

Police, Fire and Crime Panel – 23 September 2021

Police & Crime Plan and Fire & Rescue Plan

Report of the Staffordshire Commissioner

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report sets out the process the Commissioner is taking to developing his Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Panel notes the update on the delivery of the plans and make comment as appropriate.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Commissioner is required under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to issue a Police and Crime Plan as soon as practicable after taking office and, in any case, before the end of the financial year in which the election took place, so by the end of March 2022 at the latest.
- 3.2 The Plan will determine and explain the Commissioner's priorities for his term of office and is a critical means of securing efficient and effective police, criminal justice and community safety services, holding the Chief Constable to account and setting the budget and strategic direction of police and other services under the Commissioner's remit.
- 3.3 As the Fire and Rescue Authority, the Commissioner is also required under the Policing and Crime Act 2017 to publish a Fire and Rescue Plan which similarly sets out the strategic vision, priorities and objectives for the Fire and Rescue Service.
- 3.4 These plans act as planning tools for the Commissioner's Office and are an important mechanism for communicating the Commissioner's intentions to the public, police, fire and rescue service, partner agencies, PFCP and other stakeholders.

4 Plan development process

- 4.1 Work is ongoing to develop a draft of each plan which captures the Commissioner's ambitions for his term of office. In developing the Police and Crime Plan, the Commissioner has a statutory responsibility to consult with the

Chief Constable, local communities, victims of crime, responsible authorities such as local councils and criminal justice bodies. The plan must also reflect the Strategic Policing Requirement and other national policing strategies.

- 4.2 In developing the Fire and Rescue Plan the Commissioner must also consult with the Chief Fire Officer, local communities and responsible authorities. This plan must also reflect the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.
- 4.3 It is worth noting that role of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner may change in the future given the two-part national review of role that is taking place. The purpose of this review is to consider how the role of police and crime commissioners (PCCs), can be sharpened and expanded. The review applies to all PCCs, including police and fire commissioners (PFCCs) and mayors exercising PCC functions. Whilst the timing of plan publication and clarity on review outcomes will not align, the drafting of both plans will consider carefully the potential for future change and any sense of direction that becomes known.
- 4.4 The Police, Fire and Crime Panel is required under legislation to receive a draft of the plans, review them and provide a report making recommendations as appropriate. The Commissioner must have regard to these recommendations and publish a response to them prior to the plans' finalisation and publication.
- 4.5 Given the timing of the recruitment processes for the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer and required consultation process it is proposed to present a 'consultation draft' of each plan to the Panel to its meeting on 25 October 2021, facilitating a discussion on the contents that then enables the Panel to meet its obligations.

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