

**COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE MANAGEMENT
CABINET PANEL**

THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 10:00AM

**HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
UPDATE REPORT**

Agenda Item No. 3

Author: Dr Amie Birkhamshaw, Director of Delivery and Commissioning,
OPCC (Tel: 01707 806154)

Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire

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:

- Consultation on the Police element of Council Tax Precept
- Refresh of the Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan
- Cybercrime Strategy and Offer for Businesses
- Serious Violence Strategy
- Criminal Justice Innovation Fund

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 For Panel to note the report

4. Updates

- 4.1 Information for Panel Members on the work of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner since the last meeting of the Community Safety and Waste Management Panel is detailed below:

4.11 **Consultation on the Police element of Council Tax Precept 2019/20**

In December 2018 the PCC wrote an Open Letter to all Hertfordshire residents asking for feedback on his proposal to increase the Police element of the Council Tax precept by £24.00 per annum for an average (Band D) household. An increase in the precept would mean that the vast majority of households would pay between 0.42 and 0.92 pence a week. This would generate an income of £10.7 million representing a five percent increase in the total policing budget.

The focus of the budget is on growing operational capacity and increasing frontline officer posts. The proposed precept increase would be used to fund the recruitment of a total of 75 additional officers, taking police officer establishment to 2,009. This will be the first time the police officer establishment has been over 2,000 since 2010. There would also be wider investment in call handling, custody, cybercrime and serious violence totalling £5.832m.

77 per cent (638) of residents that took part in the precept consultation were in favour of the proposed increase and were supportive of new investments being spent on bolstering frontline policing, tackling serious violence, travelling criminality, increases in reported Fraud and Cybercrime and support for victims of crime. The proposal is subject to approval by the Police and Crime Panel on 31 January 2019.

4.1.2 **Refresh of the Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan**

Under Section 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, a Police and Crime Commissioner may, at any time, issue and vary a Police and Crime Plan. Since October 2018 the PCC has been consulting with partners and the public on a refreshed Plan. The first of which was a Forward Look Event which brought together 65 key partners involved in the delivery of the Plan to hear their thoughts on the changing community safety and criminal justice landscape and new and emerging priorities for the county.

The public, businesses and victims have also been invited to give their thoughts on the current Plan and over the coming months will be consulted on early drafts to help shape the final version.

Throughout February and March the draft Plan will also be discussed at six county boards (Community Safety, Criminal Justice, Drugs and Alcohol, Health and Wellbeing, Safeguarding, IOM) to ensure partners have the opportunity to discuss shared priorities and outcomes. The refreshed Plan is expected to be published in May 2019.

4.1.3 **Cybercrime Strategy and Offer for Businesses**

The Cybercrime Strategy for Hertfordshire was launched in October following a series of events with Hertfordshire Growth Hub and the Independent Business Advisory Group. The strategy sets out how the risks that SME's face and the steps they can take to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of cybercrime.

The PCC is supporting this 'call for action' by helping businesses to take the next step by committing £25,000 to roll out a Cyber Protection for Business Voucher Scheme which would entitle the holder to a free Cyber Basics Review delivered by an approved provider. It is expected that the voucher scheme will be launched on 1 April 2019.

4.1.4 **Serious Violence Strategy**

Following extensive officer consultation, the Serious Violence Strategy is currently going through a series of Cabinet meetings and county boards to seek agreement and finalisation before onwards to full Council in March. The strategy takes a whole system approach from prevention through to enforcement, with a particular focus on early intervention and diversion. It is hoped that the strategy will improve partnership working and information sharing across all relevant agencies and will subsequently result in a reduction in the number of individuals engaging in criminal activity.

Operational leads from six of the county boards (Integrated Offender Management, Community Safety Board, Children's Safeguarding Board, Adult's Safeguarding Board, Domestic Abuse Executive Board and Drugs and Alcohol Board) will be responsible for supporting delivery of the Action Plan.

4.1.5 **Criminal Justice Innovation Fund**

The Criminal Justice Innovation Fund is aimed at supporting improvements in the criminal justice system for the people of Hertfordshire. The Fund is being introduced to support delivery of the Hertfordshire Criminal Justice Board's strategic objectives and to

provide an opportunity to fund new and innovative projects or build on the success of effective and transferable interventions.

The fund is open to public and private organisations, criminal justice and community safety partners working in collaboration with the voluntary and community sector. Applications can be made to the fund that seek to: support new activity; develop an evidence base or run a project / pilot. Applications must be able to demonstrate sustainability beyond the life of the funding and show that the proposal is realistic, deliverable and financially viable.

In the third round of applications (December 2018) Three Rivers District Council received £18,986 to employ a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Worker, bringing total spend for 2018/19 to £182,483.92.

5. Financial Implications

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

6. Equalities Implications

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 No EqIA was undertaken in relation to this report as it only provides a brief summary of wider work undertaken by the OPCC which in isolation has no direct equalities implications. The commitment of the OPCC to equalities throughout its work streams can be found here: <http://www.hertscommissioner.org/holding-me-to-account-overview>