

WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2013 AT WESSEX ROOM - THE CORN EXCHANGE, MARKET PLACE, DEVIZES, SN10 1HS.

Present:

Cllr Junab Ali, Cllr Andrew Bennett, Cllr Richard Britton (Chairman), Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Brian Ford (Vice Chairman), Malcolm Grubb, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Keith Humphries, Cllr Peter Hutton, Amanda Newbery, Cllr Pip Ridout and Cllr Bob Wright

Also Present:

Matthew Bennion-Pedley, Cllr Peter Doyle, Kieran Kilgallen and Angus Macpherson

35 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

36 Declarations of interest

Councillor Humphries declared an interest being the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection at Wiltshire Council.

37 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman highlighted the objective of the meeting was to see if the Panel could add value to the Police and Crime Plan.

38 Public Participation

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

39 Police and Crime Plan

Angus Macpherson, Police and Crime Commissioner presented his draft Police and Crime plan.

He highlighted the tight timeframes imposed by the government, stressing the key word was draft, the work involved in the consultation and preparation of the plan, and noted it was based on the 5 key objectives contained in his manifesto.

The consultation period would come to end on 10 March 2013, and the final Plan had to be published by the 31 March 2013.

The Panel were given the opportunity to question the Commissioner on all aspects of his plan.

There was a short break for lunch, after which the Panel determined its response and recommendations.

Resolved:

To submit the report and recommendations attached to these minutes as the Panel's response to the PCC's draft Police and Crime Plan.

(Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 3.30 pm)

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WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

REPORT TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ON THE DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

Introduction

The Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel met on Friday 1 March 2013, during which, and as required by law, it reviewed your draft Police and Crime Plan.

The Panel recognised that the document was still only in draft and expressed disappointment that no further time would be available to us to consider any additional points emerging from the consultation process which you might choose to include in the final document.

Review

The Panel welcomed your inclusion of victim support provisions, your recognition of the importance of partnership working and your intention to streamline the criminal justice system in Wiltshire.

However, we are concerned that whilst the plan places significant emphasis on your role as a commissioner of services it ignores your leadership role in setting priorities for the Chief Constable in dealing with the reduction in the main crime categories such as violence against the person, vehicle crime and drugs dealing.

Likewise absent apart from some cursory references, are your manifesto commitments relating to licensing and drugs and their key importance to local communities.

The Panel is concerned that because of the absence of specific timescales or budget allocations it is impossible to form any idea of your priorities within the plan. The absence of any prioritisation and clearly defined outcomes, deliverables and performance measures will make it difficult for the public to monitor your progress and for the Panel to exercise its statutory role in holding you to account for the effective policing of the County.

Any reporting of your progress is likely to be largely meaningless without specific goals and timescales being included in your plan.

The Panel raised concerns regarding what seems to be an over-reliance on community and voluntary engagement and what would happen if this significant contribution was not forthcoming. There was also no mention of the role town and parish councils could play, along with other groups such as existing Community Area Partnerships.

Of particular concern is that no mention was made to the existing statutory powers of the two Crime and Safety Partnerships (CSPs) or for the need for you to consider their existing plans and priorities.

Given that sections of the budgets of these partnerships have passed to you there seems to have been little engagement with such existing bodies and local authority teams and there was subsequently no recognition of their past and ongoing work in areas such as putting victims first, reducing offending and reoffending and protecting the vulnerable. Concern was also raised over the duplication of management / governance around Community Safety teams.

The Panel highlighted the need for a consistent definition of anti-social behaviour given the lack of uniformity across the county and raised doubt over the ability of the 9 initiatives to deliver a quantifiable 10% reduction.

The Panel was disappointed over the lack of any commitment to maintaining the strength of the establishment of Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT's) at least to their existing level.

Recommendations

The Panel makes the following specific recommendations:

1. That the front cover pictures be reviewed to present a less frightening impression.
2. That the PCC's manifesto commitments be moved to the front of the plan.
3. That chapter numbers be added (as referred to on page 30 point 6).
4. That the plan includes reference to the two missing manifesto aspects - drugs and licensing, to include details such as strategic direction, changes emerging from central government and the means of the effective delivery of these changes.
5. That the costs of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) be more comprehensively broken down e.g. overheads, oncosts, etc.
6. The Panel repeats the concerns expressed during its consideration of your precept proposal regarding the levels of reserves and requests that further consideration is given to both their level and their wider use for delivering other priorities within the plan.
7. That clarity is provided around Police staff numbers shown at the bottom of page 48, with definition, breakdown and costs. In particular we feel it is important to distinguish between 'back office' police staff and those directly engaged in policing activities.
8. The plan should include reference to your commitment not to reduce the level of

Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT) staff and provide a breakdown of the NPT establishment.

9. That in setting your priorities, delivery dates and deadlines you ensure that they reflect the information contained in the Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) and are fully aligned and coordinated with the JSA.
10. That priorities be set for the Chief Constable which are measurable and transparent to the Panel and the general public.
11. That the plan includes reference to mainstream crime by which we mean prominent and public criminal activities.
12. That the plan includes more detail on your proposals for addressing rural crime.
13. That the Service Standards should be linked to priorities, detail how they were set and by whom; and include measures by which performance can be monitored and the PCC held to account.
14. That wherever there is an undertaking or objective within the plan there will be an explanation of how progress towards that objective will be measured and reported, how often, and when the activity started or is due to start.
15. That the actual figures for both calls answered within 30 seconds on 101 and 999 calls answered within 10 seconds be amended to show the correct figure (differing figures on Pages 35 and 45).
16. That on page 46, within 'Holding the Commissioner to account', the wording be changed to make clear that the Police and Crime Panel are not the first point of contact for members of the public wishing to complain about any of the PCC's decisions. Rather they should contact the OPCC directly, referring to the Panel only if they do not receive a satisfactory response.
17. That the plan recognises the statutory powers of the CSP's and shows alignment with their plans and priorities.
18. That the plan clearly displays the governance mechanisms exercised by the OPCC over the Chief Constable.
19. That the plan includes a definition of Anti-Social Behaviour, and indicates the baseline for the measurement of the 10% reduction.
20. That the plan includes details on the performance management of Special Constables.
21. That the plan provides clarity on how the one-off investment fund of £1 million will be managed and resourced, including details of eligibility, any restrictions on usage, who approves such bids and the funding process.

22. That the plan shows targeted savings in the context of releasing resources.

The Panel understands that the closing date for public consultation on the draft plan is 10 March 2013. As you will know the next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel is 26 March 2013. We envisage that you will be responding to the Panel's comments and recommendations then.

Richard Britton, Chairman

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On behalf of the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel

08 March 2013