



Police and Crime Panel for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

8th June 2025

Corporate Governance Board Update

Report Date	8th June 2025
Report Author	Lizzie Starr, Director of Governance and Performance
Security Classification	Official

Purpose of Report

1. In his role as the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) the Commissioner is required to secure efficient and effective policing for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, appoint a Chief Constable and hold them to account.
2. The PCC brings this report to outline for the Police and Crime Panel how he is fulfilling his duty by holding the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the force through the Corporate Governance Board.

Request of the Panel

3. In their role to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the PCC, the Commissioner requests that the Panel examines the contents of this report. He would specifically like to ask the Panel their opinion on the following questions;
 - a. Is the Panel content in the way that the PCC has held the Chief Constable to account through the Corporate Governance Board?
 - b. Would the Panel like to make any recommendations to the PCC in relation to this matter?

Summary

4. It is the opinion of the PCC that there is a robust system in place to challenge the Chief Constable on performance with the use of new standardised metrics and regular monitoring and discussion between the Performance Team.

Background

5. Chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Corporate Governance Board is attended by both the OPCC and the Chief Officer Team who meet roughly every eight weeks to discuss and highlight the performance of Leicestershire Police force, allowing the PCC to challenge, scrutinise and discuss potential support from the OPCC. Below is a report detailing the discussions of the meeting held on the 26th March 2025.
6. In advance of the Corporate Governance Board meeting and in support of setting the agenda, the OPCC Performance Team review national and local data surrounding Force performance and attend national and regional meetings to inform the areas of scrutiny within CGB.
7. The purpose of the Corporate Governance Board is to allow the PCC to carry out their statutory duty of holding the Chief Constable to account on behalf of the public. The board consists of both reports, presentations and verbal discussions guided by the Chair on key areas such as performance, corporate risk, recruitment and HMICFRS among other measures. This report is to highlight the main points and areas of scrutiny during the meeting.

Summary of scrutiny and impact from the March CGB

8. The March CGB agenda was as follows;
 - a. Operational summary
 - b. Operational Performance - Annual Homicide Profile
 - c. Finance - Q3 Budget Report inc. update on Capital Program
 - d. HMICFRS - Detailed response to PEEL
 - e. Police and Crime Plan - Police and Crime Plan Monitoring Approach & Prevention Approach
 - f. AOB - Anti-fraud, bribery and corruption policy, Sustainability Strategy & Defending Democracy Paper

9. The key lines of scrutiny from the March CGB meeting are as follows;
 - a. Praise for the work of the Force around E-scooters in the city centre
 - b. Scrutiny around the Force's performance in relation to Homicide and the prevention of Domestic Homicide
 - c. Scrutiny around the latest Force budget
 - d. Praise for the Force's efforts to keep elected officials safe

10. DCC Sandall provided the Board with an operational overview of several successful operations for the reporting period. DCC Sandall also noted one incident wherein an officer was seriously injured in a property in Ibstock by a dog after this was recently circulated via comms.

11. The DPCC expressed concern at length of time between investigation and prosecution and queried whether this impacted the support for officers as victims in this case. DCC Sandall provided assurance around the wellbeing checks for said officer, in that there are daily check ins, contact from the Chief Officer team and also line managers offer continued support to officers and staff to support their recovery.

12. DCC Sandall summarised that there had been significant proactive work for the quarter, including:
 - a. Updates on the delivery of the You're Right That's Wrong Campaign following the Angiolini Inquiry
 - b. Updates on a series of public-focused social media campaigns on topics such as e-scooters, romance fraud and promotion of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre among others
 - c. Recent arrest of a woman who was subsequently charged with stalking the family of Madeline McCann
 - d. The Force also detailed a number of successful court convictions for this period including a life imprisonment sentence for a total of 29 sexual offences and violence including rape and a sentence for life imprisonment after a guilty murder charge with minimum term of 26 years.

13. In relation to the Angiolini Inquiry, the Force was asked about their commitment to being anti-sexist and anti-misogynistic. It was queried what work has been done to define how big a problem that was within Leicestershire Police if at all, and what measures have been put in place to reduce impact.
14. The Force provided assurance that their findings suggest this isn't a problem locally however the Campaigns Team stated they had increased traffic on the You're Right That's Wrong Campaign on the intranet. The Board was informed that the Professional Standards Department are carrying out ongoing robust work to identify behaviours that fall short. DCC Sandall provided an update on plans to follow up the campaign with a focus on prevention and workplace culture. The PCC stated that he appreciated what the Force was doing in response to this enquiry.
15. The PCC complimented the Force on their campaign work around e-scooters in City Centre. The PCC asked what criteria is used to decide when/where/if this work is rolled out to wider Force area. The PCC was assured that the Force would explore other locations where this issue consistently comes out as a local priority. The force outlined how feedback is captured from residents through their monthly neighbourhood link survey, and this influences the local priorities.
16. The PCC queried the Crime and Policing Bill cited within the report asking whether the Force are expecting this to have any impact within our area. DCC Sandall responded that it will, noting that it sets out specific actions on which the Force will need to report into the Home Office, however stated that locally the Force feel they are well prepared, referencing their prevention directorate and some extra grants locally that will help build the areas set out within the bill. The Force updated the board that when the Bill is signed off there will be an assessment on the local impact and changes required and a subsequent briefing to the PCC.
17. The Force's **Annual Homicide Profile** was presented to the Board. This report touched on the key themes and recommendations for prevention work around homicide based on the patterns from the 2024 volumes. The PCC was assured around the work the Force has done around driving down the volume of homicides in 2024. The PCC praised the Force for its work in reducing homicides linked to organised crime. The DCC credited this to the Force's proactive policing and awareness of Organised Crime Groups, the Board was also updated on the Force's bespoke Homicide Prevention Strategy which has a strong focus on prevention and the public health approach.
18. The Force was asked to provide assurance on the work being done to prevent domestic homicide and was asked what more the PCC and partnership could do to support a reduction in domestic homicide. An update was provided that the Force's approach to taking an evidence-based approach and the Force's

threat assessment unit has been identified within the HMICFRS PEEL inspection as good practice and shared with other forces.

19. A report was brought to summarise **the revenue and capital budget outturn projections** as at 31st January 2025. The report outlined that the current projected revenue outturn confirms that the Force will deliver the £8.6m savings requirement this year, and is likely to realise further savings of £7.1m, thereby increasing forecast savings to £15.7m; £5m of the corporate underspend is planned to be used to offset pressures in the 2025/26 budget. It should be noted that the net underspend of £895k in the delegated budgets relates to officer overtime and non-pay only. All savings realised from staff vacancies are reported in the efficiency savings / pressures narrative.
20. Whilst the DCC updated the Board that the Force was in a positive position thanks to the hard work of the finance team over the year. It was also recognised that whilst the projected revenue and capital outturns will change during the remainder of the financial year, the Force have managed to bridge the gap and make over-savings. Stating that positive decisions made during the year have put the Force in a strong position for dealing with upcoming challenges in 25/26.
21. The PCC queried the impact of over-achieving savings and asked how this impacts service to public. DCC Sandall responded that there is evidence that response times are improving and that detection rates are going up, and that even though the Force have had to manage the cuts, they have tried to retain the level of service by refocusing spending. DCC Sandall summarised by saying there will be an effect to some degree in comparison to service level of having a fully staffed Force but that the Force have achieved well in the circumstances with resources available.
22. The Board received a detailed report on the 10 AFIs (areas for improvement) identified in the **2023-2025 PEEL Assessment** relating to Leicestershire Police. The Board were updated that despite 10 areas being identified, Leicestershire did not receive any causes for concern and that there are already realistic, tangible plans to address each of them in place by the Force.
23. The Force were praised for their transparency around the recommendations and were asked further questions by the Board on how the evidence relating to the actions is tracked. It was agreed that the HMICFRS tracker would be shared with the PCC and brought back to a future meeting.
24. A report was brought to the meeting outlining the proposed approach for **monitoring the 2025-2029 Police and Crime Plan**. The approach was agreed by the Board and the regular updates will be coming through the Corporate Governance Board. The Board also agreed to trial a public scrutiny approach

to enable greater transparency and public accountability in relation to the Police and Crime Plan.

25. The Force brought a report on a **joint prevention strategy** to seek formal sign-off for proposals to establish a more connected and collaborative approach to the OPCC and the Police's approach to prevention strategy, planning and delivery. It also provided an update on how key areas are progressing. The report outlined how significant work has been undertaken over the last 6 months, the Chief Executive of the OPCC and the Assistant Chief Constable for Crime, Criminal Justice and Prevention have led work across both organisations to explore how the OPCC and Force could collaborate more within this area of business (including in relation to prevention-focussed programmes such as the VRN). It was agreed that a joint prevention strategy would be developed during Q1 2025/26 with an ambition to push an evidence-based approach and develop annual delivery plans.
26. The report was signed off and supported by the Board who were enthused about prevention and partnerships and having one version of the truth which flows down into all of the programmes of OPCC and Force.
27. The **Joint anti-fraud, bribery and corruption policy** was brought to the Board for formal sign off. The policy was supported by the Board and the Board agreed to a joint communications approach to ensure this policy and the responsibilities of individuals to report was available and accessible to all in force.
28. The **draft Sustainability strategy** was brought as a first draft to the Board for considerations around next steps. As this is a key action within the PCC's new Police and Crime plan, he was thankful to the Force for bringing this back for comment. The PCC queried the scope of the strategy as this contained many mentions of Carbon saving but not much mention of pollution, nor wildlife crime. It was agreed that a meeting with the PCC would take place outside of the meeting to review the strategy and sustainability action plan 2024-29.
29. A paper on **Defending Democracy** was presented to update the Board on the requirements of the defending democracy protocol and provide assurance that all recommendations had been implemented locally. The paper included details on the seven requirements of the protocol with confirmation and context of the action taken in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The report outlined that Leicestershire Police is fully compliant and has embedded 5 of the 6 active protocols, awaiting the College of Policing Guidance for the final one, which will be utilised on circulation.
30. DCC Sandall highlighted that the Force had been nationally recognised above all other Forces in England and Wales. The PCC congratulated the Force on their efforts to keep elected officials safe.

31. The Board received an update paper on the **ASB Hotspot funding**, including delivery timelines, resource utilisation and the vision. The PCC was really pleased that the Force have taken on board his challenges from last year and elements such as non-police patrols and the dedicated team are progressing well. He confirmed his support for the 25/26 plans. A decision was made that the PCC supported the application.
32. The next meeting of the Corporate Governance Board is scheduled for the 6th May 2025.
33. The actions captured and discussed within the Corporate Governance Board are tracked by the OPCC for completion and the performance reviewed.

----- **End of Report** -----

This page is intentionally left blank