

**NOTES OF THE PUBLIC SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 31 JULY 2014 IN
CONFERENCE ROOM 7, CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD.**

Present: Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
J Dwyer, Police & Crime Commissioner
M Ollerenshaw, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner
M Sellwood, Chief Executive
M Eaton, Governance Officer
E Allison, Research & Analysis

Cheshire Constabulary
J McCormick, Deputy Chief Constable
R Muirhead, Director of Finance
Superintendent J Armstrong, Professional Standards
D Gillett, Planning and Performance

Matters considered in public

2014/56 NOTES & ACTIONS

The notes of the meeting held on 30 April 2014 were received; and the actions reviewed and all were closed.

2014/57 POLICE & CRIME PLAN: PERFORMANCE

The Commissioner considered in detail a report on the second quarter performance against the Police & Crime Plan 2013-16.

The Commissioner welcomed the continued positive reductions in recorded crime and anti-social behaviour incidents. The Commissioner enquired about the level of killed and serious injuries in road traffic collisions and the road safety campaigns/initiatives being undertaken; drug related offences; the action taken to increase victim confidence to report domestic abuse, rape and hate crimes incidents.

In response to queries, the Commissioner was advised that road safety initiatives targeting seatbelt compliance, drink driving and speeding had operated and the use of ANPR had assisted in making Cheshire's roads safer. A briefing on the causation factors and locations would be provided to the Commissioner. The high profile Operation Blaze which targeted class 'A' drug related activity had been successful and resulted in 39 arrests. The Deputy Chief Constable advised that much work had been undertaken in terms of operations and also raising awareness and confidence via social media both locally and national to encourage reporting and improvements made in the service provided to victims of domestic abuse, sexual offences and hate crimes. A review of third party hate crime reporting centres was being undertaken and the outcome reported to the Commissioner.

ACTIONS: That

- (1) the Deputy Chief Constable brief the Commissioner on the Constabulary's business crime initiatives by 5 August 2014;

- (2) the Deputy Chief Constable update the Commissioner on the incident involving the theft of plants from the Mosque in Blacon;
- (3) the respondents data be submitted to a future meeting when available.

2014/58 COMPLAINTS: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Commissioner scrutinised the second quarter report on the number and types of public complaints; a summary against key performance measures; Area and HQ complaint allegations control charts and comparative complaint measures for 2013/14.

The Commissioner enquired about the reasons for the 11% increase in complaints in the quarter and how Cheshire compared with other forces in terms of the number of complaints. The Head of Professional Standards advised that in Cheshire more complaints were upheld than other forces and also outlined what actions were undertaken to improve the service and target complaints relating to discrimination. The Head of Professional Standards reported that the IPCC provided comparable statistical information which whilst it was relating to the previous quarter would be included in future reports.

The Commissioner note that the Home Secretary had announced a review of the complaints process and would be consulting on options for change in the autumn.

ACTION:

That the Head of Professional Standards in consultation with the Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner review the information contained in the IPCC report relating to most similar forces and agree what relevant headline data to include in future reports.

2014/59 PEOPLE STRATEGY: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Commissioner reviewed the performance exceptions against the measures included in the People Strategy. The report summarised the performance in relation to key measures and information on the corporate human resources function; the establishment figures and budget for police officers and staff; and a detailed assessment by rank/post and diversity factors.

The Deputy Chief Constable provided an update on the current police officer recruitment intakes and the work being undertaken to particularly attract female and BME candidates and the initial poor response. The Commissioner was advised of the current work being undertaken and planned initiatives to address police officer and police staff sickness absence, which included dedicated HR Advisors on the Areas. It was noted that there was an improving trend in sickness performance but that more needed to be done to achieve the previous good performance levels.

The Commissioner also discussed with the Deputy Chief Constable the recruitment and retention of Specials Constables.

ACTIONS: That

- (1) the Head of Human Resources review the recruitment process to raise awareness and increase female and BME applicants; and
- (2) the Head of Human Resources and Head of Performance & Planning review the submission of HR performance data to avoid duplication in the performance charts.

2014/60 SCRUTINY OF COMPLETED COMPLAINTS FILES

The Commissioner received a report on the complaints against police officers and police staff from across the Constabulary that had been reviewed by the Deputy Commissioner in the last quarter. The Deputy Commissioner had not identified any particular trends.

The Commissioner noted that the scrutiny of these files would be undertaken by the Audit & Ethics Committee, from the autumn.

2014/61 ESTATES STRATEGY 2014-17

The Commissioner considered progress against the strategic objectives of the Estates Strategy and the utilisation of the Tactical Training Unit. The report also outlined the actions undertaken and progress against the Carbon Management Plan as part of the Environmental Management Strategy 2014-17.

The Commissioner noted that the Constabulary had reduced its carbon footprint by 22% and that Cheshire had been shortlisted to the final of the British Institute of Facilities Management awards for the work undertaken in creating a sustainable police force.

2014/62 GATHERING PUBLIC PRIORITIES

Consideration of this item was deferred at the request to the next meeting and volume and outcome data be included.

Part 2 - Matters considered in private

That the following matters were considered in private as they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Sections of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 indicated below:-

<i>Item</i>	<i>Section</i>	
<i>Financial Position: First Quarter Review</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Law enforcement</i>
	<i>43</i>	<i>Commercial interest</i>
<i>IT Strategy 2013-16: Quarterly Update</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Law enforcement</i>
	<i>43</i>	<i>Commercial interest</i>
<i>Procurement Strategy 2013-16: Quarterly Report</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>Commercial interest</i>
<i>Conduct Matters, IPCC Referrals, Grievances & Employment Tribunals</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>Personal Information</i>

2014/63 FINANCIAL POSITION: FIRST QUARTER REVIEW

The Commissioner considered a report which scrutinised expenditure against the 2014/15 revenue and capital budgets. The reasons for the projected underspend were discussed and progress of schemes in the capital programme was reviewed.

ACTION:-

Deputy Chief Constable to respond to the Commissioner on the request from the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership, to increase the cost of attendance at the Driver Speed Awareness Course.

2014/64 IT STRATEGY 2013-16: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Commissioner considered progress against the strategic aims and objectives contained within the IT Strategy 2013-16. The Deputy Chief Constable advised of the delay in the roll out of Niche 5 and the Commissioner asked that consideration be given to support frontline officers in the crime recording process.

2014/65 PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2013-16: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Commissioner considered a summary of actions against the Procurement Strategy 2013-16 which included the savings to date; specification of goods and services; collaboration opportunities; in-sourcing; and the main achievements against the Strategy.

2014/66 CONDUCT MATTERS, IPCC REFERRALS, GRIEVANCES & EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNALS

The Commissioner considered a report on the number of conduct matters, referrals to the IPCC and grievances and employment tribunals and noted that there were no particular emerging trends.

Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 11.45am.