



# Report to the Police & Crime Panel

## 25 June 2021

### Police & Criminal Justice Plan 2021-2025

#### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. This report accompanies the draft Police & Criminal Justice Plan presented to the Police & Crime Panel on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021, providing context to the document and seeking comments from the Panel.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Police & Crime Panel is invited to comment on and endorse the draft Police & Crime Plan.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1. The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 places a statutory duty on the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) to publish a Police & Crime Plan as soon as practicable within the financial year in which the election is held. Prior to publication of the plan the PCC must consult the Chief Constable, send a draft to the Police & Crime Panel and have regard to the Panel's comments.
- 3.2. The protocol between the PCC and the Police & Crime Panel requires the Panel to formally respond to the PCC within 5 working days of considering the plan.

#### 4. Strategic Priorities

- 4.1. The draft Police & Criminal Justice Plan sets out the following strategic priorities.
  - 4.1.1. Strong local policing
  - 4.1.2. Fighting serious organised crime
  - 4.1.3. Fighting cybercrime and fraud
  - 4.1.4. Improving the criminal justice system
  - 4.1.5. Tackling illegal encampments

#### 5. Development of the plan

- 5.1. Previous drafts of this document have been publicly available since early 2019 in anticipation of PCC elections due in 2020 (subsequently delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic).

- 5.2. The Chief Constable, senior Thames Valley Police (TVP) officers and OPCC staff have been briefed on the content of the draft document on various occasions during the past two years.
- 5.3. During the PCC election campaign held in 2021 the strategic priorities and contents of the plan formed a significant part of the dialogue with the public across various channels including broadcast interviews, election literature, social media campaigning, face to face meetings, online meetings and individual conversations and correspondence.
- 5.4. The declared election results gave Matthew Barber 313,148 votes, the largest electoral mandate for any Police & Crime Commissioner and the fourth largest electoral mandate for any elected post in the country in 2021 (behind the Mayor of London, the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Mayor of West Midlands).
- 5.5. This significant level of public support and the comments and discussion with the public during the extended election campaign demonstrate that the PCC has had regard to the views of victims of crime and the wider public.
- 5.6. In May 2021 further work was undertaken to refine the contents of the plan to take into account the additional learning gained through those wide ranging conversations. This involved all OPCC staff in contributing to the piece of work.
- 5.7. The Chief Constable was consulted, as required by the Act on this draft version prior to formal submission to the Panel.
- 5.8. The draft plan was also circulated for comment to over 120 key stakeholders, including Members of Parliament, Council Leaders and Chief Executives, NHS partners, criminal justice agencies and, where possible, individual members of the Police & Crime Panel.
- 5.9. Comments received from stakeholders were considered and where appropriate modifications made to the draft plan. This resulted in the version now presented to the Panel.

## **6. Strategic approach**

- 6.1. The Police & Criminal Justice Plan is specifically titled that way (as opposed to a Police & Crime Plan) to demonstrate the significant role that the PCC has in the wider criminal justice system, one that may continue to grow.
- 6.2. As a strategic document, the plan sets out high level priorities and a clear narrative to help set the context. As detailed on pages 14-15 the intention is to develop further strategies during the term of office that will focus on specific

areas of work. These will be presented to the Police & Crime Panel for information.

## **7. Performance management**

- 7.1. The plan sets out some high level success measures which set much clearer objectives than have been seen in previous plans.
- 7.2. The high level outcomes as detailed in the document seek to set trends or identify specific pieces of work that need to be undertaken. They do not set numerical targets.
- 7.3. This is intended to allow context to be given to judgements of success or failure and avoid the risk of perverse incentives being created in order to simply achieve a specific target.
- 7.4. Where appropriate more detailed outcome measures will be included in the future strategy documents (see 6.2).
- 7.5. Performance against the plan, and other key areas of work, will be monitored at fortnightly Liaison Meetings with the Chief Constable (and where necessary other senior officers and staff), and at bi-monthly Performance and Accountability Meetings which will be open to the public.

## **8. Conclusion**

- 8.1. The Police & Criminal Justice Plan presented to the Panel sets out a clear plan for the work of Thames Valley Police and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner. The Panel are invited to offer comments and formally respond to the PCC within 5 working days of the meeting. This will allow the PCC to give due regard to any such comments before publishing a final version of the document.