



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Acting Chief Executive

Date: 20 January 2021

POLICE & CRIME PLAN – COMMUNITIES THEME – OPCC WORK TO DELIVER BROADER PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) on the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (OPCC) activity to deliver the ‘broader partnership support’ priorities set out in the Communities section of the Police and Crime Plan (the “Plan”). This report will also update the Board on OPCC activity to deliver against the ‘inspire all public servants to maintain the highest levels of ethical behaviour’ priority as set out in the Communities section.
- 1.2 This report is an update of activity since the report to the October 2020 Board Meeting.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report and in particular the:
 - The Acting Commissioner’s Precept Survey;
 - Progress made with the Safer Streets project;
 - An update on the Independent Custody Visitors’ Scheme.

3. Background

- 3.1 As an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner (the “Acting Commissioner”) can exercise all the powers that elected Police and Crime Commissioners have apart from varying or issuing a Plan (as provided for in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011), the Acting Commissioner had already determined that the priorities of the Plan should remain for the coming period. Now that his term has been extended to 2021 he reaffirms them.

3.2 Cambridgeshire Constabulary's (the "Constabulary") progress around these Constabulary priorities is reported in a separate paper – see Agenda item 10.1.

4. 2021-22 Precept Survey

4.1 A survey to seek the views of the public on police funding in Cambridgeshire was launched on 5th January 2021 for two weeks until 19th January 2021. A link to the press release sign-posting to the survey is provided here: <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/cambridgeshire-residents-asked-for-their-views-on-police-funding/>.

4.2 Entitled '*Cambridgeshire residents asked for their views on police funding*', the online survey asks for people's views on an increase of £1.25 per month (based on a Band D property) to council tax which would enable the Chief Constable to implement a number of improvements to the service the public receive. These include:

- Additional call handlers
- Additional support for responding to calls for service from the vulnerable
- Cyber, online prevention officers
- Digital Media Investigators
- Increased capacity for handling digital contact from the public
- Additional Support for the development of frontline officers

4.3 The survey also includes a number of questions seeking the views of the public with regards to policing and crime enabling a 'temperature check' of what issues people are concerned about. The responses to these questions will help provide an evidence base for the incoming Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan. An analysis report covering the responses to these questions will be provided in due course.

4.4 The survey was shared with the public in the following ways: distributed to all Cambridgeshire media with an accompanying press release, shared via the Acting Commissioner's social media channels with a link to a full explanatory narrative on the OPCC website: <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/consultations-surveys/>; distributed via the Acting Commissioner's Ecops Account of around 20,000 people; shared with countywide Warn and Inform colleagues with personal requests for further dissemination and shared via partnership networks. A full list of all channels used will be submitted in the report to the Police and Crime Panel meeting on 3rd February 2021.

4.5 There were also be targeted communications with hard to reach groups with social media posts published throughout the survey reminding the public of timescales.

4.6 To date over 1,200 responses have been received with generally supportive feedback.

4.7 Below is an interim breakdown of response data:

4.8 In total we have received 1270 responses to the survey of which:

- 70.06% of those that responded agreed that an increase of £1.25 per month represented value for money with 30% disagreeing
- Over 62% of those that responded were 55 year and older
- 53% were male and 41% female and 5% preferred not to say and 1% non-binary or preferred to self-describe

4.9 The location of those that responded are as follows:

- Peterborough 24.28%
- Fenland 9.61%
- East Cambridgeshire 9.26%
- Huntingdonshire 20.52%
- Cambridge City 13.10%
- South Cambridgeshire 20.7%

4.10 A comprehensive report on the precept survey is at Appendix A.

4.11 This report will be submitted to the Panel for their meeting on 3rd February. The Panel will review the proposed precept at the meeting on the 3rd February and if accepted, the Acting Commissioner may issue the precept by 1st March 2021. If the Panel veto the proposal at their meeting, the Acting Commissioner must notify the Panel of a revised precept by the 5th February 2021 for them to reconsider at a meeting on the 17th February 2021.

5. Engaging communities and building resilience

5.1 The Acting Commissioner continues to support the joining up of service provision to listen and respond to day to day community safety issues during Covid-19. He continues to provide 1-1 surgery opportunities online and holds regular Teams briefings for councillors at which crime prevention advice is shared and subsequent notes/actions published on the OPCC website.

5.2 He also continues to host online meetings covering specific crime types. A recent example of which is a Rural Crime Conversation, co-hosted with the Chief Constable in December 2020 with Robin Weyell, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor for the East of England for people living and working in rural communities. Over 25 members of the public joined the conversation to consider the police and criminal justice response to issues such as hare coursing and wildlife crime, theft of farming and other equipment or criminal damage and trespass and ways in which that response could be improved and enhanced.

5.3 **Views from the public** received through the Acting Commissioner's mailbox or as a result of targeted engagement are shared in the attached paper – Agenda item 5.0.

5.5 Youth and Community Fund

5.6 Since April 2020 the Acting Commissioner has awarded a total of £45,675 in grants to 18 different organisations across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire from his Youth and Community Fund. Grants have been made to support organisations working with young people through a variety of different ways including sport, youth groups and delivering training and life skills to support young people and communities including those who are, or are at risk of becoming, NEET (not in Education, Employment or Training).

6. Home Office's Safer Streets Fund

- 6.1 In July 2020 following a successful bid to the Home Office Safer Streets fund, a program of home security and community engagement work began in the Arbury and West Chesterton Areas of Cambridge City. Despite a variety of challenges including a reduced timeline for delivery and changing Covid-19 restrictions, work has continued to progress positively. Properties have been identified and bespoke security works ordered for the full quota of "gold" level interventions which focuses on vulnerable properties with vulnerable residents.
- 6.2 The total quota for the number of "silver" level interventions has been reduced, with spending diverted to additional costs for gold interventions. Work continues to identify properties suitable for silver interventions, including through communication with local housing and resident associations. The main barrier to works being completed is community concern about the spread of Covid-19. Bronze interventions are on track to meet the quote of 900 interventions, with work being done to scope increasing the number of interventions delivered in a Covid secure way.

7. Citizens in Policing – Independent Custody Visitors' Scheme

- 7.1 The Covid-19 pandemic continues to raise a number of challenges for the Independent Custody Visitors' (ICV) scheme, including the need to continue regularly speaking with detainees about their experience while reducing the risk of ICVs spreading or catching the Covid-19 virus. This had led to the introduction of "remote" ICV visits, where ICVs join a conference call which custody and can speak to detainees via telephone.
- 7.2 While the process is slightly different, it means that ICVs continue to speak directly to detainees. Depending on the threat posed by Covid-19 ICVs carry out a mixture of remote and physical visits, or solely remote visits. The situation is kept under constant review and can change depending on the threat posed by Covid-19. All meetings, including ICV panel meetings and training sessions are also taking place virtually, and specific training is scheduled and guidance being developed in relation to remote visits.
- 7.3 Since its introduction in September 2020, the effectiveness of remote visiting has continued to improve as ICVs and staff become familiar with and refine the process. Secondary benefits of the remote visiting process have also been identified, including the increased accessibility of the scheme to volunteers who lack access to transport, or who have caring responsibilities. Remote visits remove the time and cost associated with travel to a suite, and remove barriers faced by anyone with mobility issues.

8. Complaints

- 8.1 As reported to this Board in October 2020, as of the 1st February 2020, the Acting Commissioner became the relevant review body for low level complaints. To date the OPCC has received a total of 15 complaint review requests since the 1st February 2020. Of the 15 cases, 12 have been completed, none of which were upheld.
- 8.2 Learning is key from complaint handling and the OPCC continues to work with the Constabulary's Professional Standards Department (PSD) to ensure any learning and observations from handling complaints and reviews is captured and cascaded into the Constabulary.

8.3 The Acting Commissioner has dip sampled (a random selection of low-level complaints recorded by PSD) 18 complaints through his oversight role in the last three months (ending December 2020).

9. Recommendations

9.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report and in particular the:

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- An update on the Independent Custody Visitors' Scheme.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	Police and Crime Plan http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/
Contact Officer	Jim Haylett, Acting Chief Executive, OPCC