

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN POLICING

1st DECEMBER 2016

INTRODUCTION

This paper aims to brief the Police and Crime Panel on three national developments in policing which will have an impact on local policing provision:

- The new Policing Funding Formula
- The Policing Vision 2025
- Specialist Capabilities

NEW POLICE CORE GRANT DISTRIBUTION FORMULA

Police forces are funded from two primary sources – local council tax precept and government grant. In terms of government grant, the Home Office allocates a total amount for policing in England and Wales and this is then divided up by means of a funding formula. The formula estimates police workloads on the basis of the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of each force area.

The current approach results in a wide variation in the amount of funding police forces receive from central government. That means there is considerable divergence from force to force in terms of the split of derived from central funding versus local precept. Surrey receives proportionately the lowest level of funding given to any police force in England or Wales by the Government. This leaves Surrey residents in the position of being the only group of tax payers in the entire country who pay more than half the cost of their own police force.

The current formula has been in place for many years and has been criticised by many, including the previous Minister for Policing as being out of date, complex and opaque. Independent research commissioned by the Surrey OPCC has shown that some of the indicators in the current formula struggle to justify their place, and in some cases new indicators could help improve the formula. In 2015, the Home Office attempted to produce a revised funding formula. However, problems with the data stopped the project. The Home Affairs Select Committee concluded that a panel of experts should be convened to assist the Home Office in re-examining the formula.

There is now a group set up with experts across policing to look at a revised formula. This group includes representatives from PCC Treasurers. The Surrey OPCC has spoken to the Home Office with regard to the new formula and has submitted previous research carried out by Oxford Economics on the topic of police funding. The PCC has also written to MPs and council leaders to ask for their support in ensuring fair funding for Surrey Police. The Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, Brandon Lewis, has said that before final decisions

are taken on a new funding formula, he will be holding a public consultation on what is proposed.

POLICING VISION

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) are working with police leaders to reform and transform policing by 2025 and are shortly to publish a vision for policing.

Globalisation and digitisation present new challenges that have increased the complexity of policing. Recorded acquisitive crime has fallen but there have been significant increases in cases of crime committed in the 'private space' – e.g. child sexual exploitation and domestic abuse. Serious and organised crime generates new threats, like human trafficking. Terrorism has become more fragmented and harder to combat. As people do more and more online, the threat from cybercrime grows.

Policing has to develop new tactics and capabilities to meet these threats and keep people safe. It also has to ensure it provides effective, value for money service that the public can trust.

The NPCC, with PCCs, Staff Associations and the College of Policing, has drafted a vision for policing in 2025 that sets out why and how the police service needs to transform. The vision is currently subject to consultation with new PCCs and is due to be published shortly. Mr Munro is responding to the consultation and emphasized the need for local policing to be at the forefront of the plans.

The vision lays out five priorities for reform:

- local policing;
- specialist capabilities (e.g. armed policing; organised crime investigation);
- digital policing;
- building a workforce with the right skills for the future;
- improving collaboration in business support services.

The Police Reform and Transformation Board has been set up and will support the service in making changes aiming to transform policing by 2025. The board has membership from the APCC, NPCC, police forces, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), the Home Office and the National Crime Agency.

The PCC will provide the Panel with a copy of the new vision once it is published.

SPECIALIST CAPABILITIES

Linked to the vision, a specific piece of national work has been set up to look at the future of Specialist Capabilities within policing. This programme recognises that specialist policing (such as armed policing and organised crime investigation), needs to respond to the changing nature of crime profiles.

A national vision for specialist capabilities was created with a wide range of stakeholders: *"To better protect the public, we will enhance our response to new*

and complex threats, developing our network and the way we deliver specialist capabilities by reinforcing and connecting policing locally, nationally and beyond". The Specialist Capabilities Programme will develop options for new models to support policing. The Programme has representation from police forces, PCCs, the Home Office and the National Crime Agency. A proposed solution has been presented to Chief Constables and PCCs and agreement is being sought before bringing about change.

In the first instance, the programme has looked at five areas: Surveillance; Tactical Support Units; Armed Policing; Major Investigations; and Roads Policing. The programme intends to reshape specialist capabilities in these areas in a way that strengthens both resilience and accountability. It should enhance forces' ability to respond to changing threats, built on the strengths of local policing and preparing policing for the future.

In essence, the report argues that police forces, with widely differing scales and demand complexity, cannot all offer the same service mix in future. The response to specialist capabilities requires highly skilled and expensively trained officers and it will become increasingly difficult for individual forces to meet the growing demands of local policing whilst simultaneously investing in specialist capabilities. The reports suggests a move towards 'network policing' which could see the continued operation of existing police forces, with individual Chief Constables retaining operational independence held to account by a local PCC. However, over time, links would strengthen between different forces and they would have a planned inter-dependency that would allow forces to deliver critical specialist capabilities to higher levels of efficiency and effectiveness. Police forces could effectively then 'trade' services to each other.

The full report can be read on the NPCC website. The PCC has had opportunity to comment on the report. If taken forward, the recommendations will affect the delivery of policing in those specialist areas listed. There are no proposals to change policing structures but instead a better networked and shared approach to the policing response.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Police and Crime Panel notes the updates and considers if it wants to be involved further in any of these areas of work.

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