

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**TACKLING RURAL CRIME STRATEGY UPDATE****22 MARCH 2021**

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INTRODUCTION

The Panel received a report on the rural crime strategy in June 2020 and requested an update for this meeting. The attached report presents the panel with an update on the progress against the force's 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 2021 and is attached at Appendix A. The report is positive, reporting overall satisfaction results for Rural Crime at 70.5%, higher than the overall satisfaction result for all crime at 67.4% and detailing a number of recent police operations specifically aimed at tackling rural crime. The solve rate is also higher for rural crime offences.

Dedicated rural crime officers are now in place and precept investment will allow this team to be strengthened in 2021/22. These will be supported by neighbourhood teams, including the uplift in officers following the precept increase. The dogs unit has also increased by 4 in 2020/21, a resource which can be deployed in rural areas.

Country Watch is yet to be developed. It would be a community led organisation, much like Neighbourhood Watch. However, the rural crime team are promoting the development of such a group via their networks.

It is recognised by the PCC that the positive statistics don't always seem to be reflected in feedback from rural residents. More needs to be done to promote success alongside residents seeing the increased resources to tackle rural crime. A Rural Crime Newsletter has been produced, attached at Appendix B.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

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