

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

TACKLING RURAL CRIME STRATEGY UPDATE

30 June 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Panel received a report on the rural crime strategy in September 2019 and requested an update for this meeting. The attached report presents the panel with an update on the progress against the force rural crime strategy.

DETAILED REPORT

Surrey Police put in place a rural crime strategy for 2018-2020. The PCC asks for regular updates against that strategy and also carries out visits to rural areas to see progress first hand as well as meeting rural crime groups.

The last update to the PCC performance meeting was in February 2020 and is attached at Annex 1. The report is positive, reporting overall satisfaction results for Rural Crime at 63.5%, higher than the overall satisfaction result for all crime at 60.3% and detailing a number of recent police operations specifically aimed at tackling rural crime. A Rural Crime Advisory Group has also been in place since October 2019.

Dedicated rural crime officers and now in place. These will be supported by neighbourhood teams, including the uplift in officers following the precept increase. The dogs unit will also be increasing by 4, also a resource which can be deployed in rural areas.

In addition to the update report, the Chief Constable has recently met with the National Farmers' Union and other rural agencies and reported this to be an extremely positive meeting. The PCC has visited Mole Valley for a Rural Engagement meeting and met a group of game keepers who were appreciative of the police but wanted to see more police presence. The Chief Constable reported that Country Watch has been established in Surrey for over a year and the PCC asked for a more detailed report on Country Watch to come to a future Performance Meeting. A meeting being arranged specifically to with local gamekeepers to inform the force on how their anti-poaching tactics that can be used for the start of the shooting season in the Autumn.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Police and Crime Panel notes the attached progress report on tackling rural crime from Surrey Police.

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