

**COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT  
CABINET PANEL**

**WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY AT 10.00 AM**

**UPDATE REPORT FROM DAVID LLOYD POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER  
FOR HERTFORDSHIRE**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

To provide a brief update on work to progress the Police and Crime Plan Everybody's Business (2015-2020).

**2. Budget announcement**

**2.1.1** The government's spending review confirmed that the policing budget would be protected in real terms until 2019/20. The Commissioner issued an Open Letter ahead of setting the police precept for Council Tax to set out his principles and thoughts on the level of the precept and gather feedback.

**2.1.2** The Commissioner set out in his Open Letter the Constabulary's sound financial position, the high level of reserves (£48.3 million) and well-developed savings plan, and his proposal to only take from the public what is required to provide the level of service needed to meet on-going policing demands and invest in new and emerging areas of crime. The Commissioner is keen to only take what is required from the public to continue to deliver the efficiencies that they have committed to and the situation has changed given the government's announcement.

**2.1.3** The consultation showed that there was not an appetite for the precept to be reduced by a large amount. Therefore the Commissioner has decided to only make a modest cut in the precept, reducing the Band D Council Tax precept for policing by 0.55 per cent, to a figure of £147.00. This amounts to a reduction of 82p for a Band D household for the year 2016/17.

**2.1.4** The overall budget for policing in Hertfordshire will go up from £190.4 million in 2015/16 to £195.7 million in 2016/17; this represents a 2.8 per cent increase. Budgets across all areas of the Constabulary will be increasing and investment will focus on building capacity and capability in key areas of demand including safeguarding, cyber-crime and child sexual exploitation. From 2016/17 funding will also be made available for new investments into those stubborn and persistent issues of concern to the public, as outlined in the Police and Crime Plan, Everybody's Business (2015-2020) which include anti-social behaviour, speeding and fly-tipping.

### **Launch of a new Road Safety Fund**

- 2.2.1** The Police and Crime Plan Everybody's Business (2015- 2020) outlines a commitment to supporting a range of projects and initiatives based around the principle of offenders paying for the harm they have caused. This includes undertaking a concerted attack on criminal assets to recover the proceeds of crime, and to utilise the income generated by offenders to pay for initiatives to help victims and communities. The Police and Crime Plan makes a specific reference to ensuring that the public is able to see how income generated from offenders is being spent.
- 2.2.2** Issues relating to anti-social driving including speeding, driving without a seat belt, the use of mobile phones, and drug and alcohol related driving are frequently raised as concerns by the residents. Using the surplus generated from speeding tickets, speed awareness courses, accident reports and court income through the Cameras Tickets and Collisions Unit (CTC) will be used to support a range of educational, enforcement and engineering activities to improve road safety. For Hertfordshire, the surplus generated amounts to £1.3m for the period 2014-2016. Subsequent amounts will be announced annually.
- 2.2.3** In partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) will use the Strategic Road Safety Partnership to manage and administer the Road Safety Fund. Applications will be invited from the community; voluntary organisations and partners agencies from early February 2016 and grants awarded to organisations will be awarded on 1st April 2016. A new Road Safety Programme Manager is being appointed to help manage the fund and the partnership's work programme around road safety in Hertfordshire County Council.

### **Launch of Employee Supported Policing**

- 2.3.1** The OPCC is launching a revamped Employee Supported Policing Programme which will seek to work with local businesses to give their employees time off to volunteer as a Special Constable. This has significant benefits for the Constabulary in helping to bring in vital skills into the policing and crime arena, and in turn, bring back transferable skills back into businesses. The Police and Crime Commissioner will be hosting an event on 2 March to formally launch Phase 1 of the scheme.

### **Countywide Community Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel**

- 2.4.1** The Countywide Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel will be producing an Annual Report and reporting back on their findings over the past year to the Commissioner's Community Safety Board in March. A review of around 100 Stop and Search forms contained very short descriptions for the grounds of the search, and in particular, lacked evidence on why the initial stop had taken place. Some forms were very vague regarding what they suspected they might find on the individual. Often officers recorded the narrative from the start of the search and what they believed they might find on that individual, rather

than the behaviour of the individual prior to the search, and an explanation regarding what contributed to their suspicion.

**2.4.2** Findings from their meetings over the past year have shown that there is significant variation in the number of stop searches across Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). Recent data from 1st April to 31st December 2015 show variation both in the volume of stop and searches carried out, and also the arrest rate and number of positive disposals. This ranges from a 22 per cent (arrest rate) in Welwyn Hatfield and 36 per cent (positive disposal and arrest rate) in St Albans to 8 per cent arrest rate and 25 per cent positive disposal rate in Three Rivers.

**2.4.3** Moving forward, the panel intend to undertake a 'deep dive' of stop and search forms from identified CSPs that have considerably lower arrest rates and positive disposals than the Hertfordshire average. This will help the panel to examine in more depth what compliance looks like in specific areas, and where improvements to the training of officers can be made.

A full report will be circulated in March 2016.

## **Victims Commissioning**

### **2.5.1 Beacon update**

A significant programme of work continues to support victims. Beacon provides a comprehensive service to victims, whether they chose to report their crime or not, including:

- Updates on Crime
- Practical Support
- Home security
- Contact friends/family
- Completing claim forms
- Victim Personal Statements
- Transportation
- Advocacy
- Emotional Support

Between 4<sup>th</sup> June – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 Beacon data showed:

- 48,022 crimes recorded in Hertfordshire
- 42,740 victims
- 11,269 priority group victims
- 1,153 receiving enhanced service
- 263 Victims have been referred over to HHSS
- 609 Phone calls made to the 0300 Beacon Hotline
- 4,139\* website visits. Traffic at around 20 visits per day

**2.5.2** As part of the Ministry of Justice requirements, Beacon has been promoted using a range of communication outlets including advertisements in local

district magazines (Dacorum Digest, Link, Hertsmere News, Outlook, Three Rivers Times, Horizons, Welwyn and Hatfield Life); Radio advertisement-Heart FM – audience of 150,000; leaflets and posters and distributed to all the district council offices and information available within GP surgeries including waiting room screens.

**2.5.3** The OPCC hosted a Beacon Partnership Champions Event in January 2016 with partners to discuss and share best practice, engage in educational events and to support the Beacon centre by offering third party referral pathways and/or offering services to victims of crime. Herts Valleys CCG Community Navigator scheme has also engaged as a service delivery partner.

**2.5.4** Restorative Justice (RJ) Week took place in November and work continues to roll out the pilot schemes to allow victims access to RJ should they choose this as an option.

- Community Remedy. Develops where a victim would like an apology in person from the offender. The pilot went live on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Welwyn Hatfield.
- Pre-sentence (early guilty plea). A detailed process is being developed through the Criminal Justice Department and Courts.

### **New Hate Crime Research**

**2.6.1** The Centre for Hate Studies at the University of Leicester were commissioned in December 2015 in Partnership with Herts Police and Herts County Council to deliver research on the views and expectations of hate crime support services in Hertfordshire.

**2.6.2** It is the first of its kind focussed only on victims and victims' services. There has been a high response rate - thanks to all who have provided support. The findings will be used to inform the commissioning intentions for specialist services for victims of hate crime to help them cope and recover and feed into the new County Hate Crime Strategy. The Research comprises a survey and interviews and started in January 2016 and will finish in April 2016 with a report being published in May 2016, post-election.

### **Moving forward**

**2.7.1** The MOJ has confirmed funding for victims services for one year. The local settlement for Hertfordshire will be announced over the coming weeks. Officers will press ahead with the programme of work to develop and enhance Beacon's services including:

- Working with Action Fraud regarding victims' needs
- Working with the CCSU around repeat and targeted victims.
- Ensuring compliance and monitoring of the Victims Code of Practice
- Setting up a sub-group to undertake dip sample of completed cases

- 'Out of hours' burglary vulnerable victim support service including remedial clear up and emotional support.

**2.7.2** In addition, the revised Victims Code of Practice now covers victims of all crimes (not just notifiable crimes) and introduces new responsibilities on responsible authorities. The OPCC is considering these additional requirements and developing plans to ensure compliancy.

**2.7.3** We are also keen to resolve a long-standing issue in relation to the coordination of the victim/witness beginning to end journey through the CJS and look to enable a step change in the way that victims are able to access a range of coordinated services in Hertfordshire to help them cope and recover from their ordeal. The OPCC will be looking to develop Beacon so that it coordinates the victim/witness journey throughout the Criminal Justice System therefore ensuring that the entire experience is seamless as possible.