



## Report to Safer and Stronger Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**Report of:** Executive Director, Place

**Subject:** The work of the Police and Crime Panel

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**Summary:** This report will provide information on the work of the Police and Crime Panel between October 2016 and February 2017

**Type of item:** The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	<b>x</b>
Other	

**The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:**

The committee is asked to note the report.

**Background Papers:**

- Police and Crime Panel Meeting Papers - [Friday, 16 December 2016](#)
- Police and Crime Panel Meeting Papers - [Tuesday, 7 February 2017](#)
- Police and Crime Panel Meeting Papers - [Friday, 24 February 2017](#)

Meeting papers are publically available via: <http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/pcp/>

**Category of Report:** OPEN

# **Report of the Executive Director, Place**

## **The work of the Police and Crime Panel**

### **1. Introduction/Context**

- 1.1 The police and crime panel (PCP) has the power to scrutinise PCC activities, including the ability to review the police and crime plan and annual report, veto decisions such as the amount of the policing precept in council tax, request PCC papers and call the PCC and Chief Constable to public hearings. The panel can also seek a professional view from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) regarding potential dismissals of the Chief Constable.
- 1.2 The PCP includes councillors from each district of South Yorkshire (Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield) plus two co-opted independent members, making twelve in total.
- 1.3 The Police and Crime Panel also rule over any complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner. In 2015/16 the Police and Crime Panel received 7 complaints. 4 complaints about the current PCC and 3 complaints in relation to the former PCC.

### **2. Main body of report**

- 2.1 The PCC's governance arrangements, including the Joint Corporate Governance Framework were under review as advised at the December meeting. Included as part of this section of the meeting was an overview of the following additional arrangements.
  - *JIAAC Joint Independent Audit Committee*
  - *The Independent Ethics Panel*
  - *Independent Advisory Panel for Minority Communities*
  - *Independent Policing Protests Advisory Panel*
  - *Independent Custody Visitors*
- 2.2 The Panel was advised at the December meeting of the findings of the HMIC Inspection 2016. The full report was published on 3rd November 2016.

South Yorkshire Police was assessed under three separate categories.

- *Police Effectiveness Inspection 2016 the Inspection took place on 17<sup>th</sup> October and the findings if this will be published in spring 2017.*
- *Police Efficiency Inspection 2016 the findings of this inspection will be published in spring 2017.*

- *Legitimacy & Leadership the HMIC published its annual Peel Assessments of all 43 forces in England and Wales.*
- 2.3 Included in the main reports pack were responses from Dr Billings and the Chief Constable to the reports and any subsequent recommendations.
- 2.4 Also included in the December meeting was an overview of the budget position for 2016/17, with a guidance note that the Government will announce details of the finance settlement for 2017 /18 week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> December.
- 2.5 Also discussed at the December meeting was the Home Office Guidance relating to the scrutiny of precepts in line with Schedule 5 of the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 which give clear guidance relating to the Police & Crime Panel's role of reviewing the proposed precept for the financial period 2017/18.
- 2.6 Also of note from the December meeting:
- *The Governance arrangements of the PCC*
  - *The financial position of South Yorkshire Police and the Office of the PCC*
  - *The implementation of the recommendations of the peer review of South Yorkshire Police*
  - *Scrutiny of the Police & Crime Plan*
- 2.6 Of particular interest from the December meeting was the request from the PCC to the Police & Crime Panel that they contribute to the Strategic Planning Process to inform the forth coming Police & Crime Plan.

### **Governance Arrangements**

- 2.7 The Police & Crime Panel specifically requested that a memorandum of understanding be prepared to manage the relationship between itself and the PCC.
- 2.8 A review of this document to take place in the period prior to the meeting of the panel in February 2017, it was envisaged that further consultation with the office of the PCC would take place in the intervening period.
- 2.9 The main agenda item from the February 2017 meeting of the Police & Crime Panel was the requirement under the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 for the Police & Crime Commissioner to issue a new Police & Crime Plan as soon as practical after being elected to the post.

- 2.10 The plan is to be written with due consultation with the Chief Constable together with any recommendations which may have been forthcoming from the Police & Crime Panel.
- 2.11 The key points for consideration when varying or issuing an existing plan are detailed below.
- *Prepare a draft of the plan for variation*
  - *Consult the relevant Chief Constable*
  - *Forward the draft plan or amendments to the Police & Crime Panel*
  - *Give due regard to the comments or recommendations made by the Police & Crime Panel in relation to the draft plan or variation.*
  - *Provide the Police & Crime Panel a response to the protocols or amendments.*
- 2.12 Additional consultation is also carried out with a broad range of key stakeholders which has included consultation with community groups and representatives from Local Authorities. The recurrent theme that has been forth coming has been the desire to feel and to be safe.
- 2.13 The priorities that the PCC in conjunction with the Police & Crime Panel that have been agreed for the 2017-2021 are detailed below:
- Protecting Vulnerable People.
  - Tackling Crime & Anti – Social Behaviour.
  - Enabling Fair Treatment.
- 2.14 A recommendation was given to the Police & Crime Panel that they consider the plan and any comments to be passed to the Commissioner by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March.

## **Finance**

- 2.15 The Government has advised that over the lifetime of the spending review funding to policing bodies will remain static in cash terms, with any additional monies to be met by efficiency savings and any underspend.
- 2.16 At the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2017 the Police & Crime Panel supported the proposal of the Police & Crime Commissioner to increase the Council Tax Band D property by £5.

## **The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014**

- 2.17 The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 came into being on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2014.
- 2.18 The regulations allow entry to meetings of specified local government bodies for the purposes of reporting, and to allow the results of reporting to be disseminated and published.
- 2.19 The South Yorkshire Police & Crime Panel is deemed to be a joint committee of the four constituent authorities and as such is covered by the regulations.
- 2.20 It was recommended to the Panel adopt the protocol as included in the main reports pack included for the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2017, which will ensure that meetings are compliant with the Openness of Local Government Regulations 2014.
- 2.21 Failure to adopt this protocol could result in the Police & Crime Panel having little or no control over what could or could not be recorded at meetings of the above group.

### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The committee is asked to note the report.
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