

WEST MERCIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 25 NOVEMBER 2021

DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2021 – 2025 CONSULTATION RESULTS

Recommendation

1. Members of the Panel are asked to make any final comments on the draft plan before it is formally published

Background

2. By virtue of Section 5 (1) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act) a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) must issue a Police and Crime Plan (the Plan) within the financial year in which their election is held. The Plan is the PCC's key document and sets out the overall strategic direction and long term vision for policing in West Mercia.

3. Once prepared the Act requires the PCC to consult with the people of West Mercia and victims of crime on the draft plan. As part of the statutory process the Police and Crime Panel must be sent a copy of the draft plan. In accordance with this requirement a copy of the draft Plan was submitted to the Panel and reviewed at its September meeting. Following the meeting the Panel's comments were formally submitted to the PCC and were responded to as required.

4. As reported in September the consultation for the Safer West Mercia Plan opened on 9 August and closed 12 weeks later on 1 November. Details of the consultation were published on the PCC's website along with an online survey to coincide with media releases to the press and notification to contacts on the PCC's email list. Recipients of this email included MPs, partner organisations, stakeholders, victims' service providers, town and parish councils and the leaders of top tier local authorities. The survey was also promoted internally.

5. The survey link has been shared on all social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), via a press release (which has been picked up by the local newspapers), via the newsletter, and on the PCC's website. In addition the PCC and his team attended a number of public events, engaging with the public and seeking views on the plan.

6. A copy of the survey is attached at appendix 1.

Consultation responses

7. 249 responses were received in total (not including the Panel's). 245 of these were submitted via the online survey and 4 were submitted by email. Of the four responses submitted via email, one was from a retired police officer, one from an MP, one from the Environment Agency and one from Telford and Wrekin Council. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the online submissions as they are anonymous, however, from the comments made it appears that responses have in the main come from members of the public, West Mercia personnel, councillors and a small number of organisations.

8. 55% of all respondents to the online survey stated they lived or were located in Worcestershire, 31% were from Shropshire, 10% from Herefordshire and 5% were from Telford and Wrekin.

9. A copy of all the responses received is attached at appendix 2.

10. In addition to the formal consultation responses, comments made on social media channels were also captured. While they cannot be included as part of the formal consultation the PCC has reviewed them before finalising the Plan. A copy of social media comments is attached at appendix 3.

Changes to the draft plan following consultation

11. All the responses received during the consultation period have been carefully considered by the PCC. The responses are wide ranging from short specific comments through to more detailed responses and reflect an equally wide range of opinions on both the content of the plan and policing in general.

12. Reflecting on the comments received during the consultation, discussions with chief officers and the comments made by members of the Panel in September, the PCC has made a number of revisions to the plan. Examples of changes made as a result of the consultation include:

- The Plan's Foreword has been amended to include additional wording around prevention to emphasise the PCC's commitment. (page 4)
- The word 'ASB' has been added to the opening text in the *Putting Victims and survivors first* section.
- Wording has been added on pages 14 and 17 to capture the PCC's commitment to everyone in the community, recognising that some people have protected characteristics.
- A reference to 'waste crime' has been added into priority 1 on page 18.
- A reference to the PCC's prevention intent has been added on page 23.
- The wording 'recognising that not everyone uses new technology' has been added to page 31.

13. A copy of the final draft of the Safer West Mercia Plan is attached at appendix 4.

Performance framework

14. The PCC's performance lead has worked with the force to identify a suite of performance metrics which can be reported on to demonstrate progress against the commitments set out in the Plan. A copy of these metrics is attached as appendix 5.

15. Where possible existing performance products, such as the West Mercia Quarterly Performance report, will be used to report on agreed metrics. Where metrics are only available in management products, the PCC has received assurance that the information can be accessed when required. In addition, a small number of potential metrics have been identified that are not captured in any product or are completely new. Work is ongoing to see if and how these can be recorded and captured.

16. As reported at the September meeting and confirmed by the PCC in his written response to the Panel, the Safer West Mercia Plan will not include any specific performance metrics. This approach will enable the PCC to adjust or refocus the framework as required, without having to republish the plan. Performance data will be published on the PCC's website and will continue to form part of both reports to the Panel and the annual report.

Risk Management Implications

None.

Financial Implications

None.

Legal Implications

None

Equality Implications

None.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Copy of the Consultation Survey

Appendix 2 – Copy of Consultation Responses

Appendix 3 – Copy of Social Media Comments

Appendix 4 – Copy of Final Draft Safer West Mercia Plan

Appendix 5 – Copy of proposed Safer West Mercia Plan Metrics

Contact Points for this report

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