

North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**19 April 2018****Update following presentation of the Panel's annual report to the****Harrogate Borough Council Crime & Disorder Committee****1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update the Panel on issues raised by the Crime and Disorder Committee on 19th March 2018; and
- 1.2 To seek comment from the PCC on the issues or queries raised, where appropriate, to assist in responding to the Committee.

2.0 Crime and Disorder Committee meeting – 19 March 2018

- 2.1 Harrogate Borough Council invited the Chair and Secretariat officer to attend their Crime and Disorder Committee ("the Committee") on 19 March 2018 to present an annual update report on Panel business and future plans. The full report can be found at <https://localdemocracy.harrogate.gov.uk/opendocpack.asp?documentid=4666&meetingid=4993>. Questions received and issues raised focussed on the following points. The meeting was also attended by officers from North Yorkshire Police (NYP) whose presence had been requested on a separate item regarding operational matters, but who were also able to assist with some of the issues raised for the Panel.
- 2.2 **2018/19 policing precept.** Concern was highlighted regarding the percentage increase in the policing precept levied by the PCC for 2018/19 and that this appeared to be proportionately higher than some other Council Tax levies for the new financial year. As a supplementary issue, a query was raised regarding whether police pensions are paid for through Council Tax; this was based around a Member's concern that the uplift in the policing precept may be directed towards paying police pensions. The Panel Chair agreed to seek clarification via the PCC's office.
- 2.3 **Performance of the 101 service and investment to the Force Control Room.** The Committee reflected on their recent concerns regarding the performance of the 101 non-emergency service. There is continued concern that a large amount of crime goes unreported in Harrogate as a consequence of the public's frustration around reporting via the 101 service. The Panel Chair acknowledged that unreported crime levels do remain an unknown. The Committee sought comment on the planned £3m investment into the Force Control Room (FCR) and whether the Panel and officers of NYP felt that this would make the differences needed to improve the service in a sustainable way. The Panel Chair emphasised that it will take time for the FCR plans to reap benefits but that significant recruitment is planned and the investment should impact positively. The NYP officers present at the Committee also commented that they felt reassured by the investment plans that had been agreed and that these will bring about the improvements required. The Panel Chair reminded the Committee that the Panel has kept the

performance of the 101 service as a regular update item at its meetings, to ensure that it can retain an overview of the progress being made.

- 2.4 **Changes to police complaints handling.** The Committee were keen to understand the options available to PCCs in line with the legislative changes around the handling of police complaints. The Committee were advised that very few PCCs are currently exploring taking on the full remit of options available under the new legislation and that the Panel has been in contact with the LGA, Home Office and others to better understand the legislative changes. The Panel is particularly keen to understand whether there will be any attendant impact on the Panel's own complaints procedures. The Panel will be taking a paper on the changes around complaints handling from the OPCC in due course. A key concern for the Committee was the need for any changes in process to be absolutely transparent for the public and that a poorly communicated change could result in confusion and further complaints.
- 2.5 **ICT infrastructure and mobile working.** The Committee discussed the forecast savings in ICT at NYP as outlined during the Panel's consideration of the PCC' precept proposal, and were keen to explore how this levelled with the requirement for further investment. The attending NYP officers discussed around the "invest to save" principle and that while savings do need to be made, particular investments such as body-worn cameras have been critical to supporting frontline work. They also reflected very positively on the rollout of mobile working technology for frontline officers and felt this had saved a lot of time which would previously have been taken up in going back to a station to produce reports or upload documents from a scene.
- 2.6 **Panel task and finish groups.** The Committee Chair asked the Panel representatives for further information about the task and finish groups which have met outside of the public Panel meetings and what they are achieving. The Committee were advised that these groups have enabled smaller numbers of Panel members to get a more detailed briefing from NYP officers, to help develop understanding and improve the scrutiny undertaken in Panel meetings themselves. The Committee were advised that the current themes will need to be reviewed in due course to identify whether they continue to reflect areas of concern or interest; particularly if changes are made to the governance of the Fire and Rescue Service.
- 2.7 The Committee also reflected on the recently expanded remit given to PCCs under legislation in relation to governance options for the Fire and Rescue Service and on police complaints handling. They expressed concerns around the accountability of the framework and wished to note that whilst they felt the Panel are working hard to deliver scrutiny of the PCC's performance, it was a cause for concern that the Panel's powers are fairly limited and that this may result in a lack of oversight of the PCC's possibly expanded remit.
- 2.8 The PCC is invited to comment on the points raised with the Panel by the Committee and in particular with reference to the query highlighted at paragraph 2.2. The Panel will refer any comments made back in writing to the Chair of the Committee.
- 2.9 The Panel may wish to note that the Chair and Secretariat officer will be attending the

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Craven District Council Crime and Disorder Committee meeting to present an annual report on 11th April 2018. An update on this meeting will be provided to the May 2018 Panel meeting.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 That the Panel:

- (a) note the update provided; and
- (b) invite the PCC to assist in providing a response to the query at paragraph 2.2, in addition to providing any comments on the other issues raised by the Committee.

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10th April 2018

Background Documents: None.