

## **REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE ORGANISATION POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**DATE OF MEETING: TUESDAY 12 JULY 2016**

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: 'YOUR POLICING PRIORITIES' CONSULTATION BY  
THE AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**TOWN OR PARISH: ALL**

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: HOWARD POTHECARY, COMMUNITY  
SAFETY MANAGER**

**KEY DECISION: NO**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- I. That the Panel notes the 'Your Policing Priorities' consultation which has been launched by the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner and considers opportunities to raise awareness of the consultation within local communities in North Somerset.
- II. That the Panel notes the opportunity to make individual responses to the consultation. Details of how to access the consultation are set out at the end of this report.
- III. That the Panel considers any feedback which they would wish to be included in the North Somerset People and Communities Board response to the consultation. The People and Communities Board fulfils the role of Community Safety Partnership in North Somerset and has been invited to respond to the consultation.

### **1. SUMMARY OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset has launched a consultation on the priorities which she proposes to include in the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan for the period October 2016 to April 2021.
- 1.2 The report sets out the priorities which the Police and Crime Commissioner is consulting upon and provides information on how to access the consultation.
- 1.3 The report seeks the Panel's views on the questions raised within the consultation so that these can be captured in a response to the consultation by the North Somerset People and Communities Board (Community Safety Partnership).

### **2. POLICY**

- 2.1 The North Somerset People and Communities Strategy and the North Somerset Council Corporate Plan set out ambitions to build safer and stronger communities.

### **3. DETAILS**

- 3.1 All Police and Crime Commissioners have a statutory responsibility to produce a Police and Crime Plan for their area.
- 3.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset has launched a public consultation called 'Your Policing Priorities'. This consultation sets out the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed priorities for inclusion in the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan which will cover the period October 2016 to April 2021. The consultation runs from 24 June to 30 August 2016.
- 3.3 Once an overall plan has been developed for Avon and Somerset, the Police and Crime Commissioner proposes to work collaboratively with Community Safety Partnerships across Avon and Somerset to produce more local plans. This would mean a North Somerset version of the plan would be developed. This would follow the model established during the Police and Crime Commissioner's first term. Both the North Somerset People and Communities Board and the Policy and Scrutiny Panel have previously endorsed this approach, highlighting the importance of a more local plan.
- 3.4. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset is proposing the following four priorities for inclusion in the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan:

#### **I. Vulnerability**

The consultation sets out the Police and Crime Commissioner's wish to be a fierce advocate for victims and ensure the most vulnerable are protected. She wants to prioritise working collaboratively to be most effective at prevention, support and enforcement. Areas of focus under the priority of vulnerability include abuse (domestic, sexual, child – including female genital mutilation), exploitation (child sexual exploitation, modern slavery), hate crime and people who are mentally ill and come into contact with the police

#### **II. Strengthening and improving your local policing teams**

The PCC wishes to ensure the police are accessible and tackle the crimes that matter most to you – for example road safety, burglary, anti-social behaviour and cyber-crime. She also intends to strengthen the support for, and impact of, Specials, Volunteers, and Watches (e.g. neighbourhood watch, community speedwatch)

#### **III. Ensuring Avon and Somerset Constabulary have the right people, right equipment and right culture**

The PCC intends to work with the Chief Constable, focusing on providing suitable equipment and technology, supporting the representative workforce programme and reforming the complaints system

#### **IV. Working together effectively**

The PCC plans to work with other Constabularies and public sector organisations to share enabling services to make savings to reinvest on priority areas. She wishes to transform the criminal justice system into a truly local service in order to make it

more speedy and effective. She intends to further develop effective working arrangements with local authorities, fire authorities and community safety partnerships. She also wants to strengthen opportunities for residents to interact with the police and get further involved in supporting policing.

- 3.5 The current Police and Crime Plan for Avon and Somerset sets out *burglary, anti-social behavior, domestic and sexual violence, putting victims first and road safety* as priorities. Road safety was added as a priority in 2015 following annual public consultation by the Police and Crime Commissioner. These issues continue to be reflected in the above list, with a particular emphasis on the most vulnerable victims. The proposed priorities also add a focus on *how* the priorities will be delivered by both a Constabulary with the right people, equipment and culture and through collaborative working. This collaborative working extends to working with communities and volunteers.
- 3.6 The North Somerset People and Communities Board is currently reviewing its priorities and developing a new People and Communities Strategy. However, current community safety priorities are:
- Reducing anti-social behaviour
  - Reducing domestic abuse
  - Reducing re-offending
  - Developing and Implementing the Prevent Plan
  - Better drug and alcohol recovery opportunities
- 3.7 The North Somerset Partnership and North Somerset Council Corporate Plan both emphasise the importance of working in partnership and there is a track record in North Somerset of putting this into practice including through development of the Community Response Project, joint funding of domestic abuse support services, and shared office accommodation.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 This report sets out details of the 'Your Policing Priorities' consultation which has been launched by the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 4.2 The report provides an opportunity for members of the Panel to feed into the North Somerset People and Communities Board response to the consultation.
- 4.3 By providing details on how to access the consultation, the report also raises awareness of the opportunity for local people to take part in the consultation.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Panel may wish to note that there is currently an expectation that the funding the Police and Crime Commissioner provides to Community Safety Partnerships is used in ways which contributes to the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities. Continued alignment of the PCC's priorities with local priorities is therefore important in ensuring that any monies which the PCC makes available to Community Safety Partnerships can continue to be allocated to the most significant local priorities. |

## **6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 This consultation provides an opportunity to ensure that the Police and Crime Commissioner sets priorities which align with the priorities in North Somerset.
- 6.2 There will be a further opportunity to develop a joint plan with the PCC for North Somerset specifically.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Being safe and feeling safe affect some communities disproportionately (including those with protected characteristics). The Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed priorities reflect this by highlighting 'vulnerability' as a particular priority.
- 7.2 The consultation is widely available through the Police and Crime Commissioner's website and in paper copy by request.

## **8. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Building safer and stronger communities currently features in both the North Somerset People and Communities Strategy and the North Somerset Council Corporate Plan.
- 8.2 Both the North Somerset Partnership and North Somerset Council have reflected the key role of partnership working in their current plans.
- 8.3 Alignment of the PCC's priorities with local concerns will strengthen the approach to addressing these issues.

## **9. OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 This report provides an opportunity for the Panel to feed into the North Somerset People and Communities Board response to the Police and Crime Commissioner's consultation.
- 9.2 The report also raises awareness of the opportunity to take part in the Police and Crime Commissioner consultation which is available to all members of the public on the PCC's website and by paper copy on request.

## **AUTHOR**

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Police and Crime Commissioner's 'Your Policing Priorities' consultation can be accessed at [www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Take-Part/Your-policing-priorities-consultation.aspx](http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Take-Part/Your-policing-priorities-consultation.aspx) or please call 01275 816377 for paper copies.