



**Police and Crime  
Commissioner  
Warwickshire**

**Item 7**

# Report to the Police and Crime Panel

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## **Report on the work of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

*24th June 2016*

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### 1) Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Panel with an update on the key activities that have taken place since the panel last met on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

### 2) PCC election

I am delighted to have been entrusted with this important role by the electorate and I am very much looking forward to beginning work on a new Police and Crime Plan, meeting officers and staff from across the force and to engaging with communities' right across the county in the coming weeks and months. My priority is to listen to the views of communities across Warwickshire on not only crime but also the prevention of crime.

I have signed the declaration of independence which emphasises that I am here to serve the people, not a political party or any one section of the electorate over another. This is something I take very seriously. Although I am a Conservative and will always be so, I will provide a robust voice for Warwickshire and will speak up first and foremost for what is in the best of interests for the whole county, regardless of political affiliations

### 3) Police and Crime Plan

As the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner I have identified six priorities which will form the backbone of my new Police and Crime Plan:

- **Equipping our police** to make sure they have the right equipment, are trained and motivated with the latest tools and technology to make policing more efficient and effective.
- **Protecting communities** by building strong relationships with other partner organisations who play a role in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, bringing criminals to justice and protecting local communities.
- **Increasing police numbers** – including police officers, PCSOs and Special Constables – by ensuring that Warwickshire Police secures value for money in everything it does, finding new savings through better procurement and reduced bureaucracy.
- **Supporting victims of crime** by launching a new Victim's Charter to ensure that those affected by crime can have the confidence that they will always be put first and receive appropriate support for their needs right across the criminal justice system.
- **Increasing police visibility** through a renewed focus on neighbourhood policing to deter crime and reduce the fear of crime.
- **Protecting the frontline** by reducing back office bureaucracy and red tape to free the police to fight crime and ensure that, when crime does occur, victims receive a quick and efficient response.

In addition to the above I am seeking to implement three charters to ensure the public of Warwickshire receive the quality of service they deserve in three key areas: Rural Crime, Business Crime and Victim Services. I am aware that the Police and Crime Panel have previously setup a Victims Services Task and Finish Group and developed an Action Plan which recommended the implementation of a Victims Charter. I will be noting the Panel's recommendations in the development of the work I undertake in this area.

The work of a PCC is so extensive and wide-ranging that it has to be a partnership effort; I will ensure that the Police and Crime Panel, all key partners, and the public, will have the opportunity to share their views on the new Police and Crime Plan. Even at this early stage I would welcome the views of the Panel on how they would prefer to be consulted.

To write the plan I will be following the Guidance and Practice advice issued by the Association of Policing and Crime Chief Executives to satisfy myself that the plan fulfils all of its statutory requirements and propose to share my draft plan with the Panel in September 2016. In the meantime my office will continue to work to deliver the priorities of the existing plan.

#### **4) Single Leadership of the Alliance**

The Alliance with West Mercia has undoubtedly enabled Warwickshire Police to make significant savings which it would have been unlikely to have been able to make had it continued to stand on its own. However I think it is vitally important that the people of Warwickshire continue to have a strong voice to represent their interests within the Alliance. That, in my view, is best achieved through the retention of separate Chief Constables and PCCs. I do not believe a full merger would be in the best interests of Warwickshire – the current arrangements serve the county very well. My counterpart in West Mercia is in agreement and I can report that he is starting the search for a new West Mercia Chief Constable for the force shortly.

#### **4) Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner**

Given the extensive and wide-ranging role I hold as Commissioner, I will be seeking to appointment a Deputy. However I want to be confident I appoint the right candidate for the role, and for Warwickshire, therefore I will not be rushing into making a decision. In the meantime I am considering alternative options to ensure the county is fully represented.

#### **5) Declaration of Interests**

I seek to be open and transparent from the outset of my appointment and have published on the OPCC website a Register of Interests which can be found at **Appendix A**.

Furthermore legal advice and serious consideration has been given to drafting a protocol to ensure there are no conflicts of interest between my role and that of my wife, Cllr Isobel Seccombe, Leader of Warwickshire County Council. Once the protocol has been completed it will be published on the OPCC website.

#### **6) Professional Standards Department (PSD) performance update**

This is a specific agenda item in line with the Panel's work programme (**Item 5**). A separate report has been compiled for consideration by the Panel.

#### **7) Outcomes performance update**

My predecessor held the Chief Constable to account on the low rate of positive action in relation to recorded crime. The force has since scrutinised this area of performance and a current position

statement has been produced. There is still clearly room for improvement and I will continue to monitor performance closely and have requested an update report in three months' time which I will share with the Panel.

### **8) Appointment of Chief Finance Officer - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

I am pleased to report that my counterpart in West Mercia, John Campion, and I have made the decision to appoint Chief Finance Officer, Elizabeth Hall, on a permanent basis. A separate report has been compiled for the Panel and will be addressed at **Item 14** as part of the Confirmation Hearing.

### **9) Summary of activity since the election**

Since the election I have been actively familiarising myself with Warwickshire Police, the Alliance and the positive work being undertaken in the community.

The list is not exhaustive but I have attended the following meetings / events:

- At the time of writing this report I have met with the Chief Constable in private on three occasions to hold him to account.
- Received portfolio briefings from Chief Officers (Operational Command Centre, Athena, StraDa and the Change programme)
- Rugby Street Pastors ceremony
- Chaired the first Alliance Governance Group meeting
- North Warwickshire Farmers, Rural Businesses and Horse Owners meeting
- Citizen Academy meeting
- The official launch of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board
- Undertaken a floor walk of both Leamington and Nuneaton Justice Centres.
- Taser training

### **10) Force Performance:**

The May 2016 Warwickshire force performance report can be found at **Appendix B**.

### **11) Decisions of the PCC**

I have made the following decisions since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting:

WPCC20001 – Appointment of a permanent Chief Finance Officer of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

WPCC20002 – Restricted due to operational sensitivity

A copy of the completed decision forms will be published on the OPCC website together with any relevant documents in due course.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – PCC Register of Interests

Appendix B – May 2016 Warwickshire force performance report