

Cllr R Croad
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copies to Police and Crime Panel members

5th November 2021

Dear Roger

I write in response to the Police and Crime Panel's report following its review of my draft Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025 on 17th September 2021.

I am grateful to the Panel for its constructive feedback and challenge which is an important part in developing a Plan that we can collectively own. I have carefully considered the representations of the Panel in developing my Plan, and have made some revisions influenced by the Panel's comments. I have reflected on the comments about clarity and have re-structured some of the content and language to make my priorities and vision clearer. I have provided more detailed responses to the specific comments below:

Violence against women and girls and domestic abuse

Following careful consideration of the Panel's comments, I have reflected on the fact that while violence against women and girls featured in early drafts of my Plan, it was not prominent enough in the narrative to demonstrate my commitment to tackling these types of horrendous crimes. This is an agenda which is of significant importance to me, and something I have already been working with the Force to address for some time. I have therefore reviewed my priority on violence to ensure that I am categorically clear that we will focus on the causes of violence through prevention and intervention and importantly, I have made an unequivocal commitment to tackle violence against women and girls. I have included measures of domestic violence and victim satisfaction for these offences to ensure a close focus remain on these crimes.

Hate crime and minority ethnic communities

I welcomed the Panel's comments recognising the impacts of crime on our diverse communities, and particularly the experiences of our minority ethnic communities. I agree

that increasing public confidence in certain parts of society to report information and crimes to the police is an area that we need to improve. In response, I have reflected this by placing an emphasis on community cohesion and tackling hate crime as a commitment in the Plan.

Anti-social behaviour

I was pleased to discuss the definitions of anti-social behaviour with the Panel, recognising the complexities of systems to report and respond to anti-social behaviour. Addressing anti-social behaviour has been a priority throughout the development of my Plan because I know how significant the impact can be on our communities. I have considered the comments of the Panel regarding narrowing the definition of anti-social behaviour for the purpose of the Plan. My Plan is clear that I want to address all forms of anti-social behaviour and reclaim our town centres for the people who live, work and visit them. Through my Plan I will work with all relevant agencies to utilise the right powers to address all levels of anti-social behaviour.

I recognise that many elements of anti-social behaviour are not for the Force to address and will ensure that through the action plan for the Chief Constable, I am clear regarding my expectations of the police, whilst working with Community Safety Partnerships to join up the response to wider anti-social behaviour across partners.

Success measures

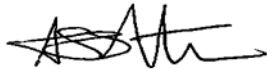
The Panel identified a concern that the draft Plan did not identify measures of success. In September 2021 when the Panel reviewed the draft Plan, I advised that measures were under development. Since then I have been carefully reviewing evidence and data to ensure that the performance indicators are appropriate to drive and monitor the success of my Plan. I will be providing a detailed update on this work at the November 2021 meeting, and these measures are included in the Plan.

Foot patrols

The Panel questions the inclusion of my commitment to increase foot patrols and I understand that the Panel is mindful of the Chief Constable's operational independence. However, it is clear to me having met many members of the public and stakeholders that a more visible police presence is wanted and necessary. To include an increase in foot patrols in the Police and Crime Plan does not direct the Chief Constable nor does it state where, how or when this should be carried out. I have consulted the Chief Constable in the preparation of this Plan and he is supportive of the inclusion of this important element in the Plan to ensure it remains an area of focus and attention.

Again, I am grateful to the members for their comments which have informed the final version of my Plan. I am thereby notifying the Panel that I intend to publish my plan w/c 8th November. The Plan will be available on the OPCC website and I will provide copies to Panel members at the Police and Crime Panel meeting on 12th November.

Yours sincerely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Hernandez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alison Hernandez
Police and Crime Commissioner