Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the draft Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 for Leicestershire in accordance with Sections 5 & 6 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSRA).

Recommendation

2. The Panel considers the draft Police and Crime Plan 2017-21 and provides their views as part of the consultation on the Plan. Formal recommendations from the Panel will be sought at the February meeting when the final Plan is presented.

Background

3. Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibly Act 2011 (PRSRA) the responsibility for determining the contents of a strategic plan lies with the elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). As an elected individual the PCC is empowered, on behalf of the public, with setting the strategic objectives and these must cover the whole of the period of their office through to the end of the financial year in which the next election takes place, hence the plan covers the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2021.

4. Section 7 of the PRSRA sets out the requirements of the Police and Crime Plan which must cover the following matters:-

   (a) The elected local policing body’s police and crime objectives
   (b) The policing of the police area which the chief officer of police is to provide.
   (c) The financial and other resources which the elected local policing body is to provide to the chief officer of police for the chief officer to exercise the functions of chief officer.
   (d) The means by which the chief officer of police will report to the elected local policing body on the chief officer’s provision of policing.
   (e) The means by which the chief officer of police’s performance in providing policing will be measured.
   (f) The crime and disorder reduction grants which the elected local policing body is to make, and the conditions (if any) to which such grants are to be made.
5. Before issuing or varying a police and crime plan, the Commissioner must:-

(a) Prepare a draft of the plan or variation;
(b) Consult the relevant chief constable in preparing the draft plan or variation.
(c) Send the draft plan or variation to the police and crime panel.
(d) Have regard to any report or recommendation made by the panel in relation to the draft plan or variation.
(e) Give the panel a response to any such report or recommendations, and
(f) Publish any such response.

6. The new Police and Crime Plan must be issued within the financial year in which the ‘ordinary election’ is held in this case by the end of March 2017. The Commissioner has a duty to keep the Plan under review.

7. The draft Plan before members today provides the ‘core’ information on the Commissioner’s aims. The final plan will include some additional sections i.e. sections on the Commissioner’s Foreword, governance including holding the Chief Constable to account and information about Leicestershire Police. The final plan will be presented to the Panel at the February meeting where formal recommendations from the Panel will be taken into consideration, and responded to, by the Commissioner.

Consultation

8. In late August the Commissioner launched a consultation with stakeholders, partners and the public to ensure that his plan is reflective of the views of local people. A deadline of 30 September for feedback was given though it should be noted that the Commissioner will continue to keep the plan under review.

9. A full report on the consultation exercise can be found at APPENDIX ‘A’. Two methodologies were utilised: a web-based survey that was promoted throughout the Force area and telephone survey based on stratified sample aimed to the representative of the local population.

10. The telephone survey was outsourced to a Market Research Agency, they were commissioned to do 1,000 surveys and 1,105 were actually completed. Over 6,000 invitations to complete the web-based survey were circulated to three target audiences:-

- internal personnel (police officers and staff)
- Members of the public directly
- Stakeholders (Councillors, MP’s etc).

11. The web-based survey generated a total of 1,769 externa responses and another 152 were received from police officers and staff giving a total number of 3026 responses. This figure represents the highest number of public responses for a consultation of this type especially reassuring given that a total response of 600 would have been statistically valid.

12. As the Commissioner highlights in the Plan his views have been shaped by his own and public views pre and post election and since verified by the outcomes from the qualitative consultation.
The Draft Plan 2017-21

13. The Commissioner has, in line with the duties outlined above, prepared a draft Police and Crime Plan which covers 2017-2021 (APPENDIX ‘B’). The Commissioner has engaged with the Chief Constable during preparation of the plan and has sought feedback on its contents.

14. In order to meet the publication deadlines for the Police and Crime Panel while taking feedback from the consultation into account, the draft Plan attached at Appendix ‘A’ is, of necessity, not as detailed as the final version will be. The document attached focuses on the Commissioner’s priorities to be included in the Plan. The final version of the Plan will include all required sections and members’ comments from today will be taken into consideration in the final version. The full Plan will be provided to members at their meeting in February 2017 when the Panel will provide its formal recommendations to which the Commissioner will respond and publish on his website.

15. It should be noted that the information within the value for money section of the Plan is based on information known at the time of writing. This of course is ahead of the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement. The impact of the Statement will be taken into consideration and included in the final Plan.

Publication of the Plan

16. The Commissioner intends to publish the final Police and Crime Plan as a document on the PCC website and share it widely with partners, stakeholder and key agencies. The PCC does not intend to produce large numbers of hard copies of the Plan however a hard copy will be provided to members of the public on request.

17. A summary version of the final Plan will be printed in hard copy and available electronically for wider dissemination.

Implications

Financial: Included in the appendix to the report.
Legal: There is a legal requirement for the Police and Crime Commissioner to produce a Police and Crime Plan for the policing area.
Equality Impact Assessment: An equality impact assessment will be undertaken on the final version of the Plan.
Risk and Impact: None.
Link to Police and Crime Plan: As contained within the report.

List of Appendices

APPENDIX ‘A’ – Results of the consultation exercise.
APPENDIX ‘B’ – Draft Police and Crime Plan

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