

Report to Buckinghamshire County Council

Title: Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel update

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1. Police and Crime Panels are responsible for supporting and scrutinising the Police and Crime Commissioner in each police force area in England and Wales. Panels are scrutiny bodies with a range of statutory functions and have responsibility for scrutinising and supporting the PCC's activities over a range of policy areas. Ensuring the Panel provides effective scrutiny is a challenge given the limited resources available to fund Panels and the limited powers provided for in legislation.
2. Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel is made up of 18 Local Authorities and two independent members and the composition of the Panel can be found via the link below. There are usually Membership changes during May due to elections or appointment changes. The Chairman is Trevor Egleton and Vice-Chairman, Kieron Mallon.
<http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/article/8102/Thames-Valley-Police-and-Crime-Panel>
3. The Thames Valley PCC is Anthony Stansfeld and his Deputy Matthew Barber. His Deputy was appointed in December 2016 on a part time basis. A recent report was submitted asking that that the Deputy PCC be made full time due to an increase in specific responsibilities which has been approved and was considered by the Panel at a confirmation hearing on 20 April 2018. A key document which is used to scrutinise the PCC's performance is the Police and Crime Panel which can be found via the following link. The Panel scrutinise a key area of the Plan at each of their meetings.
<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/>
4. The precept meeting was held in February 2018 where the Panel agreed with the PCC's recommendation of a 7% increase in council tax to prevent cuts to operational policing. However, recent press articles have expressed concern about possible cuts to the Joint Operations Unit, which includes the Dog Unit.
5. The Panel scrutinise the PCC and not the Chief Constable. However, sometimes it is necessary to look at operational issues which relate to strategic issues. One of the key areas that was scrutinised this year related to the change in local policing and the Local Area Commander from Wycombe was invited to the meeting to provide detail on how it had been implemented in his area. The new operating model went live in June 2017. The implementation did not go as

smoothly as hoped as during this time the Force lost about 100 police officers, there was an increase in 999 calls and also the terrorist attacks in London. The model was not quite fit for purpose at the start of the process with problems with the new shift patterns which officers were finding tiring. It was a big change management programme which included a change in culture. However, the Chief Constable reassured Members that whilst it had been a difficult change process, six months into implementation, he said that the model was an improvement and a better way of working. The Panel asked that the PCC continued to keep the new operating model under review and that they be provided with a report at the end of the first year of operation. The Deputy Chief Constable is carrying out a review visiting all police areas and the Panel await a response from these meeting and consultation with staff. Another area of concern that has been raised by the Panel is that the Force has been losing police officers to other Forces because of the cost of living in the Thames Valley. At the end of the year the Force were 98 officers below their year-end target and the Force are now using case investigators to help offset this reduction.

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>

6. In relation to HMIC reports for this year Thames Valley Police received an outstanding report for Efficiency, a good report for Effectiveness and Legitimacy and an inadequate report for Crime Data Integrity. The Deputy Chief Constable provided a presentation at the Panel meeting on 20 April 2018 to show what actions the Force were taking in response to the inadequate rating. An officer from the Office of the PCC would be attending Force meetings to be kept informed of the progress being made on the areas for improvement.

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/peel-assessments/peel-2017/thames-valley/>

7. In terms of specific scrutiny there was an item on roads policing which resulted in a Thames Valley wide multi agency officer group being set up to work together on roads policing and to develop a framework. The Officer Working Group has met and agreed its terms of reference.

There was a themed item on criminal justice where two representatives from the Criminal Justice Board attended – the Chief Crown Prosecutor for Thames and Chiltern and the National Probation Service. Some recommendations were made in relation to the Crest Report and taking more control over the criminal justice system in terms of having joint outcomes in relation to performance and being more open and transparent. However, whilst PCC's are under a statutory duty to collaborate with local authorities and other criminal justice partners, the mechanisms and practices of partnership working in this area are complex and PCC's have limited powers in which to influence change.

There was also a themed item on modern slavery where a number of recommendations were agreed including further information being provided on repeat victims of modern slavery where they have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism more than once so that victims who are at risk of being re-trafficked are being minimised. Members were asked to ensure that their Council was identifying (through training) and reporting any concerns regarding victims of modern slavery.

Recommendations were also made in relation to unauthorised encampments and a TVP Rural Task and Finish Group was looking into this issue. Protocols and training are now being put in place to ensure that there is a consistent approach by the Force to unauthorised encampments.

8. In the last year the Panel had been looking at how to approach cyber-crime. They held an initial meeting with Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) where it was agreed that it would be helpful to hold a conference on this issue with a number of presenters including the PCC. At this

conference, which was funded by the Panel, the CSP's in the Thames Valley worked together on a cyber-crime strategy, which was led by Bucks CSP and has now received funding from the PCC.

9. The Preventing CSE Sub Committee and Complaints Sub-Committee have also been meeting throughout the year. One of the main outcomes from the Preventing CSE Sub Committee is that a TVP single point of contact (SPOC) is being piloted for a year, and funded by the PCC, in relation to taxi licensing safeguarding. Following a conference organised by the Panel and a further meeting with taxi licensing managers, a minimal set of standards has been developed across the Thames Valley which will enable the SPOC to ensure that standards are being maintained for safeguarding issues.
10. As part of the police integrity reforms being implemented in early 2019 there will be a major overhaul of the police complaints system which includes an enhanced role for the PCC which will also impact on the Panel. The Panel are awaiting further guidance on this issue.
11. The PCC provided an update on fire collaboration to the Panel. He had met with the three fire and rescue services and a decision had been taken not to pursue the transfer of governance responsibility from them to the PCC in the foreseeable future (e.g. at least until after the next PCC elections in 2020). Instead they would continue to explore and develop more collaboration options between the three fire and rescue services, and between them and the police, to deliver operational and financial benefits to the public.
12. For further information the PCC and PCP Annual Report is normally submitted to the June meeting of the Panel. There is also a twitter page which provides useful information on national and local policing issues @thamesvalleyppc.

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Bucks County Council representative on the Police and Crime Panel