

## Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

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**Title:** Topical issues  
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Panel



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### National Association for Police and Crime Panels

A meeting is being held by Frontline Consulting to discuss the setting up of a National Association for Police and Crime Panel and Grant Thornton have offered to host the meeting on 17 February 2017.

### PCC Policy Planning and Performance meeting (January 2017 – not already covered by the budget)

#### Minutes

- In relation to capital monitoring the PCC had asked for a briefing paper on the issue of speed cameras in view of the fact that he received numerous correspondence regarding road safety.
- Additional body worn cameras would be increased to 1100 by next year.

#### Annual Assurance Report from the Complaints Integrity and Ethics Panel

- One of the PCC's related duties was to ensure that he is kept informed of matters relating to the handling of complaints against the Police Force by the Chief Constable so he can hold him to account for this function if required.
- The Chief Constable is responsible for handling all complaints from members of the public against officers and staff under his direction and control which he delegates to his Professional Standards Department.
- The CIE Panel provides a transparent forum for constructive challenge over the way complaints against police officers and staff are handled by Thames Valley Police and are overseen by the Chief Constable and the PCC. A Member of the Joint Independent Audit Committee attends meetings of the Panel to observe in order to inform its own assurance assessment of this aspect of corporate governance and to ensure that the PCC's oversight of complaints against the Force are operating effectively.
- The Force had seen an increase of 8.1% in the number of recorded complaints this year. Under the heading investigations over 70 days Oxford and Reading LPA's were significantly higher than other areas and they were investigating the reasons for this.
- TVP were setting up an internal Code of Ethics Committee which would link in with the Complaints, Integrity and Ethics Panel.

- The Panel receive a random selection of complaint files based on a theme of which some for 2016 were injuries to the public following police contact, investigations not upheld and stop and search. The dip test of complaints has however revealed a number of issues that might benefit from formal policy review, which was being considered.
- The Panel also receives a copy of the PSD performance data and Local Police Area Commanders are invited to address areas of complaints and misconduct within their local performance data
- Other areas the Panel has looked at included attending training sessions at Sulhamstead, and the use of body worn cameras. The Panel also received a presentation on the work being undertaken by the South East Covert Operations Unit.
- There were three new Members of the Complaints, Integrity and Ethics Panel and the OPCC was waiting for their completed vetting forms to be returned.
- The PCC and the Chief Constable have jointly agreed to continue this Panel until the elections in 2020. Future work programme items include Stop and Search, use of tasers and the morals and ethics of officer relationships and the relationship with the public.

#### Capital Monitoring 2016/17

The approved capital budget for this year was increased to £38.283m at the October PPP meeting to reflect an additional £0.747m of grant funded approvals. In preparing for the MTCP the budget has been adjusted to £30.613m to reflect project re-phasing of £6.5m across a number of programmes of work, acknowledging changes to planning and tendering timelines.

#### Revenue Monitoring 2016

The financial position has improved marginally with a £0.503m overspend against profile to date and a forecast full year overspend of £0.641m. For the Force, this is due to a slight increase in police officer wastage. However, the Force's commitment to the Didcot Power Station incident was causing further pressure on this year's budget. For the OPCC there is a slight underspend due to staff vacancies and lower legal fees.

The police officer establishment has been reduced this year by 95FTE posts through changes to the recruitment process, workforce modernisation and productivity savings. Wastage has remained slightly higher in the last quarter and hence officer numbers are now anticipated to be 30FTE under the original year end establishment target. The Force has currently only two recruit intakes planned for January and March 2017. Police officer strength at the end of December was 4,107 FTE including regional units.

Investment in priority areas include an additional 19 Domestic Abuse investigators, 2 additional Forensic Science Accreditation personnel, 2.5 additional Data Quality personnel, 2 additional drug expert witness co-ordinators, 1 additional Hi Tec Crime Unit personnel, Service Improvement Analyst and Management Information Technical Developer, reinstatement of 15 roads police officers (as further work is being undertaken on the business case).

PCSO's target strength is 454 FTEs (475 last year) with Grant/TVP funded posts and 37 joint partnership funded posts. The Productivity Plan anticipated a reduction of 21 partner funded posts however fewer partners than expected have not renewed their contracts. The current strength is 459 FTE which will continue to fall to the year end with no further recruitments planned. Police staff strength at the end of December was 2,697 FTE.

## OPCC Strategic Delivery Plan

- Improve partnership working with Safeguarding Boards – PCC met with Slough Children’s Service Trust in July and work with other Boards is to be developed.
- **PCC Review of Domestic Violence** – first draft completed. The complex needs pilots are also being evaluated and a report prepared for the PCC.
- Discussions are taking place between PCC and Berkshire CCG regarding a Transformation Fund application for a specialist FGM Clinic in Reading.
- Hate Crime Contract – there is a meeting shortly to discuss contract issues and agree an action plan with timescales for the service provider to deliver.
- Review and redesign of **Victims Services** – Project Board update will be provided in February on development themes and models for Thames Valley
- Victims First website will be launched January 2017
- **Local Criminal Justice** Planning Day will consider process for identifying and implementing scrutiny of individual and collective effectiveness of LCJB partners and optimising performance.
- **Cyber crime** – PCC has concerns re wider national cyber fraud approach and how this impacts at a local level. This issue will be raised with Sir Tom Winsor (HMIC) at a January meeting. There is also an event being hosted by the Police and Crime Panel and Bucks County Council Community Safety Partnership on cyber crime to look at producing a Thames Valley wide approach.
- Developing a Business Plan for the possible transfer of governance responsibility for the Thames Valley **Fire and Rescue Services** – the PCC has an indicative date for submission to the Home Secretary by the end of June 2017 and appropriate external support is being identified to develop the business case. Officers will be undertaking a visit to Sussex OPCC to learn from their experience to date (the Sussex PCC has engaged consultants to review the various options presented in the Bill)
- The 2017/18 OPCC Strategic Delivery Plan is due by March 2017.

## Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2017

This statement includes the proposed borrowing and investment strategies and also sets out the prudential indicators and treasury management activity limits that provide the OPCC treasury service with an operational performance and control framework within which the relevant functions are undertaken. The overall strategy is very similar to that adopted by the PCC in this current year.

## HMIC – Efficiency Legitimacy and Police Leadership

- Efficiency – whilst ‘good’ the Force should ensure its understanding of the demand for its services and of the expectations of the public are up to date by regularly reviewing its evidence base and these reviews should be conducted with partners to ensure that the Force takes the necessary steps to meet current and likely future demand, including hidden demand.
- HMIC on legitimacy stated that Thames Valley was a ‘Good’ force. There was some areas where the Force could improve which was sharing the outcomes of misconduct hearings which were now being posted by the PSD area on ‘Knowzone’. Another area was highlighted which was that the Force does not currently comply with national vetting guidelines as a result of a decision not to complete routine re-vetting. However, this did not impact on the Force’s overall approach and commitment to tackling corruption or its ethos. Finally the Force should improve how it seeks feedback from the public about their

experiences of how the police have treated them and should improve how it identifies and understands its workforce's wellbeing needs.

- HMIC had also issued its inspection report on leadership within the Thames Valley which referred to the range of programmes TVP had in place to support leadership development and found evidence that TVP was working to transform the way services were provided to the public.
- National comparisons show Thames Valley Police favourably across a range of indicators from cost, through levels of recorded crime to public complaints and victim satisfaction.

### **Published documents**

#### **New advice on reducing health inequalities in the criminal justice system**

Public Health England has worked with Revolving Doors, a charity working to improve the lives of those in contact with the criminal justice system, the Home Office and NHS England to publish 'Rebalancing Act'. It is a resource for directors of public health, police and crime commissioners and other system leaders at local, regional and national level, to support collaborative work to improve health, reduce offending and health inequalities among people in contact with the criminal justice system.

<http://bit.ly/2jAsrDP>

#### **New crackdown on corporate economic crime**

Ministers have announced that new laws will be considered as part of a crackdown on corporate economic crime. A call for evidence seeks views on whether further reform is needed to combat corporate criminality, following fraudulent, dishonest activity by some banks and other commercial organisations. The call for evidence will run until 24th March 2017

<http://bit.ly/2jfMjfG>

#### **New national strategy for police custody**

The National Police Chief's Council has developed a set of nationally consistent principles to complement existing legislation and guidance and help forces ensure that they are using custody in a way that is legitimate, effective and efficient. The strategy has been launched in response to developments in policing, including more focus on vulnerability, increased scrutiny, and further collaboration between forces. At the centre of the strategy is the consideration of the impact of custody on vulnerable people and the commitment to ensure all detainees, particularly those that are vulnerable, are treated with respect and their rights protected. The National Custody Strategy sets out a number of aspirations for police custody, including:

- eliminating the use of police custody for Mental Health Act detentions;
- ensuring children are only held in custody as a last resort;
- encouraging innovative but appropriate alternatives to custody;
- utilising opportunities to collaborate where it will save money or help us work better;
- consistently identifying and managing risk
- <http://bit.ly/2jnmAVc>

#### **Crest report (referred to by the PCC at the last meeting)**

"In a world of rising demand and shrinking budgets, justice devolution is firmly on the agenda and there is growing interest in and support for the idea of a more localised justice system.

This argues that it no longer makes sense for government to continue tinkering around the edges, attempting top-down reform of individual criminal justice agencies from above. Instead, local

leaders should be empowered to join up services from the bottom up – in order to deal with the root cause of crime – rather than managing its consequences and to ensure services can be built around the needs of victims.

<http://crestadvisory.com/its-time-to-take-back-control-of-our-criminal-justice-system/>

## **Press Articles**

London and Thames Valley

Thames Valley – drink/drive arrests

<http://www.getreading.co.uk/news/reading-berkshire-news/more-100-drink-drive-arrests-12349043>

Windsor – Retired teacher gets six months suspended prison sentence for historic sexual assault on pupil

[http://www.windsorobserver.co.uk/news/15028252.Judge\\_tells\\_sex\\_offender\\_teacher\\_it\\_would\\_not\\_be\\_in\\_the\\_public\\_interest\\_to\\_send\\_him\\_to\\_prison/](http://www.windsorobserver.co.uk/news/15028252.Judge_tells_sex_offender_teacher_it_would_not_be_in_the_public_interest_to_send_him_to_prison/)

Driving caught picking up illegal fares in Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes Council and Thames Valley Police have on-going concerns over the public's use of Private Hire vehicles (also known as minicabs) that have not been booked in advance. The vehicle involved was displaying private hire door signs for Private Hire Operator Speedline and was licensed by South Northants Council.

<http://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk/news/driver-caught-picking-up-illegal-fare-in-milton-keynes-1-7776571>

Sadiq Khan claims Londoners are at risk from police cuts

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-38636247>

## **National articles**

West Midlands PCC to hold summit on unauthorised encampments – being webcast

<http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/news/news-2017/pcc-to-hold-summit-on-unauthorised-traveller-encampments/>

More cyber attacks in North Wales than street crime

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-38634289>

Dial 999 and cough if you can't speak

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/call-999-emergency-services-what-to-do-if-cant-talk-advice-crime-accident-police-ambulance-a7524196.html>

Met officers to be asked whether they want to carry guns

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-38547203>

Policing for the future inquiry launched

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/170111-new-inquiry-policing-future/>

Inquiry to look into cybercrime after drugs found in the post

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/38507612/inquiry-to-look-at-police-and-cybercrime-after-drugs-in-the-post-investigation>

Forensic science standards at significant risk

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-38527830>

Online safety – internet not designed for children

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-38508888>

Online dating fraud victims numbers at record high

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-38678089>

One in three children put inappropriate pictures on line because parents let them roam free on the internet.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/05/one-three-children-send-naked-selfies-online-parents-let-roam/>

UK schools targeted by web fraudsters

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-38519649>

Thousands of drivers caught in mobile phone crackdown

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-38711931>

<http://theconversation.com/britains-criminal-justice-system-doesnt-know-what-to-do-about-autism-68996>