



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

MEMBER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Police and Crime Panel
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	3rd February 2023

BRIEF REPORT

The Police and Crime Panel meeting was principally to discuss the proposed Commissioner's 2023/24 precept proposal. The main points were:-

- Introduced the recent OPCC survey of 657 responses across Gloucestershire (for Stroud District the response rate was 14%). The survey indicated that the top issues for respondents were speeding and burglary/theft and raised also concerns on online crime and e-mail Spam crime. The respondent's highest priorities for investment were to support vehicle policy and police on the streets.
- In the introduction the commissioner highlighted the additional 312 funded full-time posts, comprising of 115 extra police officers, 19 PCSOs, 178 extra police staff
- Priorities in the Commissioner's budget were:-
 - Responding to the 14 causes of concern in the HMICFRS report including the need for continuing investment in improvements to the force control room answering 999 and 101 calls , which had seen its best performance since covid, but until a sustained good performance was seen this remains under review.
 - Continuation of the safer streets initiatives which has brought funding ahead of other constabularies in the South West region
 - There is investment in auto MPR (vehicle auto-registration recording systems) around the county as part of funding initiative for towns and parish, the second funding round having just been complete.
 - The commissioner was proud that as a per capita Gloucestershire was receiving relatively more funding than most others outside the main city police forces.
 - The commissioner was continuing to explore the deployment of drone technology to support police operations and intelligence.
- These fit into the commissioners stated six priorities of
 - Creating Safer Communities
 - Tackling violence against women and girls
 - Strengthening your Constabulary
 - Targeting the causes of crime
 - Supporting Victims and reducing reoffending
 - Empowering local communities
- The recommendation to the panel was an increase of the precept of the maximum amount of £15 per year on a Band D property or a 5.36% increase.

In response to questions:

- The PCC did not believe he had broken on his election pledge of 300 extra police officers, as it was pointed out that many of the additional posts were police staff rather than police officers. The PCC continued to have the ambition to recruit more officers.
- The CFO of the OPCC agreed that the funding had taken a greater risk appetite and that reserves would be drawn down to help fund the in-year expenditure.
- reassured the panel that all new officers and those transferring are rigorously vetted before acceptance.

Commissioner update verbal report many points:

- The next HMICFRS Inspection is expected to be in the autumn of 2023, so the next six months is crucial to continue the actions to take the constabulary out of engaged status.
- The PCC continues to lobby government to enable the recreation of a non-graduate route into the police force in discussion with the police college
- Continue to look at the improved use of data within the force to maximum its effectiveness.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Cllr Martin Pearcy
DATE	27th February 2023