

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting

Date: 17 June 2025

### Outside Organisation Updates from the Councils appointed representatives:

#### **Brief:**

*The Council's representatives are invited to report on any meetings of the appointed outside organisation, the role the organisation(s) they represent plays in promoting and aligning with the Council's priorities, policies and strategies, their impact and results, and advising on partnership discussions which are open and in the public domain. Feedback is scheduled across a full year cycle once per annum for most organisations and twice where meetings are more frequent (greater than 5)*

Update from: Cllr Palethorpe

Outside Organisation/Body: Devon, Cornwall and Scilly Isles Police and Crime Panel

#### **Purpose of the Organisation:**

Update on my new role as Teignbridge District Council's representative on the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel.

This is a crucial forum. The Panel exists to scrutinise and support the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner—Alison Hernandez—and to ensure that policing priorities reflect the needs of our communities here in Devon, Cornwall and the Scilly Isles.

#### **Role of the Panel.**

The panel is responsible for reviewing the Police and Crime Plan, monitoring performance scorecards, and scrutinising the decisions and actions of the Commissioner.

What we do not do, and this is important to be clear about, is scrutinise the operational performance of the police force. That responsibility lies with the Commissioner, who is elected to represent public views and hold the Chief Constable to account.

The Panel does, however, have some significant powers. These include:

- The power to veto the proposed police precept for council tax.
- Holding confirmation hearings for the appointment of Chief Constable and senior support staff.
- Reviewing the annual report and decision log of the PCC.
- And considering non-criminal complaints made against the Commissioner.

All meetings are public, webcast from Plymouth City Council, and follow a structured agenda that includes regular updates from the Commissioner and reviews of key policing priorities.

Under the Crime and Disorder Act, local authorities have a duty to work with police and other agencies to prevent crime

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p>and disorder. Our Community Safety Partnership, (CSP), plays a key role here.</p> <p>It must align its strategic plan with the Police and Crime Plan and submit that agreement to the PCC for the policing area.</p>   |
| <b>Attendance requirements/ meetings attended:</b>          | 4 x Annual or as required to complete agreed work streams.  |
| <b>Feedback:</b>  | <p>Nationally, the Home Secretary has identified six threats that every police force must be prepared to respond to. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Violence against women and girls</li> <li>2. Terrorism</li> <li>3. Serious organised crime</li> <li>4. National cyber incidents</li> <li>5. Child sexual abuse</li> <li>6. Public disorder and civil emergencies</li> </ol> <p>It's also worth reiterating the distinction between the roles of the Commissioner and the Chief Constable.</p> <p>The Commissioner sets the vision, determines strategy, and holds the force to account.</p> <p>The Chief Constable leads the force, manages day-to-day operations, and is responsible for delivering policing on the ground.</p> <p>While the Commissioner has no operational control, their relationship with the Chief Constable is essential to building a service that is trusted by the public and meets the needs of our communities.</p> <p>At the last Panel meeting in January, and ahead of the next on 25th July, several important initiatives were discussed. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotspot policing and increased foot patrols in town centres.</li> <li>• A multi-agency approach in places like Torquay, including small but meaningful interventions—like the removal of benches that attract antisocial behaviour.</li> <li>• Community Payback schemes, where offenders complete useful work locally—a scheme I believe should be expanded.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Examples of where the brief above has been followed:</b> | <p>We've also seen the impact of Operation Scorpion, now in its 10th phase.</p> <p>This is a regional crackdown on drug trafficking and county lines, with strong results: 95 arrests, £47,000 seized, and 48 people safeguarded—including 19 children. The real success, however, lies in disrupting exploitation and preventing young people from falling into a lifetime of criminality.</p> <p>In terms of prevention and rehabilitation, the force has introduced a new out-of-court resolution for first-time</p>   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p>domestic abuse offenders, partnering with the Hampton Trust.</p> <p>This early intervention approach seeks to change behaviour and reduce reoffending before it escalates.</p>   |
| <p><b>Additional information relevant to Overview &amp; Scrutiny including the value that TDC brings to this organisation and/or why this organisation needs TDC:</b></p> | <p>Devon, Cornwall and the Scilly Isles is not an easy place to police. It has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A resident population of 1.82 million</li> <li>• The largest road network of any force in England</li> <li>• Two national parks, 730 miles of coastline, and over 39 million annual visitors</li> </ul> <p>This unique geography makes for complex operational challenges, balancing rural, urban, and coastal demands. That's why the current PCC plan places a strong focus on repeat offenders, repeat locations, and repeat victims. We all know the truth—most crime is committed by a small number of people in a small number of places. If we want to keep our communities safe, we must deal with the root causes and stop the cycle of reoffending. The new PCC Police and Crime Plan for 2025 to 2029 is focused on just that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the police service</li> <li>• Preventing crime and antisocial behaviour</li> <li>• Supporting victims</li> <li>• Building public trust and professional standards</li> </ul> <p>And while the plan aspires to have the force consistently assessed as “Good,” I would note my own concern: if standards stay still while society changes, a rating of ‘Good’ can mask stagnation. We must always push for better, not simply settle.</p> <p>As the Teignbridge representative on this Council on the Panel, I would welcome the opportunity to return to this Committee to provide further updates or answer any questions.</p> |