

**Scrutiny Commission: 6 June 2018**

**UPDATE ON POLICE AND CRIME  
PANEL ACTIVITY**

# Key Developments since the last presentation to the Scrutiny Commission

- Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Kirk Master was appointed in September 2016 – He is also a Member of Leicester City Council with the role of Assistant City Mayor - Neighbourhood Services. Every 6 months the Panel has an agenda item regarding the Deputy PCC and scrutinises any potential conflict of interest between the two roles.
- THE POLICING AND CRIME ACT 2017 contains a duty for blue light services to collaborate with each other, and gives PCCs the option to take over Fire and Rescue Services. The Leicestershire PCC Lord Bach is in favour of collaboration but has decided not to take on responsibility for Fire Services.

# Key Developments since the last presentation to the Scrutiny Commission

## INDEPENDENT PANEL MEMBERS

- A recruitment process was held for two Independent Members of the Panel. The previous two Independent Members did not reapply and their term of office ended in December 2017.
- A decision was made to change the term of office of Independent Members so that it is not coterminous with that of the PCC.
- The two new appointees were Mr Keith Culverwell of the Knighton area of Leicester and Ms Mehrunnisa Lalani of Groby in Leicestershire.

# Confirmation Hearings

- In December 2017 the Panel held a Confirmation Hearing for the new Chief Executive of the OPCC Mr. Paul Hindson. Mr Hindson has a large amount of experience from several senior jobs in the criminal justice arena and the Panel fully endorsed his appointment.
- In February 2018 the Panel held a Confirmation Hearing for the new Chief Finance Officer of the OPCC Mr Martin Henry. The Panel noted that Mr Henry had a strong background in local government finance and also private sector experience as well, though no prior experience in policing. The Panel fully endorsed the appointment.

# Police and Crime Panel activity: 2017/18 – Highlights

## Scrutiny of reports from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services.

- HMICFRS report on Leicestershire Police: Crime Data Integrity inspection 2017 – Overall Judgement INADEQUATE

The Panel sought assurances that police officers would receive refresher training on crime recording and were now recording crime in accordance with the guidelines.

- HMICFRS report on Leicestershire Police: PEEL Efficiency 2017 – Overall Judgment REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT

Criticisms of 101 telephone service (see next slide)

- HMICFRS Effectiveness report on Leicestershire Police

Leicestershire Police had been rated as 'Good' in all areas that the force had been assessed against and no areas had been identified for improvement. The Panel sought reassurances that the Force would not become complacent and continuing improvements would be made.

# Police and Crime Panel activity:

- **Scrutinised 999 and 101 telephone services**
  - There was a high call abandonment rate in June 2017 which was due to a shortage of call handlers. In October 2017 the Panel gained assurance that progress had been made with the 101 telephone service and noted that the abandonment rate had decreased significantly since June 2017, at a time when the total number of incoming calls had increased and it was noted that a recruitment programme for call handlers was now underway. The PCC has expressed a desire to be able to divert 101 calls to other agencies when appropriate.
- **Knife crime** – In response to media reports about a rise in knife crime the Panel meeting on 26 July 2017 had an agenda item where the PCC was scrutinised on this topic. A further report on knife crime and Stop and Search has been requested for the Panel meeting on 8 June 2018.
- **Victim First** Support services for victims are provided at a local level by Police and Crime Commissioners. The Panel has looked at the arrangements which were in place for recommissioning this service. The service is currently provided by Catch 22.

# Police and Crime Panel activity:

- **POLICE PRECEPT AND BUDGET**

- LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT FOR 2018/19 - Police precepts allowed increases of up to £12 for a Band D bill in 2018-19 and 2019-20. The £12 allowance was significantly more than the previous 2% referendum trigger.
- In January 2018 the Panel scrutinised the PCC's proposals to increase the 2018/19 Precept by £12.00 per annum (6.41%) for police purposes to £199.2302 for a Band D property. The Panel unanimously supported this proposal.
- Were the PCC not to have increased the Precept by the maximum allowed amount then Leicestershire Police would have been required to lose 52 Police Officer posts. The additional funding was proposed to be used to increase the Police Officer Establishment by a further 24 Police Officers, equivalent to 3 per Neighbourhood Policing Area (NPA). This will increase the total Police Officer establishment from to 1,782 to 1,806.
- It had been decided to reduce the number of PCSOs to 180 by 2021 by a process of natural wastage.
- The proposed budget supported more use of technology enabling officers to complete more tasks away from a police station –Mobile Fingerprint Recognition equipment.

# Police and Crime Panel activity:

- RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF STAFF AT OPCC
  - The Panel had concerns about the number of vacancies at the OPCC and the high turnover of staff. At the Panel meetings at January 2018 and March 2018 the Panel had agenda items where reassurance was sought on this topic.
  - The OPCC acknowledged that there had been recruitment difficulties with the posts of Chief Executive, Communications & Engagement Manager, Resources Manager and other roles as well. However, changes had been made to the Office structure and the nature of some roles had been amended to enable them to be filled more easily.
  - The reasons for staff leaving the OPCC had been assessed by the OPCC Chief Executive and most were positive, for example many staff had achieved roles at a higher grade with other organisations. In many cases working at the OPCC had given staff valuable experience which had enabled them to gain roles elsewhere.



# Project Darwin: proposed changes to the policing model used by Leicestershire Police

- Project Edison no longer fit for the current demand.
- Project Darwin will see the deploying of more resources in neighbourhood locations – Increase visibility. The Panel welcomed this.
- Neighbourhood Investigation Units - Coalville, Hinckley, Euston Street, Keyham Lane, Beaumont Leys, Melton Mowbray, Market Harborough and Loughborough.
- When operational need requires officers from Neighbourhood Investigation Units could be required to attend incidents in other parts of the County however this would only be as a last resort.
- The Panel gained reassurance that under the new policing model there would still be some capability to be proactive instead of just reactive.

# Performance

**Summary: Overall crime is on an upward trajectory, but to add context performance in Leicestershire sits at or below the regional average.**

There has been a steady increasing trend in overall crime during the last year with a 17% year on year increase to date (May 2018). This increasing trend follows a national and regional trend. At 60 crimes per thousand population Leicestershire is performing better than Regional average of 69.7 crimes per 1000.

# Performance – Crime Types

## Burglary:

'Residential' burglary rates have shown large monthly variations since April 2017 with a peak in October 2017 and troughs in June, August, December and February. Overall the trend is stable and rates are at the regional average. A change in the way Domestic Burglary is classified means a year on year comparison is not possible.

**Total Burglary**, i.e. both residential and commercial, is 7.6 per 1000 population, this is a 5% increase on the previous rolling 12 months. The current rate (7.6) is just above the regional average of 7.3 burglaries per thousand population.

**Vehicle Crime:** at 8.31 offences per thousand vehicle crime (theft of/from vehicle & vehicle interference) is above the regional average of 7.6. Overall vehicle crime is up 15% on previous rolling 12 months. There was a peak in vehicle crime in October 2017, since then there has been a positive decreasing trend.

**Violence With Injury:** rate is 4.9 offences per 1000 population. This is a 26% increase on the previous rolling 12 months. Increases have been seen nationally; to add context, Leicestershire is well below the regional average of 8 offences per 1000 population. There is however an increasing trend in violence without injury offences which are up 26% on the previous rolling 12 months.

# Performance – Crime Types

**Hate Incident Reporting**: at 0.8 incidents reported per thousand there has been an 11% increase on hate incident reporting compared to the previous rolling 12 months. However, numbers are small and changes can disproportionately affect the overall percentage.

**Crime and Young People**: Extremely positive results gained over the last years are now likely to level off... First time Entrants (FTE) to the criminal Justice System, The yearly cumulative total of FTE aged 10-17 last year was 104 which is the lowest recorded since 2005.

**Anti- social Behaviour (ASB)**: Reporting of ASB is on a downward trajectory and follows regional and national trends, despite this perceptions/satisfaction with regard to people believing ASB is down or is staying the same is down, (Source: Community Based Survey)