

Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

PANEL HEDDLU A
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DYFED POWYS POLICE
AND CRIME PANEL



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chairman's foreword

I am delighted to be able to introduce the first ever Annual Report of the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel. The creation of directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners and their attendant Police and Crime Panels in 2012 heralded a radical change in how police forces in England and Wales were governed.

Whatever views one may have on the merits of this approach compared to the old Police Authority system, support for the concept of Police and Crime Commissioners has slowly grown over the years, with all main political parties fielding candidates in the last Commissioner elections. It is perhaps no coincidence that voter turnout in Dyfed-Powys for those elections was the highest (at 52%) of any area in England and Wales.

The theory behind the introduction of such Commissioners was that they, and ultimately the Police themselves, would become more directly accountable to the public via the ballot box, and therefore more responsive. However placing such power in the hands of an individual politician for several years potentially brings with it risks which Police and Crime Panels are designed to counter act.

As such my colleagues and I are committed to holding the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys to account for the performance of his statutory functions and supporting him to deliver to the public the efficient and effective police force that it deserves.

who we are



Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel was formed in 2012 by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. It has 14 members consisting of;

1. 3 County Councillors from Carmarthenshire
2. 3 County Councillors from Ceredigion
3. 3 County Councillors from Pembrokeshire
4. 3 County councillors from Powys
5. 2 Independent co-opted members

All Panel Members are formally appointed by the Home Office.

Further information regarding the Panel Members can be found at Appendix 1.

our role

The functions of the Police and Crime Panel are to;

1. Review the Police and Crime Commissioner's police and crime plan
2. Review the Police and Crime Commissioner's annual draft budget, with the power to veto the level of precept.
3. Deal with certain complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner or his deputy.
4. Scrutinise decisions and actions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner
5. Review the appointment or removal of the Chief Constable and the appointment of certain senior staff in the Police and Crime Commissioners office
6. Support the Commissioner in the performance of his statutory functions
7. Make reports or recommendations to the Commissioner
8. Review the Commissioner's conduct
3. Engaging with Communities and representing the public's voice on policing matters;
4. Working closely with community safety and criminal justice partners;
5. Supporting victims and bringing people to justice;
6. Commissioning services to make communities safer and to support the vulnerable;
7. Appointing and, if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable;
8. Dealing with complaints and disciplinary matters against the Chief Constable;
9. Holding the Chief Constable to account; and
10. Setting the annual Police budget and precept level

The statutory functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner are;

1. Setting the priorities for Dyfed-Powys Police;
2. Publishing a Police and Crime Plan;

Neither the Panel, nor the Police and Crime Commissioner has any role in the management of operational policing by Dyfed-Powys Police. Operational Policing is the responsibility of the Chief Constable.



review of the year

New membership

Following the Local Government elections in May 2017, the Panel saw significant changes in its membership. Seven new members were appointed and five previous members returned, two of whom were co-opted members.

Training

All Panel Members received induction/refresher training both in relation to their statutory responsibilities and the challenges faced by Dyfed-Powys Police.

Precept

On the 26th January 2018 the Panel met to consider the level of precept proposed by the Police and Crime Commissioner for the 2018/2019 financial year. In preparation for that meeting Panel Members received a detailed briefing from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable and other senior staff regarding;

1. The financial position of the force, including projected income, expenditure and reserves
2. The level of demand faced by the force, particularly in relation to cyber-crime, historical sex abuse investigations and serious and organised crime.
3. Staffing levels, including both for warranted officers (i.e. Police Officers), PCSOs and civilian staff.

During the course of the Panel Meeting on the 26th January 2018 Panel Members questioned the Police and Crime Commissioner and his Chief Financial Officer regarding the financial data and assumptions relied upon to justify the proposed precept.

At the conclusion of that process the Panel were satisfied that the proposed precept represented value for money and recommended to the Commissioner that the proposed Precept be implemented.

Confirmation Hearing

On the 16th February 2018 the Panel met to consider a request from the Police and Crime Commissioner that it confirm his proposed appointment of a new Chief Financial Officer.

The Panel had an opportunity to question the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the process for the proposed appointment and the preferred candidate regarding her suitability for the role. Subsequently the Panel recommended to the Commissioner that his preferred candidate be appointed.

Questions on notice

During the year Panel Members have questioned the Commissioner about a wide range of issues falling within his remit. However he was specifically asked about the following;

1. The Quality and cost of air support received from the National Police Air Service.
2. The ability of Dyfed-Powys Police to respond to terrorist incidents within the force area.
3. The reduction in the number of vehicles stopped by the force for drink/driving.

The questions put to the Commissioner and his detailed answers to them can be found in the minutes of Panel Meetings on its website by following the link below;
<http://www.dppoliceandcrimepanel.wales/>

Other Work

During the year Panel Members also;

1. Scrutinised how the Police and Crime Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account
2. Scrutinised the work of the Joint Audit Committee that supports the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
3. Reviewed all significant decisions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner and questioned him about them

4. Reviewed all reports issued by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) of relevance to Dyfed-Powys Police and questioned the Police and Crime Commissioner about them.



objectives for 2018-2019

During this municipal year the Panel will aim to perform its key statutory functions as follows;

Panel Function	What we will do	Our Objectives	How we will measure whether we have achieved our objectives
Scrutiny of the proposed police precept	<p>Review the end of year accounts for 2017-2018</p> <p>Receive a briefing from the Police and Crime Commissioner and his Chief Financial Officer regarding the financial status of Dyfed-Powys Police and the demands upon it.</p> <p>Hold a hearing to consider the proposed precept and make a recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner</p>	To ensure Police and Crime Commissioner's finances are being properly managed and that the people of Dyfed-Powys are receiving value for money from the Police Precept	<p>That any proposed increase in the police precept for 2019-2020 is appropriate given the circumstances facing Dyfed-Powys Police at that time</p> <p>That Dyfed-Powys Police has been able to operate within its allotted budget whilst delivering the service that the people of Dyfed-Powys require.</p>
Scrutinise how the Police and Crime Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account	<p>Attend and observe meetings of the Police Accountability Board</p> <p>Review and scrutinise Agendas and Reports considered at the Police Accountability Board</p> <p>Question the Commissioner about how he holds the Chief Constable to Account</p>	To ensure that the Police and Crime Commissioner is holding the Chief Constable to account in a thorough and robust manner for the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and the operational policing decisions that he(the Chief Constable) makes.	That there is clear evidence the Police and Crime Commissioner is robustly challenging the Chief Constable where it is appropriate to do so.

Objectives continued;

Panel Function	What we will do	Our Objectives	How we will measure whether we have achieved our objectives
<p>Scrutinise the impact of the Police and Crime Plan</p>	<p>Receive regular reports from the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the implementation of the Police and Crime Plan</p> <p>Receive and note any relevant reports from HMICFRS/other regulators and question the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding them</p> <p>Seek the views of other stakeholders and the Public</p>	<p>To ensure that the priorities in the Police and Crime plan continue to be fit for purpose and that their implementation is achieving the stated aims.</p>	<p>There is clear evidence the Police and Crime Plan Priorities are supported by key Stakeholders and the public</p> <p>There is clear evidence that the operational performance of Dyfed-Powys police continues to support those priorities</p> <p>There is clear evidence that the commissioning strategies pursued by the Commissioner continues to support those priorities.</p>
<p>Improve public awareness of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Police and Crime Panel</p>	<p>We will engage directly with the public and their elected representatives to inform them of our work and seek their views on Policing and Crime in Dyfed-Powys.</p>	<p>To make more people aware of what we do and why we do it.</p>	<p>That we have engaged with more residents of Dyfed-Powys than before.</p>



conclusion

Policing and crime and disorder matters to everyone. We all have a vested interest in ensuring that Dyfed-Powys Police is efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of the people that it serves. As a former special constable I understand the unique relationship that has always existed between the police and the public. To put it simply, we cannot hope to live in a society which is safe for our families without an effective police force. Yet our police cannot hope to be effective without the engagement and support of the public which they serve.

I and my colleagues are fully committed to doing our part to ensure that the people of Dyfed-Powys get the police force that they need and deserve. We firmly believe that with your engagement and support this is an aim that can be achieved.



appendix 1

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