

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY (CPA) RECENT ISSUES

TO: Cambridgeshire County Council
DATE: 27th March 2012
FROM: Chairman, Cambridgeshire Police Authority

1. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (P&CC) UPDATE

In December 2011, the Full Authority approved Cambridgeshire Police Authority's Transition Checklist, the aim of which is to achieve a smooth transition to new governance arrangements in November. The majority of the police authority checklist is assessed as 'Green' and continues to be reviewed as additional national information is made available. The creation of a new Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel Project Group brings officers together from Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire Police Authority, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and district representatives to work through the financial, HR, governance (establishment of the Panel), communications and performance issues affecting local authorities. This will report to the Countywide Community Safety Board.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Members voted in favour of a 2.92 per cent increase in the policing part of the council tax (precept) on February 9. The increase amounts to around ten pence per week for a Band D household and followed engagement with the public and discussion with the constabulary over whether or not to accept the one off grant offered by the government to freeze council tax at the current level. The meeting heard that the increase in council tax enables the Police Authority to plan for maintaining 50 operational staff posts in 2012-13. The authority's/ Police & Crime Commissioner's net budget for 2012/13 will be £127.6m. The policing element of the current Band D council tax is £169.56 per year (£3.26 per week). This amount will rise to £174.51 per year. Cambridgeshire Constabulary has already identified £11m of the £17m currently estimated to be required over four years.

3. OPERATION REDESIGN

The Constabulary restructuring programme, Operation ReDesign, has moved into its implementation phase with a delivery deadline of 2nd April 2012. The new local policing delivery model comprises three thematic command areas – Local Policing Command (Chief/Superintendent Andy Hebb), Investigation Command (Chief/Superintendent Karen Daber) and the Corporate Development Command (Chief/Superintendent Nigel Sunman). In addition there will be six geographical command areas each with an Area Commander. These are:

Peterborough – Superintendent Dan Vajzovic
Fenland – Chief Inspector Mike Winters
Huntingdonshire – Chief Inspector Chris Mead
East Cambridgeshire – Chief Inspector Russ Waterston
South Cambridgeshire – Chief Inspector Darren Alderson
Cambridge – Superintendent Vicky Skeels

4. COLLABORATION

The Strategic Alliance between Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire continues work to drive out savings by working collaboratively. The Strategic Alliance Agreement will result in over 50% of force business being undertaken by collaborative units. The overall outcome by 2015/16 will therefore be a three force structure whereby local policing is locally owned under the direction of control of the appointed Chief Constable, but with all other services delivered jointly by the chief constables of the three forces. This is an ambitious and innovative programme that, to the knowledge of the team, is not being introduced elsewhere in the country.

Four business cases relating to Armed Policing, Major Crime, Professional Standards and Scientific Services have already been agreed and are currently being implemented, with Professional Standards going live in January 2012, and the remaining three going live during April/May 2012. These will deliver some £3m of cashable savings for the three forces.

Further work is now being undertaken within the remainder of Protective Services, with the intention to have the majority of Protective Services operating under collaborative arrangements by the end of the calendar year. The areas currently under scope are Roads Policing; Dogs; Serious and Organised Crime; Operational and Contingency Planning; and Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism. Other work streams include Organisational Support (Human Resources, Finance, ICT and Estates) and Operational Support (activities such as Contact Management/Call Handling and Criminal Justice)

5. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The constabulary are on track to exceed the target to reduce crime by 10% over three years. Total recorded crime has fallen by 7.9% compared to the baseline (4456 fewer offences). Recorded levels of Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) and All Recorded Violence with Injury have reduced by 16.3% and 15.8% respectively compared to the baseline. The volume of reported Domestic Abuse has fallen in all Local Areas with the exception of Huntingdonshire (where a marginal increase is noted). The constabulary is cautious when interpreting these figures as Domestic Abuse is often under reported. The Serious Sexual Offences detection rate has significantly improved compared to the March 2011 baseline and stands at 26.8%. This is in line with the Most Similar Force peer group average.

6. LOCAL POLICING PLAN (LPP) PROGRESS

The final version of the 2012-15 Local Policing Plan will be presented to the full Police Authority for approval on 22nd March. The approved LPP will be provided to the Home Office on 31st March 2012. However, work will continue on the plan to ensure the latest performance and finance details are included for publication by required date of 30th June 2012. A summary of the plan will be produced in a leaflet form, supported by an external communications plan, to inform the public of the policing priorities for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

7. CALL HANDLING

Councillors will recall that following changes made to staffing within Contact Management, call handling performance deteriorated. Most recent data shows an improved picture. Of particular concern at the time was the Proportion of Public Calls answered by the Police Service Centre (PSC) within target. This rate had improved to

just under 75% in October and has subsequently improved to just under 85% at the end of January. Both of the other two main indicators shown have improved; the proportion of 999 calls answered within target has increased to more than 95% in January – this is consistent with the highest levels achieved. The proportion of public calls answered by the Force Control Room (FCR) within target has also improved, with 95% answered within target. In order to accelerate the progress with improvement in call handling performance a ‘Gold’ group met on 29th February, chaired by Chief Superintendent Andy Hebb - Head of Local Policing and attended by the Deputy Chief Constable and Police Authority Member – Mrs Viv McGuire. This group have approved additional measures including training which forms part of an action plan to target measures to speed up improvement to service. The Police Authority is aware that further improvements are required in this area and will continue to closely monitor the situation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	Location	Contact
Police Authority Minutes	Cambridgeshire Police Authority Room G038 Cambridgeshire Constabulary Headquarters Hinchingsbrooke Park Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 6NP	Anna Horne Anna.Horne@cambs.pnn.police.uk