

**COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE MANAGEMENT  
CABINET PANEL**

**THURSDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 10.00A.M.**

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

*Author: Chris Brace, Chief Executive, Hertfordshire Office of  
Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC)*

**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To provide an update to the Panel about the current work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**2. Summary**

2.1 Updates have been provided in relation to the following items:

- Recruitment of frontline officers
- Hertfordshire Independent Stop and Search Community Scrutiny Panel – Meeting in Public
- Retail Crime Seminar for Hertfordshire Businesses 23 October 2019
- Community Connection Days
- Hertfordshire Problem Solving Conference 2019
- Launch of the Hertfordshire Fraud and Scams Strategy
- Beacon Fraud Hub
- Local Partnership Reserve: Funding to Support Crime and ASB Reduction Initiatives 2019/20
- Community Safety Grant 2020/21

**3. Recommendation**

3.1 That the Cabinet Panel notes the report.

**4. Recruitment of frontline officers**

4.1 The number of police officers in Hertfordshire Constabulary are continuing to rise following the increase in the council tax precept at the start of the year. In September, an additional 15 officers graduated into the force having completed their 16-week training course, and have already started performing their duties at local stations across the county. Panel members will have received the press release detailing where the new officers are deployed.

- 4.2 The Constabulary are continuing to recruit to meet the current establishment figure of 2,034, with more intakes scheduled over the coming months.
- 5. Hertfordshire Independent Stop and Search Community Scrutiny Panel – Meeting in Public**
- 5.1 On Tuesday 23 July 2019, Hertfordshire's Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel held their third annual meeting in public at the Nobel School in Stevenage.
- 5.2 The meeting seeks to expand on the Panel's ongoing aims to ensure public confidence and trust in the use of stop and search powers across Hertfordshire by providing members of the public with the opportunity to attend a meeting.
- 5.3 The meeting was opened by the Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner, Stuart Nagler, who gave a short overview of the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme and how the Panel apply this guidance as part of their scrutiny role. Attendees were then able to hear from the Panel's Chair as well as the Chief Inspector for Crime Prevention and Community Safety. As part of these presentations, attendees were informed of the current position in Hertfordshire in regards to the use of stop and search by the constabulary.
- From April 2018-March 2019 the Panel reviewed 388 dip-samples of stop and search records out of a total 7,103 which were completed in Hertfordshire (5.4%) and the Panel's position of confidence had increased by 6.5% in contrast to last year (a confidence level of 82.5 percent).
  - The average level for stop and search across the last 3 years is 599 stops per month. Controlled Drugs is consistently the top search objective month by month and this is usually followed by Articles in connection with Burglary and Theft.
  - In 2018/2019, 69.9% of stop and searches resulted in No Further Action, a 3.7% increase from the previous year. It was noted that No Further Action doesn't mean that No Action was taken, words of advice may have been given instead of enforcement action.
- 5.4 At this time, attendees were provided with an opportunity to ask questions of the Panel, the OPCC and the Constabulary. These questions focused on levels of disproportionality in Hertfordshire, training given to officers on stop and search and the feedback process through which the Panel report back their comments to the Constabulary.
- 5.5 Finally, members of the public were provided with an opportunity to see the Panel complete their scrutiny role. This included a roundtable discussion of the monthly summary data as well as the dip-sampling of grounds recorded by officers following a search.

## **6. Retail Crime Seminar for Hertfordshire Businesses, 23 October 2019**

- 6.1 On the 23 October 2019, 45 local retailers attended the PCC and Independent Business Advisory Group's breakfast seminar. Retailers were given the opportunity to hear from experts about the retail crime landscape in Hertfordshire, advice on how to prevent businesses from becoming a victim of cybercrime and the current legal obligations for businesses. There was also an opportunity to network with local business owners and representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Growth Hub and Federation of Small Businesses.

## **7. Community Connection Days**

- 7.1 In conjunction with his districts visits, the PCC has recently started a new community engagement initiative to help spread awareness that police stations continue to remain open across the county.
- 7.2 The OPCC often receive comments by members of the public that police stations have closed. Community Connection Days have been designed to demonstrate to the public that although they may not have a front-counter, police stations remain operational and officers are available for an appointment should they be needed.
- 7.3 In the past month, three community connection days have been held in Dacorum, Three Rivers and Welwyn, in which the PCC has held a stand outside the police station, providing members of the public with the opportunity to speak with him directly and the local officers who are in attendance. These days have also been well supported by the Constabulary's ECHO team and Neighbourhood Watch's District Coordinators, encouraging an ever closer relationship between the police and the public.
- 7.4 The next community connection day will be held in Royston on the 31 October 2019.

## **8. Hertfordshire Problem Solving Conference 2019**

- 8.1 The annual problem solving conference was held at the Fielder Centre on the 16 September. A number of new and innovative problem solving approaches were demonstrated at the conference, with the three nominated finalists presenting their projects to more than 100 officers and staff from across Hertfordshire Constabulary, partner agencies and neighbouring forces.
- 8.2 Hertsmere Community Safety Partnership were awarded with the Mick Fogarty prize for their outstanding problem solving led approach to addressing anti-social behaviour resulting from an incident of hoarding by a resident in Borehamwood. The partnership led project has not only

resulted in a prevention of further Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) related activity, but has ensured that those involved received the support and help that was needed.

- 8.3 Partners are encouraged to sign up to the Knowledge Hub, which has been created for public and private sector agencies to help share information and discuss ideas through its online platform. If you would like to register, you can do so through the following link;  
<https://knowledgehub.group>

## **9. Launch of the Hertfordshire Fraud and Scams Strategy**

- 9.1 The Hertfordshire Fraud and Scams Strategy was launched at the Community Safety Board on the 26 September. The strategy, which focuses on Hertfordshire residents, seeks to provide information on current crime and safety risks, helping residents to stay alert to the potential vulnerabilities, and to coordinate a partnership approach to address these threats.
- 9.2 The strategy incorporates the ongoing work of the Beacon Fraud Hub which is providing specialist support to victims of fraud across the county. The service currently accepts referrals from victims who have reported either to the Police or Action Fraud (700 victims per month). Victims who are vulnerable and/or have suffered a financial loss are offered a support plan that covers practical advice to prevent re-victimisation and emotional support to help.



108327 Herts Pol  
Fraud Strategy

also attached as Appendix 1 to the report

## **10. Beacon Fraud Hub**

- 10.1 Using funding provided by the Ministry of Justice, the Police and Crime Commissioner has allocated £150,000 to support victims of fraud across the county. This funding has gone towards the hiring of four additional staff, from both Hertfordshire Constabulary's Victim Service and Catch 22 for the creation of a Fraud Hub, providing specialist support to victims of fraud.
- 10.2 Currently the service accepts referrals from victims who have reported either to the Police or Action Fraud (700 victims per month). Victims who are vulnerable and/or have suffered a financial loss are offered a support plan that covers practical advice to prevent re-victimisation and emotional support to help them through a particularly stressful period in their life. Victims can also self-refer. It is intended over the course of the pilot to extend referral pathways into the service as well as developing outreach, including fraud and scam workshops.

10.3 The Fraud hub has now been running for 5 months. A post implementation review will be taking place next summer to understand the impact of the pilot and whether any changes can be made to continue to improve the service to victims of fraud across the county.

## **11. Local Partnership Reserve: Funding to Support Crime and ASB Reduction Initiatives 2019/20**

11.1 In October 2016 £400K was made available by the Police and Crime Commissioner to assist community safety partners to respond to nuisance crimes including ASB, fly-tipping and fly-grazing.

11.2 £100K was made available for the fund's final year. Partners are encouraged to apply until the end of this financial year. Applications must demonstrate the following:

- 1) Demonstrate a problem solving approach using O'SARA (objectives, scanning, analysis, response, assessment) and with due consideration to the victim, location and offender
- 2) Relate to a current Community Safety Priority
- 3) Clearly show how the community is involved in identifying what is happening, why it is happening and in determining the response(s) to which the application relates, and
- 4) Support a response to tackle nuisance or anti-social behaviour and associated crime (and includes fly-tipping, fly-grazing and other environmental issues)
- 5) Provide 'matched' (or contribution) funding to ensure that there is joint ownership of the issues the funding is seeking to tackle

Application form:



2018-19 LPR SM Application V2.doc also attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

11.3 For more information, please contact Insp. Lara Richards on 01707 354573 or [Larissa.Richards@Herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Larissa.Richards@Herts.pnn.police.uk) if you wish to discuss your application for funding.

## **12. Community Safety Grant 2020/21**

12.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner oversees a Community Safety Grant which supports work with partner organisations / multiagency partnerships that have a vital part to play in keeping Hertfordshire's communities safe. Details of the 2020/21 fund are yet to be finalised. Please check this link for updates:  
<http://hertscommissioner.org/community-safety-fund>

### **13. Financial Implications**

- 13.1 There are no current direct financial implications arising from this report as its purpose is to provide an information update only.

### **14. Equalities**

- 14.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equalities implications of the decision that they are taking.
- 14.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) produced by officers.
- 14.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 14.4 No EqIA was undertaken in relation to this report as it only provides a brief summary of wider work undertaken by the OPCC.