



VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE – 19TH MARCH 2014

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

**REPORT BY: MARIA CHAPMAN – OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT**

OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT – REPORT FOR CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent¹ is responsible for representing the people of Gwent and making sure the service provided by the police is efficient and effective. This is done by:

- holding the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of local policing
- setting and updating a police and crime plan
- setting the force budget and precept
- regularly engaging with the public and communities
- appointing, and where necessary dismissing, the Chief Constable

1.2 The Commissioner has a number of specific duties and responsibilities:

- Setting the strategic direction and accountability for policing
- Working with partners to prevent and tackle crime and re-offending
- Invoking the voice of the public, the vulnerable and victims
- Contributing to resourcing of policing response to regional and national threats
- Ensuring value for money.

1.3 The Chief Constable retains responsibility for operational policing and Gwent Police's officers and staff under his direction and control.

¹ Referred to as the 'Commissioner' throughout the report

2. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

2.1 One of the key aims of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan is to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour, by working with the force and other service providers to improve the services that victims receive. The Plan can be found on the Commissioners website: www.gwent.pcc.police.uk. The plan lays out how, in partnership with the Chief Constable and others, the Commissioner will tackle the following Police and Crime priorities:

- To deliver the best quality of service available
- To reduce and prevent crime
- To take more effective action to reduce anti-social behaviour
- To protect people from serious harm
- To make the best use of resources and provide value for money

2.2 There are a number of more specific measures that sit under each priority to ensure that the Chief Constable can be held to account by me, for you, in relation to the policing element of the priorities. An annual report is published in line with the financial year to update the public on progress made against each of the priorities which can be accessed on the Commissioner's website.

3. COMMISSIONER'S BUDGET

3.1 The Commissioner is required to determine the budget for 2014-15 and then set the council tax precept in consultation with the Police and Crime Panel. In determining the Budget Requirement for 2014-15 the Commissioner will have regard to the Police and Crime Plan, the Chief Constable's view of the financial resources required to deliver the operational requirements of the Plan. The greater part of the budget will be allocated for core policing, but an element needs to be retained to cover the cost of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and commissioning of services from organisations other than the Chief Constable. Many of the commissioned services are to meet the requirements of the Commissioner's role aligned to the 'and crime' part of his title. The Commissioner has approved, in consultation with the Police and Crime Panel:

- i. A budget requirement for 2014-15 of £119,517,923;
- ii. The planned efficiency savings, budget reductions and reserve utilisation in 2014-15 of £4.215m;
- iii. The initial Capital Programme;
- iv. The further proposed utilisation of the reserves; and
- v. The 2014-15 proposed precept to be levied in respect of general expenses of £42,674,833 (equivalent to a Council Tax Band D of £203.50) this equates to £12,008,848 for Caerphilly County Borough Council.

4. COMMISSIONING

4.1 The Police & Crime Commissioner's across the UK receive Home Office and Ministry of Justice funding for the 'and crime' part of the Commissioner's role which is intended to address matters aligned to: community safety; drug and alcohol provision linked to offending; and victim services. The Commissioner's commissioning vision is:

“Better outcomes for individuals and communities through reducing crime, supporting victims and making Gwent a safer place”

4.2 The Commissioner established a partnership approach to commissioning and a Strategic Commissioning Board is in place. The Board is chaired by the Deputy Commissioner and has representation from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Local Authorities, Gwent Police, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, Wales Probation Trust, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Gwent Registered Social Landlords and the Gwent Voluntary Sector. It is believed a partnership approach will ensure effective, focused commissioning activity whilst achieving increased efficiency, value for money and improved outcomes against each of my priorities within the Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner has recently agreed the Strategic Commissioning Intentions:

- Victims
- Crime Prevention
- Anti-social Behaviour Prevention
- Prevention
- Strategic Community Safety
- Rehabilitation
- Core Policing

4.3 In addition to the strategic commissioning approach, the Commissioner in 2013/14 awarded the sum of £50,551 to organisations across the force area by way of a competitive bid process which was so successful the Commissioner decided that a further funding stream, known as the 'Partnership Fund', would be released. Established in 2013/14, it provides an annual fund of £100,000. This fund is designed to assist organisations involved in activities that reduce crime and anti-social behaviour or divert people away from related activity, in support of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan priorities. In November 2013, a total of £99,470 of successful bids was awarded. The Partnership Fund will be made available for 2014/15 and will be advertised on the Commissioner's website.

5. ESTATES

5.1 The Commissioner has responsibility for the estate of Gwent Police. This includes responsibility for all the Police Stations and other buildings across the Gwent Force area. There has been a recent review conducted of the current provision and accessibility provided by Police Stations. The latest decisions made regarding the extended police station opening hours and can be accessed via the link below:
http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/General/14.02.19_Estate_Strategy_-_Police_Stations.pdf

6. ENGAGEMENT

6.1 The Commissioner has continued to work hard to listen and engage with the communities about the police service they require and receive. As part of this, since November 2012:

- The Commissioner and his staff have met with around 400 local residents, organisations, special interest and community groups across Gwent to meet with victim's service providers and service users to gain a better understanding of the way these services work across Gwent.
- Through an effective social media strategy the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner has successfully raised the Commissioner's profile to over 1,300 Twitter and 1,127 Facebook followers and our bilingual website now receives an average of 2,500 visitors per month.

- In August the Commissioner launched the UK's first Police and Crime Commissioner 'App' that provides an interactive look at the Gwent-wide activities of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC). To date, over 200 people have downloaded the App.
- During January 2014 the Commissioner piloted a number of local surgeries which have been well received by local communities. This approach allows communities to raise the issues that matter to them and express their views on local policing. This provides residents with an opportunity for face to face accountability. The Commissioner will be holding more surgeries across Gwent in 2014 and will be advertised on his website and other media platforms.
- The Commissioner and his staff have been involved in an active review of the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) process. This has provided opportunities to discuss ways of improving the methods currently used for engagement to ensure that they are more meaningful for everyone. This work is on-going and the force is currently considering a number of methods to either replace or enhance the provision of PACT in the areas where communities are not engaging with the process.
- In October 2013 the Wales Audit Office (WAO) inspection examined how effectively the Commissioner and his Office are engaging with local communities to help determine and

deliver policing priorities. The inspection results recognised that in Gwent, we are developing appropriate arrangements for engagement and consultation to allow communities to help shape the police service they receive.

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