

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – 26 July 2017
PCC'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

At its meeting on Wednesday 26 July, the Police and Crime Panel considered the Commissioner's Annual Report 2016/17. The comments of the Panel in response to the report are summarised below:

The Panel welcomes the contents of the report in particular the collaborative approach with partners, and the input in the Police and Crime Plan from stakeholders and the public. The PCC's partnership working has been particularly evident in the area of tackling Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) and it is pleasing that there has been a fall in ASB complaints and incidents. However, the Panel is of the view that there is more work to be done in tackling ASB particularly in regard to the increase in incidents during the spring and summer months and would welcome details on how the PCC is going to approach this problem.

The Panel supports the PCC's decision to continue to operate the Youth Commission and build upon the work of his predecessor. However, reassurance is sought that the membership of the Youth Commission encompasses all areas and backgrounds of people in Leicestershire. We look forward to receiving a further report regarding the Youth Commission and the demographics of its members.

The Panel notes that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) conducted an inspection of Leicestershire Police and in some areas the Force was rated 'Good' and in other areas rated 'Requires Improvement'. The Panel observes that the PCC was disappointed that HMIC did not recognise improvement action taken in the areas of investigative capability and the protection of vulnerable people. At its recent meeting the Panel questioned the PCC on the role he has personally played in taking action to address the concerns raised by the HMIC and the Panel will continue to hold the PCC to account in this area at future meetings.

The Panel supports the PCC's campaign for fairer funding for Leicestershire Police and his efforts to draw the matter to the attention of the Policing Minister and local MPs. The Panel recommends that the PCC raise the issue of funding inequalities with the highest level of government possible including the Prime Minister if necessary. Notwithstanding this, the Panel will continue to hold the PCC to account for making the best use of the funding that is available and at its recent meeting the Panel questioned the PCC on the reasons behind the cuts to Police Officer numbers.

Panel Members have received many reports of concern from residents of Leicestershire with regard to the 101 telephone service and therefore it is pleasing that the PCC has made improving the 101 service a priority. The Panel notes that significant reforms have already taken place in the area of contact management since the PCC came into office and it is disappointing that positive results are not yet evident. It is reassuring that the PCC shares this disappointment and intends to develop the 101 service further. Panel members are of the view that particular work needs to be done to ensure that people of diverse backgrounds, particularly those where English is not their first language, can use the 101 and 999 telephone services effectively and obtain the help they require. The Panel intends to monitor

progress carefully and looks forward to receiving a report on the 101 and 999 telephone services at its next meeting.

Overall the Panel is of the view that the PCC has made a positive start to his period in office and it is comforting that where there are areas of great concern with regard to Policing in Leicestershire such as funding and contact management the PCC has made tackling these a priority. The Panel looks forward to observing the results of the PCC's crime prevention schemes and will monitor the success of all his initiatives in the coming years.