on this matter and these were detailed in the report. Panel Members were given the opportunity to scrutinise the report, ask questions and make comments.

Precept

At its January meeting, the Panel considered the proposal by the Commissioner to increase the precept in February 2023. The Panel considered a report which included financial information detailing cost pressures and intended investments that would result from the increase. The Panel also had the opportunity to hear from Rachel Swann, the Chief Constable, who provided a detailed overview into how the precept increases would be spent as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner and her supporting officer team. The Commissioner was questioned in detail by Panel members regarding the proposed increase and questions were also asked of the Chief Constable and supporting staff.. The Panel resolved to approve the proposed precept for 2023-24 without qualification or comment.

Complaints

The Panel is responsible for dealing with complaints made about the Commissioner's conduct. Any complaints alleging criminal conduct by the Commissioner must be recorded and referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct. Any other complaints are handled by the Panel, through informal resolution. The Panel received 1 accepted complaint during the municipal year 2022-23 This was considered by the

Complaints Sub Group of the Panel and the findings were reported to the next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel via its Business Meeting mechanism. Further detail of the complaints process can be found at <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/community-safety/derbyshire-police-and-crime-panel/derbyshire-police-and-crime-panel.aspx>.

Training

The Panel were invited to participate in a training session provided by Frontline Consulting. The Session took place on 27th October 2022 from 9.30am until 12.30pm, was very detailed and engaging and was particularly beneficial to new members recruited to the Panel.

Briefing Meeting – Police Headquarters

On 24th November 2022, the Panel were invited to attend a Briefing Meeting at the Joint Training Centre at Police Headquarters in Ripley. The Briefing covered topics including, the overview of the OPCC, Governance and Compliance, Financial Briefing and was concluded by a tour of the Joint Training Centre. This session was very well organised and members of the Panel in attendance found it very informative and they were impressed with the content of the session.

National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels

Cllr Ged Potter continues to serve on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

Grant Funding

The host authority receives a grant of up to £67,200 to maintain the Police and Crime Panel. This grant is used to cover administrative costs, training and member expenses.