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Police and Crime  
Commissioner  
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# **Police & Crime Panel**

## **23/09/2021**

### **Report of the**

### **Police and Crime**

### **Commissioner for**

### **Warwickshire**

# 1. Introduction.

The purpose of this report is, in my capacity as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire, to provide the members of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel with an update on my key activities since the panel's last meeting on Thursday 24 June 2021.

## 2. Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The following provides an insight into some of the significant developments that have occurred since my last report to the panel and captures some of the work that both the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and I have been engaged in during that period.

### 2.1 PCC Review

Last year the Government set out its ambition to strengthen and review the role of Police and Crime Commissioners by launching a two-part review into the role, in furtherance of the Government's stated commitment to deliver on the people's priorities to cut crime.

#### 2.1.1 Part One

On 16 March 2021, the full set of recommendations were announced by the Home Secretary in a Written Ministerial Statement and are intended to sharpen the accountability, visibility and transparency of Police and Crime Commissioners, as well as considering their role in strengthening fire governance and progression of the Government's longer-term ambitions on Mayoral devolution.

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners has recently released information on the anticipated timescales for the implementation of the key recommendations of the review. These are however subject to parliamentary timetables and agreement and are therefore subject to change: -

Recommendation	Timescale
Amend the Specified Information Order	Implemented 31 May 2021
Electoral reform – First Past the Post	Implement in time for 2024 elections
Build on the accountability framework and develop a framework for the use of independent mediation	Prior to December 2021
Consult on potential changes to the Policing Protocol	May 2022
Legislate to mandate the Commissioners must appoint a Deputy from 2024 onwards	Implement in time for 2024 elections

## 2.1.2 Part 2

In July 2021, the Government announced its intention to launch Part Two of the review, which is intended to help examine further ways to strengthen and expand the role with a focus on the tools and levers needed to enhance Commissioners efforts to cut crime. In particular it will: -

- Work alongside the Ministry of Justice and Probation Service to examine the role of Police and Crime Commissioners in offender management aligned to existing operating models.
- Consider the role of Police and Crime Commissioners in the partnership landscape and assess whether their current set of tools and levers are sufficient to drive and co-ordinate local activity to reduce crime, combat drugs misuse and tackle anti-social behaviour. The review will focus on Local Criminal Justice Boards, Community Safety Partnerships and Violence Reduction Units.
- As previously announced during Part One, the Government will also bring forward a stakeholder consultation on giving a general power of competence to Commissioners, as afforded to Local Authorities.
- Alongside expanding the role of Police and Crime Commissioners, the Government will continue to build on the work carried out in Part One of the Review, ensuring that there are effective local scrutiny mechanisms in place and that you Police and Crime Commissioners continue to be accountable to the communities they serve.

The review will therefore: -

- Assess the Police and Crime Panel Model - specifically the potential benefits of independent members, identifying and securing the right skill sets and options to strengthen panel support.
- Consider whether the existing mechanisms for investigating complaints and allegations against PCCs are sufficient and examine the role of the Independent Office for Police Conduct in assessing criminal wrongdoings by Police and Crime Commissioners and the issue of vexatious complaints.
- Work with the Cabinet Office and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to consider the merits and demerits of introducing recall for Police and Crime Commissioners for very serious breaches of behaviour, including what might be a suitable trigger mechanism.
- Through Part Two of this Review and the upcoming Spending Review, the Home Office will examine how Police and Crime Commissioners use data in holding Chief Constables to account for the efficient and effective delivery of policing services in their respective areas.
- As part of its work on the upcoming Victims' Bill, the MoJ is considering the role of PCCs in enforcing victims' right and commissioning support services.

The review team will report to the Home Secretary on Part Two by November 2021, which will allow the Government to plan for any legislative changes which will need to be made to embed recommendations from Part One and Two of the review.

## 2.2 Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025

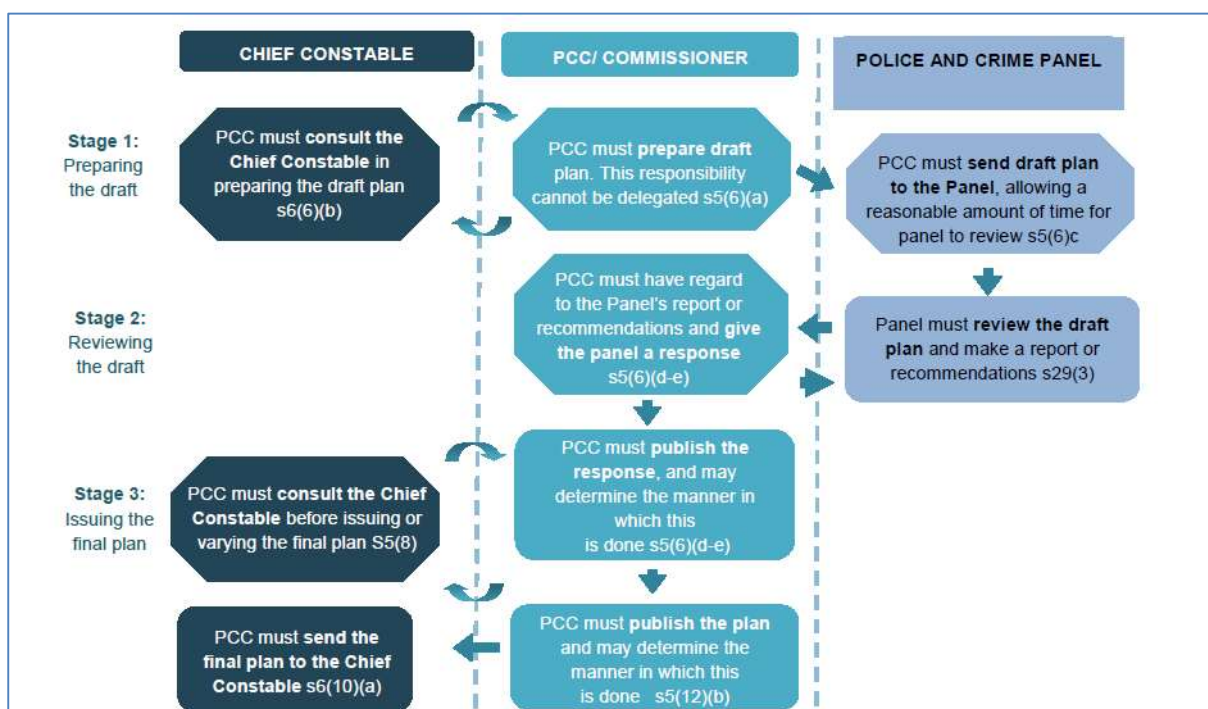
The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 brought about significant changes to the governance of policing in England and Wales. This included the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners across England and Wales, with responsibility for ‘the totality of policing’ in their respective police force areas.

The Act requires Police and Crime Commissioners to issue a Police and Crime Plan for their term in office, which sets out how they plan to discharge their responsibilities, holding their Chief Constable to account for the operational delivery and secure and maintain efficient and effective local policing services.

Whilst my Police and Crime Plan 2016-2022 is still current, following the Police and Crime Commissioners elections I’m keen to set out my ambitions and objectives for my new term of office. The new plan, which will extend to 2025, is currently under development will capture the pledges I made during the election, together with evidence drawn from the OPCC Public Priorities Survey 2020, Warwickshire County Council’s ‘You Say’ Survey 2020, and the OPCC Budget Consultation 2020/21 as to the concerns and priorities of the residents and communities of Warwickshire.

The intentions for the new plan is to make it more concise and public-facing than the existing plan, making it more dynamic and providing a clear focus on the key objectives ensuring that they are quickly and easily understood and remembered by all.

The statutory role of the Police and Crime Panel in the development and review of the Police and Crime Plan is set out in the following illustration: -



Although the new Police and Crime Plan is in development, I thought it would be beneficial for the panel to have early sight of the proposed key objectives for 2021–2025, which are represented below infographic: -

Vision: Communities across Warwickshire feel safe and supported, with crime investigated effectively, better outcomes achieved and reoffending reduced, leading to increased confidence in the criminal justice system.

To achieve this, my priorities are to:

### 1. Deliver visible and effective policing

*Shared outcome: A visible police presence which deals effectively with local issues through innovative use of resources, delivering value for money for the taxpayer.*

### 2. Fight crime and reduce reoffending

*Shared outcome: Co-ordinated action is taken to disrupt and deter the most serious and harmful crimes and those which cause most concern to communities, with offenders brought to justice and less likely to reoffend.*

### 3. Keep people safe and reduce harm

*Shared outcome: Vulnerable people are safeguarded and there is a sustained reduction in the numbers of people killed and seriously injured on our roads.*

### 4. Improve the justice experience

*Shared outcome: Victims and witnesses have a better experience from the point of reporting crime to receiving an outcome, with clear pathways to tailored support services and improved confidence in the process.*

### 5. Strengthen communities

*Shared outcome: Communities are empowered to shape how policing and community services are developed and delivered, with strengthened partnership working building public confidence and resilience to crime.*

Areas of focus:

- Extra officers
- Neighbourhood policing
- Transforming the force

- Violent crime
- Organised crime
- Reoffending

- Violence against women and girls
- Vulnerability
- Road safety

- Victims and witnesses
- Public contact
- Justice outcomes

- Involving and empowering citizens
- Crime prevention
- Partnership working

Police and Crime Commissioners also have statutory duties when formulating and implementing the plan to:-

- Co-operate with responsible authorities in formulating and implementing local crime and disorder strategies
- Co-operate with local criminal justice bodies to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for the police area
- Achieve value for money
- Make arrangements for engaging with local people
- Ensure that the Chief Constable fulfils their duties relating to equality and diversity
- Have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Have regard to the Strategic Policing Priorities

In due course, I look forward to the Police and Crime Panel's review of the final draft when completed and will value any recommendations that it may make.

## **2.3 Annual Report 2020/21**

It is also a requirement of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 that Police and Crime Commissioners must publish annual reports on their work and the progress which has been made in meeting the objectives of their Police and Crime Plan. I'm therefore pleased to be able to report that a draft of my Annual Report 2020/21 is appended for the purpose of obtaining the observations from the members of the panel.

You will note that the report is not merely confined to the achievement of 2020/21 as it also extends into the current financial year in certain key aspects, as it seeks to inform on the measures and activity that both the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and I have been engaged in to tackle the most significant issues of the day. This is particularly so in respect of the challenges we continue to face as we navigate our way through the effects of Covid-19 pandemic emergency.

- **Appendix A** - Draft Annual Report 2020/21.

Once comments from the panel have been captured, and any amendments made, the final report can then be published for the information of the public.

## **2.4 Serious and Organised Crime**

The Police and Crime Panel as part of its work programme has requested the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide a report on the subject of Serious and Organised Crime (SOC). Given the wide-ranging definition of SOC, it has subsequently been agreed that the focus of the paper would be on the sub-category of County-lines drug supply.

- **Appendix B** - Report on Serious and Organised Crime.

The report includes, inter alia, the subject of National Policing Priorities and also recent amendments to the Specified Information Order 2011, which mandates that certain information must be published by the Police and Crime Commissioner within certain time-frames and in a prescribed manner.

## **2.5 Finances**

Detailed financial information is included at Chapter 11 in my appended Annual Report 2020/21. In addition, on Thursday 8 September 2021 the latest meeting of the Police and Crime Panel Budget Working Group was held, chaired by Cllr. Kettle and attended by my Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive Officer. The working group is to report to this meeting of the Police and Crime Panel.

## **2.6 Personnel**

There have been some developments in respect of the OPCC staff, most notably Katie Baker as the Office Manager has retired after serving for 13 years at the OPCC. I'd like to put on record my sincere thanks for the immense help and support she provided to both myself, my predecessor Ron Ball and the Police Authority that preceded the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in 2012.

Also departing from the OPCC is my Personal Assistant, Emma Alaball, and I likewise thank her for her contribution to managing my commitments and supporting the OPCC. I wish them both well for the future and success in whatever new ventures they may pursue. The process of recruiting to fill the vacancies has commenced

### **2.6.1 Engagement Officer**

A new addition to the OPCC staff is the recent recruitment of an OPCC Engagement Officer. The purpose of this new role is to extend my reach into Warwickshire's diverse communities in order to listen and better understand their concerns and priorities, and at the same time to explain my role as the Police and Crime Commissioner and communicate the extent of my work and that of the OPCC in fulfilling my responsibilities.

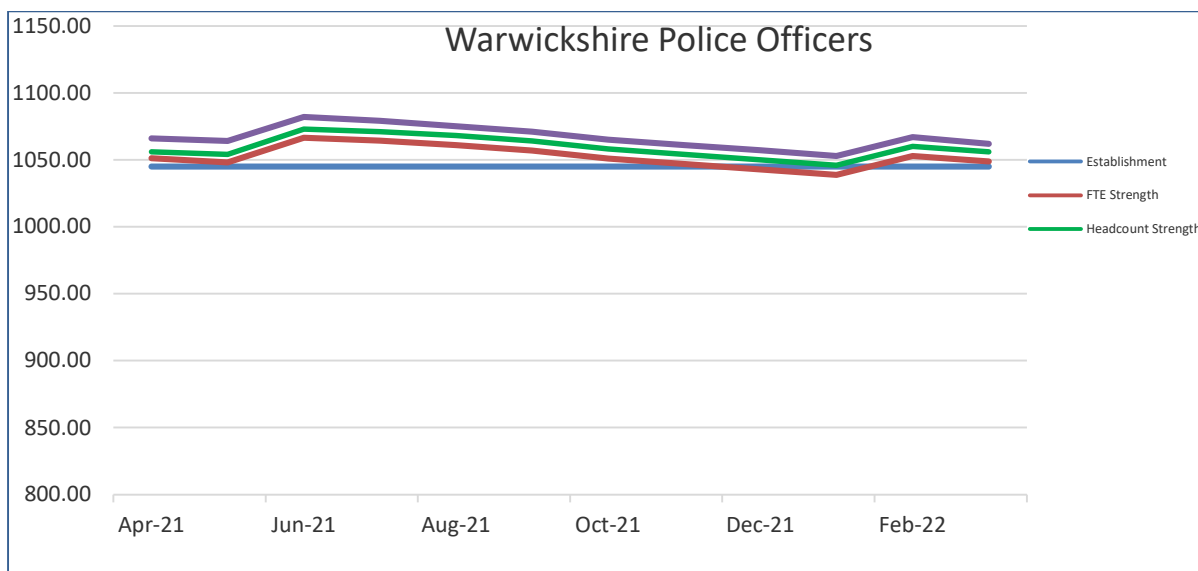
## **3. Warwickshire Police**

### **3.1 Establishment**

I have given an undertaking that the additional funding that tax payers across Warwickshire have contributed through the police precept over the last three years would be used to increase the number of police officers in the county and ensure that policing numbers would top the 1,000 mark - one of the key priorities of my Police and Crime Plan 2016 to 2022.

I am pleased to be able to report that this ambition has been achieved and the actual Full Time Establishment (FTE) of police officer numbers currently stands at 1056 against an establishment of 1045 officers, as the following graph illustrates: -





*Graph 1 - Police Officer Establishment*

It is proposed that the police officer establishment will further increase to 1,100 officers at the start of the 2022/23 financial year.

### 3.2 Crime Rates

As previously commented upon, as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdowns the crime rates for 2020/21 were extraordinary in that extensive and significant reductions in acquisitive crime were experienced. Therefore, comparing Year to Date (YTD) crime rates for the current financial year with those of 2020/21 creates something of a false position as it is not a 'like for like' comparison when taking into account these unique conditions.

Warwickshire Police have consequently produced a revised weighted baseline for their weekly performance data, in that it excludes the data from 2020/21. The below table provides the week's figures for Week 36 (as reported on the 13 September 2021) for key Home Office crime categories: -

HO Crime Category	Volumes	Weighted Baseline %
Total Recorded Crime	806	+3.9
Violence with Injury	85	+35
Rape	11	+37
Personal Robbery	3	-63
Business Robbery	0	-100
Burglary Residential	19	-47
Vehicle Offences	55	-43
Drug Offences	17	+21
Possession Offensive Weapons	16	+100
Public Order	86	+75

### 3.3 Holding to Account

The Police and Crime Panel may wish to note the appended report 'OPCC Force Performance Scrutiny - July 2021' that was introduced at the last Performance Accountability Meeting (PAM) on the 31 August 2021, held between the Chief Constable and myself as a formal opportunity to scrutinise force performance and to enable me to effectively 'hold to account' the Chief Constable for operational delivery: -

- **Appendix C** - OPCC Force Performance Scrutiny July 2021.

A 'spotlight' subject is also selected for each months PAM to enable additional greater scrutiny on a topic of particular interest or concern. To date, these are: -

#### 2020

- January - Non-emergency 101 performance.
- February - Investigations.
- March - Victim Services.
- April - Covid 19 Public FAQs.
- May - Serious and Organised Crime.
- June - Criminal Justice.
- July - Q1 Performance Report.
- August - Learning and Development.
- September - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- October - Roads Policing.
- November - Suspended due to Covid-19.
- December - Suspended due to Covid-19.

#### 2021

- January - Hate Crime.
- February - Cyber Crime.
- March - Change management
- April - Repeat Victims
- June - Diversity
- July - Evolve
- August - Public Contact

## 4. Sustainability

### 4.1 Introduction

The Police and Crime Panel have requested that I provide an update on the arrangements and progress being made to towards environmental and social 'sustainability', not only in terms of Warwickshire Police as an organisation of some 2,000 persons with a budget of some £110m but also in respect of the OPCC and the organisations that we support through commissioned service and grants and the

commercial suppliers that we procure from. The catalyst for such request is the critical and urgent matter of 'climate emergency'.

A Climate Emergency has been defined as, *'A situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.'*

In 2015, through the Paris Agreement, global leaders made an historic commitment to address the problem. The Paris Agreement, signed by over 190 countries around the world, aims to limit the rise of global temperature to no more than a 1.5°C, about pre-industrial levels. This aim has been widely interpreted as requiring global carbon dioxide emissions to reach 'net-zero' by 2050

At a meeting of the full council on Thursday 25 July 2019, Warwickshire County Council unanimously declared a climate change emergency and across the United Kingdom 308 out of 408 local authorities, led by parties from across the political spectrum, have declared such a climate emergency.

## **4.2 Warwickshire Police**

The force have established a Sustainability Board, chaired by the Head of Business Operations with responsibility for both Estates and Fleet, with representation across the organisation including the OPCC.

The aim of the board is to coordinate and bring focus upon all initiatives and issues impacting Warwickshire Police's sustainability agenda, in line with the force's fit for the future commitment to a greener workforce which positively contributes to a sustainable environment. There are five key areas of focus: -

### **1. Culture**

Establish a clear and recognised sustainability culture within the force, with clear engagement from all staff and officers with an understanding of their sustainability obligations both individually and as part of a wider organisation

### **2. Carbon Reduction**

Inform adaptations to our physical infrastructure and working practices to reduce our overall ecological impact and greenhouse gas emissions in line with UK government carbon emission reduction targets, without impacting on our ability to protect our communities.

### **3. Waste**

Inform approaches to minimise our overall creation of waste in the first instance, and where unavoidable, ensure that we are applying the waste hierarchy' effectively in order to maximise the value of our resources.

### **4. Procurement**

Evidence a clear and transparent commitment to our responsible procurement obligations, including prompt payment code, ethical sourcing, supplier diversity and modern slavery, ensuring ethical and secure employment for all people and organisations involved within our supply chains

## **5. Community**

To play our role in developing a prosperous community in Warwickshire and surrounding areas, supporting local organisations, charities and people to develop and thrive.

A comprehensive sustainability delivery plan underpins the aims and terms of reference of the board.

### **4.3 Police and Crime Panel**

At a meeting on the 6 August 2021 between the chair of the Police and Crime Panel Planning and Performance Working Group and representatives from Democratic Services and the Office of the Police and Crime Panel, it was suggested that the working group would like to recommend to the Police and Panel that the working group undertake to research approaches to sustainability issues in order to support the Police and Crime Commissioner by delivering a report on best practice.

If agreed, I would be very grateful for any assistance that the working group could provide in this area of sustainability, which is relatively new to myself and many others involved in implementing the measures. In addition, the suggestion was raised at the last meeting of Warwickshire Police's Sustainability Board on 24 August 2021 and was welcomed.

### **4.4 BlueLight Commercial Limited**

As I have previously reported, I am a member of the board of BlueLight Commercial Limited. The purpose of this new company is to act as a national police procurement support company, providing improved efficacy and efficiency and economies of scale in procuring goods and services for the 43 police forces of England and Wales. The police service spend around £2.5 billion of public money annually and I am grateful to be afforded the opportunity to shape the future in this area of financial prudence.

Social value will also play an increasingly important part in police procurement tenders as the Cabinet Office has issued a national procurement policy statement which includes a number of priorities around social value, including supplier diversity, where 10% of the evaluation criteria is now focused on social value.

Whilst policing is not currently covered by the requirements, Police and Crime Commissioners are keen that police forces engage with these principles. Sustainable procurement is something that is bandied around a lot at the moment, but every public sector organisation now has to consider the environmental, social and economic implications of what they do. Social value can include obvious things such as reducing carbon emissions and waste, but it also goes further to cover the impact of modern slavery or supply chains.

## **5. Engagements**

Whilst the impact of Covid-19 has undoubtedly effected my ability to engage with communities as effectively as before the pandemic, I still continue to actively participate in many different forums and meetings and engage as widely as possible

to hear of the public's concerns and to also discuss the action that I'm taking to address such issues.

Now that the Covid-19 restrictions have been relaxed, I intend to do even more engagements over the coming months to ensure that I am able to fully understand the current views and concerns of Warwickshire's communities as we hopefully emerge from the pandemic. The following are some of my most recent and significant engagements: -

## **5.1 Futures Unlocked**

On the 9 July 2021 I visited Rugby and met with Futures Unlocked, a charity based in the town that helps offenders to resettle in the community when they return to Warwickshire upon release from prison, and provided them with a £10,000 boost from my grants scheme. By working closely with the trained volunteer mentors from Futures Unlocked, clients can get help with accessing accommodation and benefits, attending Probation appointments, registering with a GP and getting help for substance misuse problems. They can also receive support around family matters and get assistance to help them work towards education and employment.

I'm very supportive of the work that the charity does in supporting individuals leaving the prison system, as it helps them restart their lives more effectively - the ultimate aim is to turn their lives around and steer them away from further offending. Having people locked into a cycle of crime is of no benefit to anyone, and the mentoring provided by Futures Unlocked gives a real opportunity for those coming out of the prison system to successfully settle back into the community and lead productive and crime-free lives.

## **5.2 Academy of Hard Knocks**

In my last report to the Police and Crime Panel on the 14 June 2021, I mentioned that I had recently met with the organisation based in Leamington Spa called 'Change your life, Put down your knife', which aims to prevent, rehabilitate and educate young people away from crime with an emphasis on County-lines and knife crime.

On the morning of 23 September 2021, the same day as this Police and Crime Panel meeting, I am to meet with Matthew Wilkins a local anti-knife crime campaigner also based in Leamington Spa who volunteers for an organisation called 'The Academy of Hard Knocks', which aims to break the cycle of youth offending and reduce knife crime. I'm informed that this organisation has already had a really positive impact with the communities in London.

These type of engagements provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the issues from a range of different perspectives to better understanding the causes of knife crime, so that further consideration can be given as to what more can be done with partners to address the scourge of knife crime and the associated factors of County-lines, acquisitive crime and vulnerability.

## 5.3 Night Time Economy

On Friday 3 September 2021 I went on patrol with officers from Leamington Spa to see for myself the many challenges faced in policing the night-time economy. It's through experiencing these environments and events first-hand that I gain a greater appreciation of the problems faced and a better understanding of the work that the officers, partners and local businesses do in addressing the crime, violence and anti-social behaviour that is often associated with the night-time economy.

## 6. Formal Decisions

A list of my formal decisions made can be found on the OPCC website at: - <https://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/decision-making/>



Philip Secombe. TD.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire.