

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Economic and Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	14 th March 2013
TITLE:	Police and Crime Commissioner: Update
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report:	
Police and crime commissioners: a guide for councils	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report sets out an update on the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset, focusing in particular on activities impacting on communities within Bath and North East Somerset.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Economic and Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel is asked to agree that:

- 2.1 The report be noted
- 2.2 Any key issues or questions raised be reported through the relevant processes

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, funding which had come previously to the local authority for community safety has been consolidated with other funding streams to create a fund which from 2013/14 is under the control of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Although it is difficult to compare old and new funding streams on a "like for like" basis, an assessment of the impact of these changes has identified no financial implications for the Council in 2013/14. From 2014/15 this funding will be consolidated within overall funding for Policing and any impacts of this change will need to be considered when information is available.

4 THE REPORT

4.1 Elections for Police and Crime Commissioners took place on 15th November 2012. Sue Mountstevens was elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset and took the “oath of impartiality” on 21st November 2012.

4.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner’s roles are to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force within their area, and to hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. PCCs raise the local policing precept from Council Tax (subject to a power of veto from two thirds of the Police and Crime Panel) and are responsible for the appointment, suspension and dismissal of the Chief Constable.

4.3 Police and Crime Panels have been established to scrutinise, challenge and maintain a regular check and balance on the performance and activities of the Commissioner. Panels have the power to request reports and call the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend their meetings. The LGA document Police and crime commissioners: a guide for councils, attached as an Appendix to this report, sets out in more detail the various relationships.

4.4 Below is a summary of key activities and milestones undertaken by the PCC so far in carrying out the various roles of the office:

- The PCC has agreed a budget comprising expenditure of £279m and no increase to the precept
- The PCC has appointed a new Chief Constable
- Consultation has taken place on the Police and Crime Plan. One document will cover the force area and there will also be local plans for each of the Police Districts in the force area including Bath and North East Somerset. The PCC has identified the following priorities, which are reflected in these documents:

Tackle anti-social behaviour

Tackle violent crime, particularly against women and girls

Tackle burglary

To give victims a louder voice, especially the 'quiet ones'

- As part of the consultation, the PCC visited our area on 4th February, holding feedback sessions in Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Bath
- The PCC has also visited local projects in Bath & North East Somerset. A visit on 13th December 2012 involved meeting with Julian House, the Bath and District Business Crime Reduction Partnership, Developing Health and Independence, Project 28 and the Council’s new Communications Hub which houses the 24-hour CCTV monitoring and control operation. The PCC also met partners at the Community Safety Partnership meeting held on 15th January. Further visits are planned.

4.5 In anticipation of the introduction of PCCs, the Community Safety Partnership in Bath and North East Somerset has in recent years refocused its work to concentrate on:

- Using partner resources to help deliver Community Safety Plan priorities - for example, attracting BID funding to create an integrated marshalling service in Bath city centre
- Involving communities in local projects such as the Midsomer Norton Community Alcohol Partnership.
- Planning for the ending of Government funding to Councils for Community Safety from 1st April 2013 and its replacement by a new fund under the control of Police and Crime Commissioners

4.6 The PCC has now made decisions about the method by which the Community Safety funding received from Government will be allocated. Some funding will be used for force-wide projects, including support for Independent Sexual Violence Advisors, which had previously been funded by Community Safety Partnerships. The PCC has also agreed to allocate sums back to Community Safety Partnerships for local projects. In the case of Bath and North East Somerset, it is proposed that this be used to deliver outcomes relating to domestic violence, vulnerable victims and young people's substance misuse.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance

6 EQUALITIES

An EqIA has not been completed for the following reasons

- 6.1 The report is an information/update report on the activities of a third party which is itself subject to relevant Equalities legislation
- 6.2 EqIAs will be undertaken where the Council is considering its own decisions in relation to activities, projects and budgets which are impacted by processes set out in this report

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Cabinet Member; Staff; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer
- 7.2 Views were sought on an initial draft of this report and feedback incorporated

8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

- 8.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Young People; Human Rights; Corporate; Other Legal Considerations

9 ADVICE SOUGHT

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	