

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO CLEVELAND
POLICE & CRIME PANEL**

26 JUNE 2014

**JOINT REPORT OF HEAD
OF DEMOCRATIC
SERVICES, AND HEAD OF
COMMUNITY
PROTECTION**

POLICE & CRIME PANEL SCRUTINY PROGRAMME

PURPOSE

This report provides detail of the work undertaken for the PCP Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14 and requests topics for scrutiny during 2014/15.

DETAIL

On 18 July 2013 the PCP considered 10 topics for possible scrutiny received from Panel Members and those that arose from the regular discussions between Cllr Stephenson as Chair of the Panel and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

The topics were:

- Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs)
- Management of police officer hours
- **Work in schools**
- 'Drug Treatment'/Substance Misuse Interventions in Custody
- Shared Services
- Energy efficiency in the changes and use of buildings and procurement and use of vehicles.
- **The future of Probation Services**
- Complaints
- Crime levels
- **Overall budget strategy**

Following agreement of scrutiny topics selected for review (in bold) for the 2013/14 work programme the Panel appointed members to sub-groups as required for the reviews.

Overall Budget Strategy

A Task and Finish Group was established to understand the key issues and financial pressures as part of the budget setting process for 2014/15 and beyond, in order to inform the work of the Panel and PCC. This included both the longer term financial planning process and the impact of the 2014/15 Government grant settlement. This settlement was announced on 18 December during the timescale of the Group's work.

It was assumed that the police service will face future central government cuts in line with the wider public sector beyond 2015/16. For Cleveland, from 2016/17 there are significant

challenges. The budget gap is projected to be £6.3m in that year, and reach £11.5m by 2017/18.

There are a number of risks expected particularly the potential for increased demand on services, larger grant cuts than expected, and a failure to deliver the current savings proposals on time and to target.

Due to the ongoing need to review the budget strategy, it was recommended and subsequently agreed by the Panel to reconstitute the Task Group during 2014/15. This would allow Members to consider both the funding pressures but also the achievement of current savings plans and initiatives.

The Group further recommended that the full Panel receive a financial update mid 2014/15, potentially based on the quarterly PCC monitoring reports, in order that they have early sight of the achievement of saving plans and any emerging issues.

Work in Schools

The PCP sub-group has focussed on the work of Cleveland Police, both by officers in specialist roles and by officers and PCSOs from Neighbourhood Policing Teams as well as extending this across the community safety related work done by partners.

This review is ongoing having taken evidence from police officers, PCSOs, Community Safety Managers, and Head Teachers and Governors from the four local authority areas. It is now expected to report in October 2014

The Future of Probation Services

A sub-group met on 18 June to consider changes to the Probation Service that were being developed at a national level. Members were provided with information regarding the changes in respect of local Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in the operation of offender management and service delivery in the community.

PANEL RESPONSIBILITIES 2014/15

The Police and Crime Panel is reminded of its role as scrutinising the actions and decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner, thereby holding the PCC to account.

In addition, the Panel may wish to carry out an in depth scrutiny review into a particular issue or concern. This may be a policy or performance issue in relation to priorities contained in the Police and Crime Plan.

Any additional work which the Panel may wish to undertake should be supportive and complementary to its statutory functions with the Panel acting as a critical friend; a supportive, but independent voice seeking to scrutinise the PCC in the interests of recommending appropriate changes and improvements. In addition, the work programme should avoid duplication and remain flexible and responsive.

It is, however, important that when identifying topics for additional work, the Panel takes into account the capacity and resources needed to carry out the investigation, to ensure that the review programme is manageable. It is also important to prioritise the issues identified, so that the work of the Panel is adding value.

The Panel is therefore asked to identify and consider suitable topics for scrutiny review during 2014/15. In selecting topics, the Panel may wish to consider whether:

- there is public demand / a real need for the review
- there is a genuine opportunity through the reviews to influence policy and practice
- there is a clear focus for the review, recognising that going 'deep and narrow' can have more impact than 'broad but shallow'

NEXT STEPS

The Panel will forward items in relation to priorities contained in the Police and Crime Plan for inclusion on the Scrutiny Programme to the Chair of the PCP, or Head of Stockton Council's Democratic Services, by 10 July 2014 so that the Panel can set the 2014/15 scrutiny work programme at its meeting on 24 July 2014.

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