
The Police and Crime Panel update 2020-21

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Agenda Item 8

Performance

- The Panel held 6 public meetings during 2020-21, each of these were by virtual means as permitted under section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020.
- The Panel continues to receive quarterly reports on the performance of the Leicestershire Police Force and also the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 2020/21 has been an exceptional year with the pandemic and many crime types have generally seen a decrease since Covid particularly with the national lockdown from November 2020.

Q3 performance 2020/21

- **All Crime** - Dips in overall crime coincide with national lockdown changes with significant decreases in burglary offences, vehicle crime and shoplifting. The quarterly comparison shows a reduction in the total number of crimes recorded of 5.7% compared to the same quarter of the previous year.
- **Violence with Injury offences** during the quarter have decreased. However there is an increase of 16.2% when compared to the same quarter last year due to a change in the recording of Violence against the Person offences.
- **Violence without Injury offences** increased 5.7%.
- **Knife offences** - In the most recent quarter the number of knife offences has remained stable. The quarterly comparison shows a 14.8% increase in knife offences, however the figure remains very stable, with a visible decrease in December 2020.
- **Domestic Abuse offences** increased 30.7%. There was a significant reduction in domestic abuse offences in November 2019, since then the monthly volumes recorded have been increasing.
- **Burglary offences** decreased 27%
- **Hate offences** increased 50.2%

Precept and Budget

- At the Panel meeting on 27 January 2021 the Panel approved the Police and Crime Commissioners proposed precept and budget. The proposal was to increase the 2020/21 precept by £15.00 per annum (6.43%) for police purposes to £248.2302 for a band D property.
- Part of the budget proposals were that the total number of police officers within Leicestershire Police would be increased in 2021/22 by 88 officers, funded by the Home Office as part of the government uplift programme, with an additional 50 officers to be recruited supported through precept funds.
- The total cost of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is £1.40m, which is a net increase of £70k from 2020-21. However £20k of that increase was due to external audit charges which was a national issue that increased costs for the year ahead for all Police and Crime Panels.
- 97.3% of the net budget requirement was allocated to the Chief Constable for use on local policing and regional collaborations.

Current position

- Elections in May 2020 were postponed until May 2021 and therefore the new Police and Crime Commissioner's term of office has been reduced to three years.
- On 6th May 2021 Rupert Matthews was elected as the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) replacing Lord Bach who stood down at the end of his extended 5 year term.
- The PCC will be responsible for producing and consulting on a new Police and Crime Plan that sets out local policing priorities within the first year of his term of office.

Statutory Functions of the Panel

The Police and Crime Panel is a scrutiny body who's key purpose is to scrutinise and support the Police and Crime Commissioner in the effective exercise of their role.

Key functions of the panel are to:

- Review the PCC's Police and Crime Plan
- Review the PCC's Annual Report
- Confirm or Veto the PCC's proposed precept
- Confirm or Veto the PCC's proposed appointment of the Chief Constable
- Review certain senior appointments made by the PCC by holding public confirmation hearings



Adding value as part of and beyond the statutory role

Panel Members have continued to:

- Review and scrutinise strategic and funding decisions made by the PCC and challenge how they are holding the Chief Constable to account.
- Make and publish recommendations about actions and decisions taken by the PCC.
- Receive regular updates from and challenge the PCC on matters of current interest and concern.
- Attend training, conferences and liaise with Panels both regionally and nationally to understand the national picture for PCC's and sharing best practice, such as attending the Annual Conference of Police (Fire) and Crime Panels, as well as plenary sessions and policy seminars facilitated by virtual means.

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