



AGENDA NO: 6a

INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE – 11th SEPTEMBER 2019

DEVON, CORNWALL AND THE ISLES OF SCILLY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT BY NICOLA ALLEN – OPCC TREASURER DEVON AND CORNWALL

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Independent Audit Committee members about the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCCs) approach to scrutiny.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In 2018 the PCC commissioned an independent review of the scrutiny function. The purpose of the review was to:

a) Strengthen and improve the PCC's scrutiny function to ensure it:

- supported effective decision-making;
- generated organisation learning;
- was understood by Devon and Cornwall Police;
- added genuine value to the work and culture of Devon and Cornwall Police;
- helped to drive positive changes; and
- improved outcomes for the citizens of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

b) Increase the visibility of the PCC's action in holding the Chief Constable to account for delivering an effective police force.

1.2 The findings of the review recognised that the PCC and the OPCC had regularly scrutinised Devon and Cornwall Police using a variety of methods, however no unique and formal scrutiny framework existed.

1.3 The review highlighted 6 key issues for consideration which were:

- A need for a common objective for scrutiny.
- A need for a clearly defined scrutiny framework and protocols.
- A structure and capacity to delivery good scrutiny.

- A methodology for selecting scrutiny topics and an agreed work programme.
 - Useful information available to the public about the PCC's scrutiny approach.
 - The delivery of scrutiny skills through training.
- 1.4 In response to the review the PCC decided to create a new scrutiny framework which was produced by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). The purpose of the framework was to create a clearly articulated way of working which was jointly understood across each organisation (i.e. the OPCC and Devon and Cornwall Police) in a single document. The framework is located at Appendix A to this report.
- 1.5 The PCC also invested in formal scrutiny skills training for OPCC staff and Devon and Cornwall Police (Executive Team).

2. CONCLUSION

- 2.1 The scrutiny framework was implemented early this year and is available on the PCC's website at www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/about-us/scrutiny/. The website is currently in the process of being updated with various scrutiny documents such as terms of reference and public summaries from meetings.
- 2.2 As part of the PCC's new scrutiny infrastructure an Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel has been created which is working efficiently and effectively with excellent feedback from the partner organisations involved.
- 2.3 The PCC has also created a Use of Police Powers Scrutiny Panel which is comprised of lay members. That panel has just completed its first full scale scrutiny review which has been considered by the Scrutiny Board and is soon to be considered by the PCC and Chief Constable at Joint Leadership Board. The initial feedback from this review is that it has created an opportunity to view a specific aspect of policing through the public lens, providing a unique insight which will support positive organisational changes.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Independent Audit Committee consider the PCC's scrutiny framework at Appendix A and report back any observations to the PCC and the Chief Constable.

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