

## Sussex Police and Crime Panel

30 June 2017

### Annual Report from the Host Authority

### Report by The Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

#### Recommendations

That the Panel:

1. Notes the budget outturn for 2016/17.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Panel incurred the costs below in respect of its operation in the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

- £64,304 for administrative expenses.
- £1,690 for members' expenses.

Total: £65,994

In line with the terms of the grant, the Host Authority (West Sussex County Council) submitted a claim for this amount in May 2017.

- 1.2 The Panel considers a summary of its operating costs every year, at its Annual Meeting. A breakdown of expenses can be found on the Panel's webpage: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/pcp](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/pcp).

#### 2. Discussion

- 2.1 The Panel formally met four times in 2016/17 to undertake its statutory duties.

- 2.2 Implementation of the Chief Constable's Local Policing Programme remained an issue of concern to Panel members and residents alike. An update was considered at the January meeting, and members used the context of the Programme to frame questions on matters such as the precept/budget and the Police and Crime Plan. The visible policing presence and concerns over the number of PCSOs were the main issues raised by the public. Panel members additionally stressed the importance of the nature and scope of communication with affected communities.

- 2.3 The Panel worked closely with the Commissioner, both in formal session and in Working Group meetings to develop the budget and proposed precept. The Panel considered the Medium Term Financial Forecast in autumn 2016 in preparation for undertaking its statutory duty to review the proposed precept in January 2017. There was robust challenge to both the consultation process, and the underlying justification for the proposed precept increase. The Panel ultimately approved a 3.36% (£5 on band D) increase.
- 2.4 The Police and Crime Plan Working Group acted as a critical friend to the development of the Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 2021. The Panel undertook its statutory duty, reviewing the Plan at its meeting in January 2017. While the Working Group's recommendations were mostly all adopted, Panel concerns around the lack of performance measures were not addressed within the final version, the PCC maintaining that the Plan was written in accordance with the latest national guidance.
- 2.5 As required under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, a confirmation hearing was held for the Commissioner's proposed appointment of the Chief Finance Officer of the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Iain McCulloch. The Panel questioned the candidate on issues of personal independence and professional competence, and recommended that he be appointed.
- 2.6 The Panel undertook a tour of the Resolution Centre. Staffed by police officers, it plays an integral role in the Local Policing Programme. During the course of the tour Panel members had the opportunity to observe call-handlers at work and thereby gain a better understanding of the nature and sensitivity of their role, and the process that victims of crime were taken through.
- 2.7 The annual HMIC Inspection, and the PCC's reaction, were considered by the Panel in April 2017. In respect of effectiveness Sussex Police was found to be "requires improvement". An aligned issue was performance in supporting harassment and stalking victims, which had been an area of focus in the Police and Crime Plan, funded through an increase in the precept. Members learned of the measures being implemented to bring about improvement, including mandatory training.
- 2.8 In summer 2016 the Panel had a training session, open to both principal members and their substitutes, delivered by Frontline Consulting. Attending members found the content informative, but particularly valued the opportunity to reflect on different aspects of the Panel's work and performance. Recommendations arising from the session were considered by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and subsequently implemented.

### **3. Funding for 2017/2018**

- 3.1 The Home Office has confirmed that funding will remain unchanged for 2017/18, comprising £53,300 for Panel administration costs, and up to £18,400 (20 x £920), available for members' allowable expenses). The two sums are not ring-fenced.
- 3.2 The funding will be paid in arrears, in six-monthly instalments. The PCP must publish details of all Panel expenditure, including administration costs and individual Panel member claims for expenses, on its website. Per para 1.2, the Panel has complied with this requirement.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that the staff costs of administering the Panel will be achieved within the envelope of funding provided by the Home Office for the forthcoming year.

### **4. Resource Implications and Value for Money**

- 4.1 The Constitution of Sussex Police and Crime Panel states that its total running costs shall be contained within the funding provided by the Home Office.

### **5. Risk Management Implications**

- 5.1 None

### **6. Other Considerations – Equality – Crime Reduction – Human Rights**

- 6.1 Not applicable

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