



Police and Crime Panel

Date: Thursday, 14 December 2023
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)

Mytton, Mike Short, Pete Barrow, Pauline Batstone, Graham Carr-Jones, Les Fry, Sherry Jespersen, Patrick Canavan, David Flagg, Alasdair Keddie, Peter Sidaway and Tony Trent

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services Meeting Contact 01305 224213 - chris.harrod@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda.

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Agenda

Item		Pages
1.	APOLOGIES	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	MINUTES	5 - 18
	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023.	
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their disclosure councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.	
	If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer	

in advance of the meeting.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Representatives of town or parish councils and members of the public who live, work, or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area are welcome to submit either 1 question or 1 statement for each meeting. You are welcome to attend the meeting in person or via MS Teams to read out your question and to receive the response. If you submit a statement for the committee this will be circulated to all members of the committee in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes for the formal record but will not be read out at the meeting.

The first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received from members of the public or organisations for each meeting will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline set out below. Further information read [Public Participation - Dorset Council](#)

All submissions must be emailed in full to chris.harrod@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Monday 11 December 2023

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement.
- a question may include a short pre-amble to set the context.
- It must be a single question and any sub-divided questions will not be permitted.
- Each question will consist of no more than 450 words, and you will be given up to 3 minutes to present your question.
- when submitting a question please indicate who the question is for (e.g., the name of the committee or Portfolio Holder)
- Include your name, address, and contact details. Only your name will be published but we may need your other details to contact you about your question or statement in advance of the meeting.
- questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.
- all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

[Dorset Council Constitution](#) - Procedure Rule 9

Councillor Questions

Councillors can submit up to two valid questions at each meeting and sub divided questions count towards this total. Questions and statements received will be published as a supplement to the agenda and all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

The submissions must be emailed in full to chris.harrod@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Monday 11 December 2023.

[Dorset Council Constitution](#) – Procedure Rule 13

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| 5. | Q2 MONITORING REPORT 2023/23 | 19 - 30 |
| | To receive the Q2 monitoring report 2023/24. | |
| 6. | USE OF PRECEPT UPDATE | 31 - 36 |
| | To consider the report. | |
| 7. | VIOLENT CRIME AND PREVENTION | 37 - 46 |
| | To consider the report. | |
| 8. | FLY-TIPPING UPDATE | 47 - 54 |
| | To consider the report. | |
| 9. | COMPLAINTS UPDATE | Verbal
Report |
| | To receive a verbal update. | |
| 10. | FORWARD WORKPLAN | 55 - 58 |
| | To consider the Forward Workplan. | |
| 11. | URGENT ITEMS | |
| | To consider any items of business which the Chairman has had prior notification and considers to be urgent pursuant to section 100B (4) b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The reason for the urgency shall be recorded in the minutes. | |
| 12. | EXEMPT BUSINESS | |
| | To move the exclusion of the press and the public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered. | |

There are no exempt items scheduled for this meeting.

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POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

Present: Dr Liz Mytton, Mr Mike Short,
Cllrs: Graham Carr-Jones, Les Fry, Patrick Canavan, Alasdair Keddie and Tony Trent

Apologies: Cllrs Pete Barrow, Pauline Batstone, Sherry Jespersen, David Flagg and Peter Sidaway

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Simon Bullock (Chief Executive, OPCC), Elaine Tibble (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Adam Harrold (OPCC Director of Operations), Julie Strange (OPCC Chief Finance Officer), David Sidwick (Police and Crime Commissioner) and John Miles (Democratic Services Officer)

Officers present remotely (for all or part of the meeting):

Marc Eyre (Service Manager for Assurance)

12. **Endorsement of new Co-opted member**

Proposed by Cllr Fry, seconded by Cllr Keddie.

Decision: that Dr Liz Mytton was appointed as Co-Opted member of the PCP.

13. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2023 were confirmed and signed.

Actions Update from the Minutes of the last meeting

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) gave an update on Dorset Force's performance against others in the Soteria project. He would continue to provide regular updates to the Panel.

Update attached at Appendix 1

The Police Race Action Plan had been added to the forward plan.

14. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

15. **Public Participation**

There were no public or Town/Parish Council statements or questions.

16. **Q1 Monitoring Report 2023/24 (00:06:15 on recording)**

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman put two strategic questions to the PCC. These and the PCC's response can be found at appendix 1.

The PCC gave update on the quarterly monitoring report Q1 (00:16:50 on recording). He gave a brief overview of the report, highlighting some of the main points and progress to date before focusing on the 6 Priority areas in further detail.

Priority 1 Cut Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) (00:21:55 on recording)

The PCC highlighted the following points:

A small uptick in dwelling burglary and plans for more prevention activity.

ASB had continued to fall.

The need to keep focusing on preventing road accidents in Dorset.

Investment in preventing fraud.

Supporting Young People.

Member questions (00:26:40 on recording) and at appendix 1

The PCC also highlighted the need for active reporting from the public if they witnessed people using e-scooters illegally. The number for reporting incidents to Berol Scooters in the BCP area was 0203 003 5044.

There was still work to be done in relation to the sale of e-scooters. This was not illegal and the answer was to lobby Government to get the legislation correct.

Follow on questions from the panel and responses from PCC in relation to ASB and burglary figures. (00:37:57 on recording).

ASB was the number 1 criteria for most of the people of Dorset and Dorset was the 6th safest county in the country, there had previously been a reduction in burglary and the PCC was doing a deep dive to see what else could be done to reduce these figures.

Priority 2 Make Policing More Visible and Connected (00:43:20 on recording)

Dorset Police had exceeded their recruitment target set by Government.

Follow on panel questions and responses from PCC (00:47:14 on recording)

174 new officers had been recruited, these were in addition to the baseline numbers.

The PCC highlighted the issues relating to the unfair grant formula for Police funding in Dorset and the need for some Police Officers to carry out staff roles. The PCC and the Chief Constable (CC) were both confident they could deliver the Police Crime Plan with the resources they had however the PCC would still continue to lobby for more funding.

Priority 3 Fight Violent Crime and High Harm (00:55:13 on recording)

The PCC felt it was important to look at the causes behind violence, ie addiction and substance mis-use. Enforcement, Treatment and Prevention were the three measures he felt were needed to combat this.

ACTION: Deep dive into Serious violence and violent crime for the next meeting
Drugs and alcohol to be put on the Forward Work Plan.

Panel questions and responses from the PCC (1:01:40 on recording) and attached at appendix 1.

Additional Panel questions (01:07:48 on recording)

In relation to the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)The PCC had identified funding and hoped partner agencies would work with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to address knife crime. This with a combination of education, awareness and youth work could help to reduce violence.

Priority 4 Fight Rural Crime (1:14:20 on recording)

The PCC advised that there had been a 28% reduction in rural crime in Dorset, compared to a 22% increase nationally. Rural crime broke into a number of areas including heritage crime which focused on protecting our monuments from night hawks using metal detectors in the middle of the night. The force had 14 trained heritage officers and Dorset had joined up with other forces to cover the borders between counties. Dorset had hosted the first South West Rural Crime conference. The Rural Crime Reduction Board had changed its name to The Partnership Against Rural Crime.

The PCC gave an update on progress made with fly tipping, wildlife crime and the impact of poaching.

There were no panel questions.

Priority 5 Putting Victim and Communities First (1:20:56 on recording)

The PCC highlighted the increase in business crime and epidemic of shoplifting across the country.

The numbers of recorded hate crime incidents had gone down, he would look at this going forward to ensure it was not due to a problem with reporting.

Dorset had been given a £1m grant to aid with restorative justice.

The PCC was keen to encourage the public to use the new enhanced video contact reporting system for making statements remotely over Teams.

Panel questions and responses from the PCC (01:28:57 on recording) and attached at appendix 1.

Additional Panel questions and responses from PCC (01:37:10 on recording)

Priority 6 Make Every Penny Count (01:45:44 on recording)

The PCC was pleased to report that there had some success in securing some money from competitive national funds.

The Force had been able to secure £520k funding to assist with additional costs incurred by the Bibby Stockholm accommodation barge in Portland.

A Fund-Raising Manager had been appointed to the OPCC and a major funding win had already been secured for Dorset.

Panel questions and responses from the PCC (1:52:04 on recording) and attached at appendix 1,

ACTION: The Finance Officer for the OPCC to respond in writing to the first question.

In response to a Panel Member question, The Finance Officer for the OPCC advised that the overall long term debt outstanding was £16m.

11:58 – 12:03 Comfort Break

17. Visible Policing in the Community (2:00:56 on recording)

The PCC pointed out the salient points from the report which provided the Panel with an update on Priority 2 – Make Policing more Visible and Connected. The report focused on the key lines of enquiry outlined within the report.

Panel comments, questions and responses from the PCC (02:19:40 on recording).

The PCC advised that the Single Online Home reporting system was fully operational and they had seen an increase in the number of people using it.

18. Supporting Young People (2:30:20 on recording)

The PCC outlined the details of the report which gave an update on his work to support young people and addressed the key lines of enquiry outlined within the report.

He voiced concerns about the lack of youth centres and youth support workers in Dorset and highlighted some workstreams designed to identify the challenges facing young people and to support them to move away from addiction and substance misuse.

Panel member questions and responses from the PCC (2:41:45 on recording)

These were related to fund bidding, the PCC had bid for funding from the Youth Endowment Fund but had been turned down, as Dorset had not been considered bad enough to qualify.

Action: the PCC would bring back figures for cases that had been dealt with through the Restorative Justice System.

19. Complaints Update (2:50:05 on recording)

One historical complaint was due to be considered that afternoon by the PCP Complaints Sub-Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Les Fry, seconded by Cllr Tony Trent

Decision: that the following members were appointed to the PCP Complaints Sub-Committee:

Cllrs Les Fry, Patrick Canavan, Alasdair Keddie and Dr Liz Mytton

20. **Forward Plan (2:51:11 on recording)**

The Service Manager for Assurance outlined the 2 items on the workplan for the next meeting. As part of the Panel holding an informal training day there had been a review of the Forward Plan.

Cllr Graham Carr-Jones suggested that there was a direct correlation between alcohol, drug misuse and gambling abuse in relation to the items on reducing crime and rural crime. He asked for all three items to be linked and reviewed together.

The Chairman would address this with the Service Manager for Assurance and look into bringing the item to the February meeting.

21. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

22. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Appendix

Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 12.58 pm

Chairman

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PCC Question and Answers

Actions:

Dorset Force's performance against others in the Soteria project and any learning from the outcomes (PCC);

I provided an extensive overview of the current position of Operation Soteria within Dorset at our last meeting in July and, Chair, I concluded that conviction rates for RASSO are nationally very low, and no PCC nor Chief Constable would say anything other than they wish to see many more perpetrators brought to justice.

I went on to say that there are early signs that indicate some progress for Soteria forces (whether that be more timely charging decisions, or better file quality, alongside some slightly improved outcome rates), but we must recognise that this is a complex issue and RASSO cases can take many years to work through the CJS, so it may be some time before we fully understand the benefits of this work and, of course, we will keep members informed.

Two and a half months on from my last update Chair, that position is unchanged, and therefore it will still be some time before we have definitive news to share. However, both Dorset Police and my office continue to be engaged with the Soteria process and are taking advantage of the peer-to-peer learning groups which are led by other Forces who are further along the process and continue to provide helpful insight into its delivery.

In Quarter Questions

The Home Secretary has stated that the Police must investigate every theft and not ignore shoplifting, stolen cars, bikes or 'phones. New guidelines compel officers to pursue every offence where there is a "reasonable line of enquiry". The PCP has three questions that fall out of this policy:

- How will the PCC hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of this policy?
- How will the PCC report to the PCP the progress/success of this policy?
- What is the PCC's view that the NPCC has stated that this policy encroaches into the Chief Constable's operational independence?

With respect to the first question, the Home Office, National Police Chiefs Council and the College of Policing agreed the wording of this commitment prior to its public release, and the matter of what a 'reasonable line of inquiry' is, has now been operationalised by the College in their updated guidance – issued to Forces as the 'Investigation process: Authorised Professional Practice', or investigation APP.

The APP instructs police officers to follow all reasonable lines of enquiry when investigating an offence, meaning all material and potential evidence should be considered when there is information to suggest the offender could be identified. For example:

- where there is clear recorded CCTV (or other) footage, police will recover that and seek to present it as evidence,
- when there is clear eyewitness evidence, that person will be interviewed,
- where there is strong evidence and forensic opportunities, police will seek to present these, and
- where property is stolen with unique features, such as a serial number, police will seek to recover it and obtain evidence.

It is this detail that I will rely on to hold the Chief Constable to account.

With regards to question two, as per the previous commitment to attend all domestic burglaries, where I provided subsequent assurance to the Panel that all such crimes were being attended, I suggest that in time, once the data are confirmed, I would seek to offer the same verbal assurance.

As for the third question, yes, the NPCC Chair wrote an open letter to the Home Secretary and Policing Minister on this matter, and stated that – and I quote:

“However, growing demand as well as the increasing and changing nature of crime means consistency across forces varies and approximately 21 of 43 forces still have less officers than in 2010. It is therefore right that Police Chiefs have operational independence and are responsible for making difficult decisions around how best to respond to the breadth of priorities of local communities.”

Dorset is one of the forces to whom the NPCC chair refers, and I concur with the position that Chief Constables should continue to be afforded operational independence.

The Home Secretary plans to transfer the authority to have the final say on Police Officer dismissals, due to misconduct, back to the Chief Constable. As the electorate's Dorset policing representative, can the PCC please give an outline on how this will work and what measures he will put in place in order to ensure that his Office oversees the transparency, openness and "above reproach" of this process?

This is quite a complex matter, and my team and I will therefore rely on the national guidance once it is issued. I am therefore not in a position yet to offer an answer on how this will work, and what I will put in place to ensure its effectiveness. I will, of course, endeavour to update the Panel once the national guidance is available.

That said, I am happy to set out a high level what some of the complicating factors are:

Firstly, without wishing to give anyone a history lesson, it is helpful to remind ourselves that following a public consultation led by the Home Secretary in the autumn of 2014, changes were made to the police disciplinary system for the purposes of more transparency, independence, and justice. These included holding police misconduct hearings in public (from May 2015) and replacing Chief Police Officers who chaired hearings with Legally Qualified Chairs (LQC) from January 2016. The role and responsibilities of the LQC have been subsequently strengthened in the 2020 regulations. This proposal therefore unpicks the previous decision.

Secondly, there have been assertions that the introduction of legally qualified chairs led to less robust outcomes being applied to policing. The Home Office misconduct review, published earlier this month, does not support that – stating, and I quote:

"The review has found no evidence that dismissal levels are decreasing at misconduct hearings since the year ending 31 March 2016. Data analysis shown in... the tables accompanying this report indicates that, the overall number of officers dismissed has been on an upwards trajectory in recent years [and]... The year ending 31 March 2022 saw the highest number of officers dismissed in a year."

Thirdly, it is fair to say that this issue does not affect all forces. Whilst the Met appears to be of endemic concern, with the Commissioner stating that hundreds of serving officers should not be in post, and that radical changes are needed to address this, this is simply not the experience of other forces. Here in Dorset, we have no misconduct cases that are yet to be convened, and there is no waitlist or delay with identifying suitable independent misconduct panel members, or a legally qualified chair to facilitate the process. This does therefore feel like the changes are being driven at the behest of one force.

Fourthly and finally then, is the suggestion that this plan will result in Chief Constables chairing police dismissals processes. The emerging position is that this change is unlikely to result in Chief Constables themselves chairing misconduct panels, as the Home Office is recommending that misconduct hearing panels should now be chaired by senior police officers, supported by a legally qualified panel member and independent panel member.

As I say though, Chair, this is still emerging policy, and so I will wait until the detail and the guidance are clearer before I make further comment.

Quarterly Report

Priority One - Cut Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Can the PCC provide an update on the work he has initiated to alleviate any road safety issues relating to e-scooter use?

Dorset continues to see the illegal use of e-scooters, which of course, raises concerns for the safety of all road users, including the e-scooter rider.

I am clear that those people who persist in recklessly using private devices on our pavements and roads are breaking the law and risk prosecution – and that's why I will continue to issue robust reminders to the public about e-scooter use and I will continue to raise community concerns with Chief Officers.

I fully supported the Force's approach to publicity, engagement, and enforcement of illegal e-scooter use. The Force issue regular warnings to e-scooter riders via media channels to ensure that people are aware of when and where they can and cannot use e-scooters. The Dorset Road Safe team also continue to deal with reports of e-scooter misuse and more than 100 e-scooters have been seized since the beginning of 2022.

Chair, I will continue to highlight this issue and, along with other Police and Crime Commissioners, I will continue to lobby the Home Office and Department of Transport to strengthen the legislation around the use of e-scooters too.

How does the Community Speed Watch Team provide value for money when 97% of drivers are obeying the 30-mph speed limit?

The fact that the 2022/23 community speed watch figures show that 2.4% of cars recorded were speeding, demonstrates its incredible deterrence effect. CSW schemes are not designed to catch motorists unawares, hence why they are signposted, publicised beforehand, and volunteers wear high visibility clothing and stand in plain sight – they are designed to raise awareness of speeding, and to remind motorists how easy it can be to creep over the speed limit should attention wander.

The benefit of CSW is therefore not necessarily to catch motorists speeding, but to remind them of the dangers of speeding by providing a clear and visible deterrent and to assist with positive habit formation around watching our speed in potentially hazardous areas, something with which CSW excels.

Priority Three – Fight Violent Crime and High Harm

Why is the target for HMICFRS effectiveness assessment Adequate and not Good?

HMICFRS has recently removed the previous four-tier system of judgments that was used since 2014 – outstanding, good, requires improvement, and inadequate – acknowledging that the old system created strong incentives for forces graded as 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' to improve but did not for those forces graded as 'good' or 'outstanding'. Additionally, it resulted in a very broad range of 'good' – from the very good to the barely good.

The new framework, in place since 2021/22, uses five tiers: outstanding, good, adequate, requires improvement and inadequate.

HMICFRS has stated that these changes mean that it is not possible to make direct comparisons between the grades awarded from 2021/22, and those from previous PEEL inspections – and have specifically stated that a perceived reduction in grade, particularly from good to adequate, does not necessarily mean that there has been a reduction in performance, unless the report commentary makes that point.

What this means therefore, is that like all forces, Dorset Police's inspections outcomes were effectively reset in 2021/22 – from the previous 'good' rating on the four-tier framework, to the current 'adequate' rating on the five-tier framework.

I encourage members to look at the current and historic assessments on the HMICFRS website and undertake their own scrutiny, but to summarise, in the first cycle for this new inspection regime 2021/22 – Dorset Police was assessed as having two goods, four adequates, and three requires improvements.

In my view, and in the view of the Chief Constable, given the financial constraints under which you have heard me describe many times, I believe that it is appropriate for Dorset Police to be targeting to improve those three areas where HMICFRS has noted that improvement is required, whilst maintaining performance in other areas – and therefore the right approach is to consolidate our assessments at the adequate or higher level, before we begin to undertake the additional work needed to target higher outcomes.

Chair, it is useful to put this into context. Members may be aware of how other forces in the SW have fared in these inspections - with two placed in what are often called 'special measures'. The conclusion being that, clearly, policing is collectively finding it harder to satisfy the current inspection regime. And that, comparatively, Dorset appears to be responding well to the operating environment we find ourselves in. So, make no mistake, we are ambitious, but I believe we must also recognise this context and set realistic milestones of delivery.

Priority Five - Put Victims and Communities First

What action has the PCC taken, in conjunction with the Ch Cons, in order to combat shoplifting?

Thank you for raising this issue, which, as you have correctly stated, is a matter that has been discussed extensively within the national media over the last few weeks and months. It is also an issue that has been closely associated with the Home Secretary's remarks about pursuing every offence where there is a reasonable line of enquiry – with that in mind, I will endeavour not to repeat the points I made as part of my previous answer. Instead, I will focus on the specific activity over the past three months.

As members will know, I convene a meeting – the Dorset Safer Business Partnership – to discuss issues like this with key partner agencies, including the police, and business representatives. The most recent of these meetings was held last week, with the focus being very much on retail crime, shoplifting and crime reporting.

At this meeting, Dorset Police reported that business crime reporting is up by 20% across the county. There has been an increase in shoplifting, including those instances in which offenders have become especially brazen – walking in, in plain sight, and scooping objects of shelves.

Police research reveals that 5% of offenders commit 50% of all business crime, so we know this is where our focus needs to be, and Dorset Police is already working through the small number of prolific offenders who are committing the majority of the shoplifting offences and also targeting the most prolific handlers of stolen goods.

- Dorset Police carry out Safer Business Action Days, this is a joint approach by police, business, private security, Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs) and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) working in partnership to focus resources into a designated location to create a significant impact to reduce crime.
- Dorset Police's 'Operation Enduring' is currently active in Bournemouth centre – this operation focuses on all the shoplifting / ASB and other crimes affecting businesses;
- Last week, Dorset Police also launched a targeted business crime operation called 'Operation Turnover' in Boscombe. The Force arrested a prolific shoplifting offender on the day of launch;
- Following community concerns raised in Swanage regarding an alleged prolific shoplifter the offender has been arrested and also has been given a Community Protection Notice – further investigations are ongoing;
- The Force is working closely with security and businesses in Boscombe and Southbourne to design out crime, and Police Officers, PCSOs, CSAS Officers, Town Rangers, security and others are also working together to tackle retail crime and keep retail workers safe.

Looking forward, there are also some developments that I am pleased to share:

- Dorset Police will be taking part in the NPCC Safer Business Action Week from 16 October, with police and partners across the country joining together to tackle shoplifting and other business crime in their communities.
- Bournemouth's Business Crime Reduction Partnership is about to launch – this involves the business community, BIDs and UKPAC working together to fight business crime.
- PCSO recruitment opened again on 1 September 2023. The adverts are live, and training will commence in the new year. New PCSOs should be in place and fully trained by March 2024 – we know that PCSOs play an important part in keeping our communities safe and help to improve our engagement with local communities, including businesses.

This is just a summary of recent activity, but I hope it demonstrates that we are very much alive to the rise in shoplifting and business crime more generally and that action is being taken – and will continue to be taken – to tackle this important issue.

FY 23/24 Q4 finance questions:

The pay and employment costs include a £1.2M saving in order to meet the Forecast of Outturn. With the shortfall of £2.1M across the Financial Year and this £1.2M, how will the PCC ensure that services are not affected for the people of Dorset in order to meet these savings.

Treasurer to reply in writing.

Borrowing for the Capital budget is scheduled to be in year £16.3M - how is the PCC ensuring that the overall debt for Dorset Police is serviceable?

The borrowing requirements for the capital programme are factored into the Medium Term Financial Forecast to ensure that the revenue costs of the borrowing are affordable, and that borrowing is the most appropriate source of funding - this is an ongoing process.

The borrowing needs are closely monitored by my Treasurer, taking into account the capital programme as well as cashflow and treasury management advice, in order to minimise the interest element of the borrowing costs.

As we knew that the requirements for this year were higher than usual, and the forecast was for increasing interest rates, the borrowing required for the current year was undertaken before the start of the financial year at rates ranging from 3.81% and 3.99%.

This is fully factored into the current year's budget and future years. No further borrowing requirements are currently forecast this year, and future years requirements will look to be managed on a short term basis until interest rates fall back closer to the 3% level.

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Crime & ASB	Burglary	Fraud & Cyber	Road Safety	Young People	Pet Theft
Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green

- PCC awarded ten agencies funding as part of the latest Op Relentless Community Fund.
- The PCC supported National Road Victims Month through a range of initiatives.

Uplift and Visibility	Connectivity and Engagement	Customer Service
Green	Green	Green

- Swanage front counter re-opened to the public for enquiries and crime reporting.
- The PCC and OPCC consulted the public through the annual survey.

Addiction	Violence Reduction	VAWG	DA & Stalking	Child Abuse	Modern Slavery
Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green

- The PCC considered recruitment of Serious Violence and Prevention roles.
- Safelives commissioned to undertake a deep dive review into domestic abuse services.



Funding	Efficiency	Evidence Based Policing	Philosophy & Co-operation
Yellow	Green	Green	Green

- Three bids submitted to the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund.
- The Home Office agreed to increase funding of Force response to the asylum barge.

Philosophy	CJS & RJ	Vulnerability	Hate Crime	Business & Retail Crime
Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow

- Continued development of the Immediate Justice Scheme for Dorset.
- Launch of the 'Business Community Fund' for Business Improvement Districts.

Rural Resources	Country Watch	Fly-tipping	Wildlife Crime
Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow

- Operation Ragwort launched to combat Organised Crime Groups involved in rural crime.
- Opportunities to enforce and prevent fly-tipping discussed with partners.

RAG Status	
This Period	Last Period

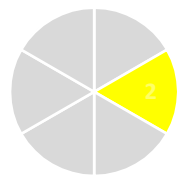


In the Spotlight	Measures of Success	Target	Current	Additional Key Indicators		Q1	Q2
Ref. Bike Lock Initiative “Education and prevention are key components when it comes to tackling any crime. Through this initiative, I hope to raise awareness of the issue of motorbike theft and help owners take practical and proactive steps to protect their bikes.” PCC, 21 August 2023	Total Crime (from 2019 baseline)	↓	↓ -5%	Non-dwelling burglary 23/24 (YTD)	+7.1% (+23)	■	^
				Dwelling burglary 23/24 (YTD)	+11.6% (+56)	■	^
	Total ASB incidents (from 2019 baseline)	↓	↓ -25%	Killed or Seriously Injured (rolling)	-4.3%	■	v
				ASB YTD	-17.6% (-1860)	■	v
	Public Opinion	↑	↓ 46%	% people feeling safe in Dorset	91%	■	-
				Commissioning: Crime Prevention 23/24	£634k	■	^

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Theme	RAG Q1	RAG Q2	Detail	Theme	RAG Q1	RAG Q2	Detail
Road Safety	■	■	The PCC <u>supported</u> the National Road Victims Month by highlighting a range of issues and initiatives. In one such initiative, the PCC <u>provided</u> £4.5k to Dorset Council for a 12-month trial of ‘ Please Slow Down ’ signs in North Dorset. Also, the PCC <u>launched</u> a scheme to reduce motorcycle, moped and scooter thefts by providing the opportunity for Dorset motorcycle owners to purchase an alarmed disc lock at a significantly reduced price.	Burglary	■	■	The PCC’s bid to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund included £15k for additional equipment for the Bobby Van, and £24k for an initiative to reduce rural burglary.
				Fraud & Cyber Crime	■	■	The PCC welcomed the recruitment of Dorset Police’s Fraud Prevent Officer . The role was created to work with partners to raise awareness, share information, promote prevention messaging, and support victims of fraud.
Crime and ASB	■	■	The PCC ran another round of the Op Relentless Community fund , inviting charities and community organisations to bid for funding to reduce ASB. This saw 10 agencies awarded a total of £40k for initiatives to tackle/reduce ASB in their area.	Support Young People	■	■	Commissioned work with the Alcohol Education Trust commenced. This will see drug education lessons and resources for under 16-year-olds and is designed to help build young people’s decision making, resilience, knowledge and life skills.

RAG Status	
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In the Spotlight	Measures of Success	Target	Current	Additional Key Indicators		Q1	Q2
Ref. Swanage Front Counter “It is a priority of my Police and Crime Plan to make policing more ‘Visible and Connected’ to the people and communities it serves, and this contact option will give back to the public the opportunity to go and speak face-to-face with the police.” PCC, 25 August 2023	Number of full-time equivalent police officers	↑	↑ 1,425.1	Victim Satisfaction (Whole Experience)	64.4%		-
				Victim Satisfaction (Actions Taken)	60.1%		-
	Percentage of People who feel Dorset Police do a good job in their area	↑ 80%	-- 67%	Victim Satisfaction (Kept Informed)	62.3%		-
				Average 101 answer time	15.1 mins		^
	Percentage of 999 calls answered within 10 seconds	↑ 90%	-- 86.3%	Complaints received by Dorset Police (Q2)	444		^
				Complaint Reviews received by OPCC (Q2)	27		^

Theme	RAG Q1	RAG Q2	Detail
Uplift and Visibility			The PCC published a range of news releases during the reporting period to inform the public of progression in this area and raise awareness of additional policing capacity . Marking approximately two years of his term of office, the PCC provided updates on the resources available to the <u>rural crime team</u> , the launch of the Bournemouth <u>Town Team</u> , and proactive police patrols, such as <u>Op Fireglow and Op Nightjar</u> .
Engagement and Connectivity			Over the summer, the PCC and OPCC attended Bourne Free, the Dorset County Show, Swanage Carnival, the Littledown Fun Day, Bournemouth Air Festival, the Bournemouth Crown Court Open Day, the Gillingham & Shaftesbury and Melplash Shows. This was in support of the PCC’s Annual Survey , in which he <u>asks the public</u> to share what crimes most concern them in the areas they live.
Customer Service			On Friday 4 August, Swanage joined the list of front desks that have <u>re-opened to the public</u> . Alongside this, the PCC conducted a public survey in relation to the reopening of front desks in Blandford, Lyme Regis and Swanage to better understand the public perception, awareness, and use of these facilities. Following public and PCC feedback, improvements were made to the Force website to ensure that intelligence reporting was made easier to locate than had been the case immediately after the launch of the Single Online Home platform.

RAG Status	
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In the Spotlight	Measures of Success	Target	Current	Additional Key Indicators		T0	T2
<p>“I am determined to make our county safer for everyone as we continue to drive to become the safest country, so I very much look forward to working with colleagues, partners and stakeholders to achieve that goal on behalf of our residents and communities.”</p> <p>PCC, 7 July 2023</p>	Most Serious Violence (from 2019 baseline)	↓	↓ -6.1%	Domestic Abuse Crimes	+10.5% (+459)	Yellow	^
				Domestic Abuse Incidents	+14.2% (+748)	Yellow	^
	Domestic Abuse Crime and Incident Reports	↑	↑	Violence Against the Person	+1.2% (+149)	Green	-
				Domestic Violence, Sexual Harm and Stalking Prevention Orders 23/24	132	Green	^
	Effectiveness assessment by HMICFRS	ADQ.	ADQ.	Commissioning: Reducing Reoffending 23/24	£612k	Green	v

Theme	RAG Q1	RAG Q2	Detail	Theme	RAG Q1	RAG Q2	Detail
Addiction and Substance Misuse	Green	Green	<p>The PCC responded to the Home Affairs Committee’s third report on drugs. The PCC gave evidence to the committee and <u>welcomed</u> the subsequent report, while also reiterating his view that there should be more focus on abstinence and recovery.</p> <p>The progress made by the Combatting Drugs Partnership was reported to the Home Office.</p>	Child Abuse	Green	Green	The PCC welcomed the passing of the Online Safety Bill , which offers firmer protections for children, more control for adults and clarity for social platforms.
				Violence Against Women and Girls	Yellow	Yellow	A bid was submitted to the Home Office’s Safer Streets Fund for a range of VAWG initiatives, including: improved licensing for NTE venues, additional CCTV in town centres, and alcohol & consent training.
Violence Reduction	Yellow	Yellow	<p>The PCC called a meeting with the Serious Violence Duty partners to present an update on delivery against the duty. This saw detailed updates provided on needs assessments and early drafts of local Serious Violence Strategies.</p> <p>The PCC considered recruitment of Serious Violence and Prevention roles to deliver against this area of work and scope and establish a VRU.</p>	Domestic Abuse & Stalking	Yellow	Yellow	The PCC has commissioned Safelives , an independent charity who strive to stop domestic violence, to undertake a Dorset wide deep dive into all elements of domestic abuse pathways in Dorset to support the commissioning of services and establish <u>best practice</u> across the whole system.

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In the Spotlight	Measures of Success	Target	Current	Additional Key Indicators		Q1	Q2
<p>“I will continue to chair the Dorset Partnership Against Rural Crime to bring together partner agencies working to tackle the many forms of rural crime. It is only by working together we can truly combat every aspect of rural crime and make Dorset a safer county for all.” PCC, 11 August 2023</p>	Total Rural Crime (compared to 2019 baseline – YTD)	↓	↓ -71%	Crimes ‘Flagged’ as Rural	-24.1% (-22)		V
	Rural Resources	↑	↑	Engagement events in County LPA (Q2)	-24% (28)		-
	Public Opinion	↑	↑ 65.86%				

Page	Theme	RAG Q1	RAG Q2	Detail	Theme	RAG Q1	RAG Q2	Detail
23	Rural Resources			The PCC <u>joined</u> his south-west counterparts to lead a new campaign – Operation Ragwort – to combat the involvement of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) in rural crime. OCGs who target rural communities and are at the forefront of crimes such as burglary, the theft of farm vehicles and equipment, poaching and hare coursing, will be the focus of this regional, co-ordinated, campaign.	Country Watch			<p>The PCC included in his bid to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, rural burglary prevention packs. These packs include DNA property marking for up to 50,000 items. Packs will be delivered face to face to enable discussion on prevention.</p> <p>The PCC explored potential options with the PARC for an improved crime reporting and information sharing platform.</p>
	Fly-Tipping			The PCC held discussions with the Dorset Partnership Against Rural Crime (PARC) and explored opportunities with partner agencies surrounding prevention and enforcement of fly-tipping . Further information is contained within the fly-tipping update provided to the Panel.	Wildlife Crime			The PCC launched a short film during <u>National Rural Crime Action Week</u> about the true impact of poaching on rural business owners. The film focused on damaged crops and property, livestock loss, the threat of harm to farmers and the emotional impact, and the economic cost to the businesses affected.

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In the Spotlight	Measures of Success	Target	Current	Additional Key Indicators		Q1	Q2
<p>Ref. DA Tagging Pilot “I believe it is vital that there are procedures in place to protect those who experience sexual abuse, stalking and domestic abuse. It is my hope that after the pilot, the scheme will be expanded to include Dorset and the whole of the UK.” PCC, 7 September 2023</p>	Number of victims supported by OPCC commissioned services	↑	↑	Victim Support – Cases Created (Q2)	3429		^
				Victims’ Bureau – Contact (Q2)	4598		v
	Victim Satisfaction	↑	-- 64%	Recorded Hate Crime (YTD)	-12.6% (-60)		v
				Recorded Hate Incidents (YTD)	-11.8% (-17)		v
	Legitimacy Assessment by HMICFRS	ADQ.	ADQ.	Business Crime (YTD)	+45.3% (+950)		^
				Commissioning: Victim Services 23/24	£2m		^

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Theme	RAG Q1	RAG Q2	Detail	Theme	RAG Q1	RAG Q2	Detail
Criminal Justice Service and Restorative Justice			Continued development of the Immediate Justice pilot led the PCC to partner with Red Snapper Managed Services, to deliver the reparative elements of the scheme. The OPCC also commissioned Restorative Solutions to undertake ASB awareness courses .	Hate Crime			The PCC provided several <u>updates</u> on the arrival of the Bibby Stockholm asylum barge . He reiterated the extensive work that had gone into the planning and partnership processes needed to facilitate the success of this initiative and deal with community cohesion and wider reassurance needs.
Business and Retail Crime			The PCC agreed to provide funding to UKPAC to provide 200 businesses across Dorset with an effective crime management strategy and incident reporting platform .	Vulnerability			The OPCC engaged with the Bournemouth University Director of Student Services to explore opportunities to safeguard international students from fraud and extortion.
			The PCC also launched the first ‘Business Community Fund’ . The fund enables all of Dorset’s Business Improvement Districts (BIDS) to apply for funding toward initiatives that reduce retail crime in their area.	Victims and Community			Dorset Police launched a new public scrutiny panel to assess stop and search powers and the use of force. The panel is independently chaired and provide reports to Dorset Police and the PCC’s own scrutiny panel.

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In the Spotlight	Measures of Success	Target	Current	Additional Key Indicators		Q1	Q2
<p>“Our population trebles in the summer months, yet we receive no extra funding and added to that we are already one of the worst-funded forces in the country... I have lobbied the government on this, asking for a review of the way funding for police forces is calculated.” PCC, 17 July 2023</p>	Money secured from competitive national funds	↑	↑ £731k	Total Commissioning Spend by OPCC (2023/24)	£3.2m	▲	▲
	Budget Forecast	SEE FINANCE SLIDES	SEE FINANCE SLIDES	Innovation Bids Submitted (since 01/04)	5	-	-
				Small Grant Bids Awarded 2023/24	10	▲	▲
	Efficiency assessment by HMICFRS	ADQ.	ADQ.	Absence Rates for Officers (Q1)	2.50	▲	▲
Absence Rates for Staff (Q1)				3.21	▲	▲	

Theme	RAG Q1	RAG Q2	Detail	Theme	RAG Q1	RAG Q2	Detail
Funding			<p>The OPCC worked with community safety partners to develop and bid for the Home Office Safer Streets Fund. This work resulted in three bids being submitted, totalling £964k.</p> <p>The PCC <u>confirmed</u> in July that the Home Office had agreed to increase its initial funding offer to support the community policing of the Bibby Stockholm accommodation vessel from £375k to £520k and to reimburse Dorset Police for any related mutual aid costs.</p>	Efficiency			<p>The PCC attended the first meeting of the renewed Force Legitimacy Board. This forum, attended by senior Dorset Police and OPCC personnel, will provide leadership in important matters relating to professional standards of behaviour, diversity and culture.</p> <p>Work continues to de-align the Firearms Licensing Unit. The processing of licences has improved dramatically within the calendar year.</p>
Evidence Based Policing			<p>As part of National Crime Week, the PCC <u>responded</u> to the Home Office’s call for all reasonable lines of enquiry to be investigated when forces deal with crimes. He was pleased that the NPCC had released updated effective investigation guidelines to further improve investigation standards.</p>	Philosophy and Co-Operation			<p>Ongoing partnership with community safety partners surrounding key projects and topical issues, such as; the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, the recommissioning of DA services with Local Authorities, and supporting delivery of the Serious Violence Duty.</p>

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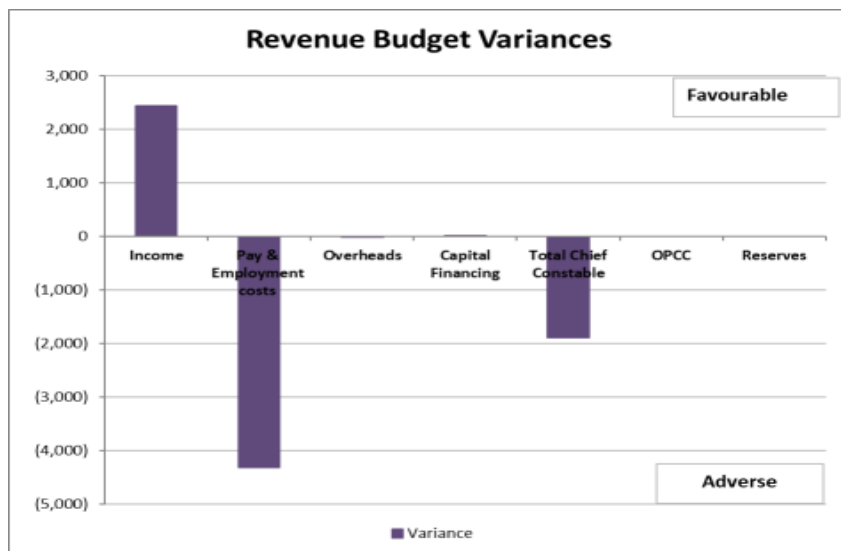


2023/24 QUARTER 2 FINANCIAL REPORT - OVERVIEW

The overall revenue spend is forecast to be £164.8m against a budget of £162.9m, an adverse variance of £1.89m or 1.16%, based on information up to 30 September 2023. This is an improvement on the Q1 forecast of £2.1m adverse variance, and now also reflects the impact of the police officer and staff pay award.

If the variance is still adverse at the year end this will reduce the General Fund Balance to £4.070m, equivalent to 2.50% of Net Revenue Expenditure. This would be below the minimum level of reserves therefore the Force is working to address the spend to bring the year end outturn back in line with the budget.

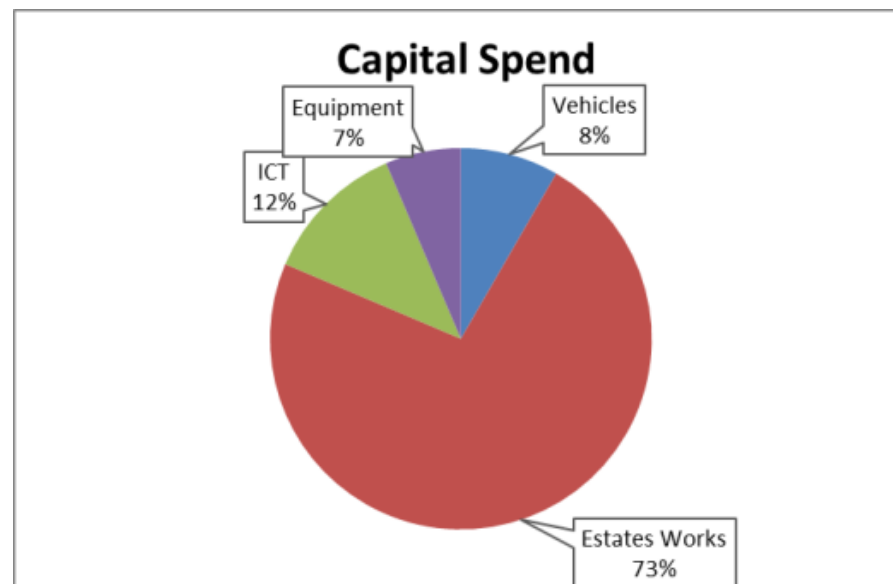
The graph below summarises the revenue variances for the year to 31 March 2024.



CAPITAL

The Capital Programme is currently predicting expenditure of £18.006m against a revised budget of £24.795m for the year. The variance of £6.789m is made up of slippage of £6.677m and forecast underspends of £0.112m. As a result, borrowing is forecast to be £6.789m less than budgeted. The slippage will now be removed from the revised budget and built into the base budget for 2024/25.

The graph below shows the current allocation of the forecast spend for 2023/24.



Further information on both the revenue budget, capital programme and reserves can be found on the following pages.

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REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

2023/24	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual to Date	Forecast Outturn	Variance fav / (adverse)	Ref	Revenue Commentary
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's		
Chief Constable							
Income	(24,895)	(27,733)	(10,849)	(30,163)	2,430	R1	R1. Further additional income from Uplift as a result of the planned recruitment of an extra 10 officers (in addition to the previously agreed 17, i.e. 27 above uplift target), and additional interest receivable following increases in interest rates and more positive cashflow.
Pay & Employment costs	135,821	138,716	69,323	143,035	(4,319)	R2	R2. The additional costs of the extra 27 officers are forecast here, as well as the £1.2m savings built into the budget which have not yet been delivered. The impact of the pay award (net of the grant received) is also forecast here. Overtime budgets are still under pressure but not as much as in previous years.
Overheads	44,738	44,857	21,062	44,866	(9)	R3	R3. Increased costs of business rates have now been offset by reductions in utilities and some maintenance. Increased costs of equipment, body armour and pension administration fees are being offset by savings in IT licences and network costs, regional collaboration costs and fuel savings.
Capital Financing	4,649	4,649	228	4,641	8		R4. The forecast variance of £1.890m is equivalent to 1.16% of the total net budget. If this position were to be the final outturn position this would reduce the General Reserves to 2.5%, below the minimum level of 3%. The Force are therefore working hard to address the forecast variance. The position is monitored closely by the Resource Control Board each month.
Total Chief Constable	160,312	160,489	79,764	162,379	(1,890)		
OPCC	2,968	3,054	369	3,054	0		
Total Net Revenue Expenditure	163,280	163,543	80,133	165,433	(1,890)		
Reserves	(406)	(669)	(263)	(669)	0		
Net Budget	162,874	162,874	79,870	164,764	(1,890)	R4	

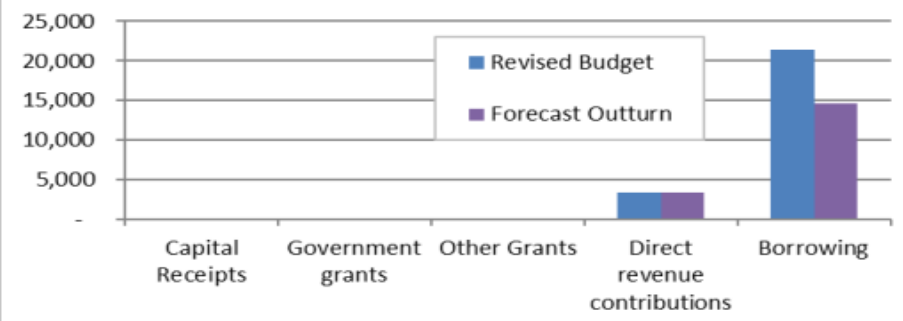


CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING

2023/24	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual to Date	Forecast Outturn	Variance Fav / (Adverse)	Capital Programme Commentary
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
	Capital Investment					
Vehicles	924	1,121	283	1,499	(378)	<p>Some manufacturers are now forecasting improved lead times and some 2024/25 vehicles are now predicting to be delivered before the year end. Whilst early order prices have been honoured, new orders being placed are seeing significant increased costs, some as high as 24%.</p> <p>In addition to slippage forecast at Q1, there have been further delays to the Firing Range project which is now not expected to start until March 2024, works on Ferndown Gym have been delayed and there has been further slippage in the Extended futures programme.</p> <p>Further slippage in IT projects has been identified in Q2, particularly relating to core ICT replacements where a new comprehensive approach is being developed, the ERP system upgrade is progressing, but the main work is now planned for 2024/25 and there are delays to other projects following longer procurement processes. No spend is forecast on ESN so this has been offset against the slippage allowance.</p> <p>The equipment variance relates to ongoing slippage in the digital cameras project and small items of equipment which are not required this year.</p>
Estates Works	15,123	18,046	4,044	13,158	4,888	
ICT	3,537	4,612	549	2,195	2,417	
Equipment	637	1,365	279	1,154	211	
Slippage	(500)	(349)	0	0	(349)	
Unallocated	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Capital Programme	19,721	24,795	5,155	18,006	6,789	

CAPITAL FINANCING

Sources of Finance	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual to Date	Forecast Outturn	Variance Fav / (Adverse)
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	0
Government grants	-	-	-	-	0
Other Grants	23	72	23	72	0
Direct revenue contributions	3,288	3,288	1,088	3,288	0
Borrowing	16,410	21,435	4,044	14,646	6,789
Total Capital Funding	19,721	24,795	5,155	18,006	6,789



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USABLE RESERVES

2023/24	Opening Balance at 1/4/23	Budgeted transfer to/(from) reserves	Commitments to transfer to/(from) reserves	Actual Transfer to/(from) reserves	Forecast Closing Balance at 31/3/24
Reserve	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Budget Management Fund	1,616	(569)	(306)	(263)	1,047
Police and Crime Plan Reserve	1,028	0	0	0	1,028
OPC Legal Reserve	220	0	0	0	220
OPC Reserve	377	0	0	0	377
Regional Collaboration Reserve	34	0	0	0	34
Forensic Capability Reserve	256	0	0	0	256
Network Reserve	643	0	0	0	643
Workforce Change Reserve	549	(200)	(200)	0	349
Uplift Reserve	46	0	0	0	46
Learning & Development Reserve	46	0	0	0	46
PEQF Reserve	375	0	0	0	375
Total Earmarked Reserves	5,144	(769)	(506)	(263)	4,375
General Fund Balance	5,860	100	100	0	5,960
Total Revenue Reserves	11,004	(669)	(406)	(263)	10,335
Capital Receipts Reserve	379	0	3,033	0	3,412
Total Usable Reserves	11,383	(669)	2,627	(263)	13,747

Reserves Commentary

- The Budget Management Reserve holds the underspend from 22/23 of £706,000, the Innovation Fund Balance and the unspent carry forward requests which may be required in 2023/24. These will be transferred from the reserve as they are required.
- At this early stage of the year no other transfers have been made to or from earmarked reserves
- The General Fund Balance is budgeted to increase to £5.960m at 31 March 2024, equivalent to 3.66% of Net Revenue Expenditure. This would be above the minimum level of reserves, but below the maximum of 5%, however this does not factor in the current forecast position. If this variance is still present at the year end the General Fund Balance would be reduced to 2.5% and would need to be addressed as part of the budget for 2024/25
- The capital receipt from the sale of Bargates has now been received. No commitments have yet been made on what these receipts should be used for.



POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – 14 DECEMBER 2023

USE OF THE 2023/24 POLICE PRECEPT

REPORT BY THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

To provide Members with a summary report on the how the Precept is being and has been used throughout 2023/24.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Following the meeting in February 2023, the Police and Crime Panel provided formal notification of their decision to support the proposed increase in police precept equivalent to an additional £15 per annum on a Band D property.
- 1.2 Alongside this decision, the Panel set out their intention to seek assurance, through the forward work plan, that the PCC would implement the direction as set by the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service and hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of several improvements. This covered both national and local priorities.
- 1.3 Members of the Panel receive reports at each meeting regarding the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan which utilises resources from both the Force and the commissioning budget to deliver the activities. This report will highlight some of the key activities that relate to the utilisation of the Precept in 2023/24, but it should be noted that considerably more information is contained within the quarterly monitoring reports.
- 1.4 Further information on how the Chief Constable has utilised the 2023/24 budget will be provided as part of the budget discussions in February.

2. NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Resources

- 2.1 The Police Officer Uplift Programme concluded on 31 March 2023 and Dorset delivered on its 2022/23 target of delivering 67 additional officers. As set out in the 2023/24 Budget Report, part of the government funding was ring fenced and contingent on maintaining the number of officers at the Uplift level, both as at 30 September 2023 and 31 March 2024. This was achieved as at the end of September and remains on track for the end of the financial year.
- 2.2 In a similar programme to 2022/23, additional Officer Uplift targets have been offered, in exchange for once off grants, in order to deliver the 20,000 additional officers across the country. Dorset Police was successful in achieving 17 additional officers in the first round and a further 10 officers in the second round. These were delivered as at the end of September and also remain on track for 31 March 2024, however, if additional funding is not provided in 2024/25 this will create a budget pressure going forwards.

Productivity, Efficiency and Effectiveness

- 2.3 The delivery of a framework – the Productivity Review – that is slated to eventually aid the comparison of productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness measures over time, and across other Force areas is being progressed nationally. The latest position is that the [Policing Productivity Review](#) was published in October 2023, and the recommendations are now with the Home Office for formal consideration. Furthermore, the policing productivity team has agreed with the Home Office to focus on four new areas of work: missing, custody, restricted officers/staff and artificial intelligence, reporting back to the Home Office in March 2024.
- 2.4 In the absence of this framework, however, local work continues apace. The main area of development this year being the planned national introduction of Right Care, Right Person. This is a joint partnership approach to managing those in mental health crisis, that will ensure the right response by the right professional.
- 2.5 In addition to new national working protocols being worked up and agreed by policing, health and other relevant partners¹, national funding has been made available to better support people experiencing – or at risk of experiencing – mental health crises to receive care and support in more appropriate settings outside of emergency care, helping to ease pressures facing the NHS². Locally, this includes £475,000 to Poole, Bournemouth, and Dorset County Hospitals. With the National Partnership Agreement being signed, Dorset Police and the Integrated Care Partnership will work closely together to safely implement Right Care, Right Person in Dorset.
- 2.6 As reported last year, Dorset Police has also invested in Robotic Process Automation (RPA), which is the automation of business processes using a 'digital workforce' which when trained, mimics the activities of staff. RPA reduces the amount of time staff spend on repetitive and routine activities, allowing more time to be spent on interaction with the public and jobs requiring a greater degree of complex problem solving or human judgement.
- 2.7 The introduction of RPA within the Dorset Police Victims Bureau has brought many benefits. Staff have been able to prioritise speaking to the victims of the most serious crimes. The RPA digital worker has updated more than 1100 victims of crime via email and text messages between June and August 2023. This equates to time efficiencies of 140 hours in total or 46 working hours saved each month. All contact made by the RPA digital worker assists considerably with increasing Force compliance with Victims' Code of Practice (VCOP).
- 2.8 Prior to automation, high staff demand was leading to low VCOP compliance (e.g. 37% in August 2022). Post November 2022, after the implementation of RPA, performance data shows that even in times of high demand, the RPA solution is achieving good VCOP compliance (87% in July 2023, and 84% in August 2023).
- 2.9 Dorset Police continued to support national initiatives led by BlueLight Commercial (BLC), a membership company owned by policing and focused on deriving savings from national procurement contracts. During 2022/23, Dorset Police realised slightly over £150,000 cashable savings through contracts negotiated by BLC, including on vehicle purchasing (c. £110k), fuel cards (c. £4500), and contingent or contract labour (c. £31,500). There was also a further saving of over £30k through cost avoidance, with work that would have otherwise been carried out locally being managed by BLC. Whilst beneficial, this total saving of c. £190k, represents around one-tenth of one percent of Force net revenue expenditure.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-partnership-agreement-right-care-right-person/national-partnership-agreement-right-care-right-person-rcrp>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mental-health-services-boosted-by-150-million-government-funding>

3. LOCAL ISSUES

Reconfiguration of the Force

- 3.1 During the year, Dorset Police has been further developing the initial work undertaken by external consultancy, Process Evolution, to consider whether the Force is structured in the optimal way to efficiently manage its current and expected future levels of demand.
- 3.2 The 'Future Operating Model' work is a significant programme, the strategic aim of which is to deliver an approach that meets the Force vision, Police and Crime Plan, and improves the service delivery to the public. Whilst the detail of this work cannot be shared, an initial six options were developed, five of which have been discounted, with the remaining option being further refined into two more detailed options, which are undergoing final due diligence.
- 3.3 This approach is holistic, taking into account people, systems and processes, and so the result will not simply be a new operating structure, but also a new way of working, supported by new systems, policies, procedures and processes. Recognising that this must be done 'with' rather than 'to' the workforce, care is being taken to involve and consult as these options are developed, refined, and tested. OPCC has been engaged on this process, and looks forward to the final decisions being made in the new year.

Customer Service

- 3.4 Following reports of Dorset Police having poor performance regarding response times, the PCC issued the Force with a formal challenge to improve the service, as a result, the Force established a strategic group to assess and resolve the issues identified. Consequently, significant work was undertaken to improving the service Dorset residents received, culminating in a reduction in the average time for a 101 call to be answered being halved, whilst maintaining 999 performance at the same level.
- 3.5 In March of this year, Dorset Police switched to using the national Single Online Home (SOH) website. SOH has been introduced across the majority of police forces over the last few years to bring uniformity and consistency to the process of finding out more about your local police service. Essentially, the site offers a 'digital front counter' – making reporting non-emergency matters easier and quicker and getting community information to the right person as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- 3.6 Dorset Police has continued to use Community Contact Points in several areas, including Swanage, East Dorset and Christchurch, with the aim of providing a range of dedicated events intending to increase accessibility and visibility in local communities. These contact points offer a facility to report crime and incidents as well as offering prevention advice and generic engagement.
- 3.7 Additionally, a trial opening of front desks at Blandford, Lyme Regis, and Swanage Police Stations is underway, with Blandford Station front-desk having re-opened on the 27 March this year, Lyme Regis re-opening on the 30 May, and Swanage re-opening on 25 August.
- 3.8 The PCC's scrutiny of the Force's complaints handling is also undertaken through the Use of Police Powers and Standards scrutiny panel, attendance at the Standards and Ethics Board, the newly reformed Legitimacy Board, and also through the OPCC's complaints review work.

Fight Violent Crime and High Harm

- 3.9 The Safer Schools and Communities Team has continued to provide targeted interventions to reduce and prevent violence and knife crime. The OPCC has launched two rounds of its 'Fix the Future' fund to help create more prevention and diversion schemes across Dorset by

supporting projects and initiatives which will benefit young people and their local community; the PCC has agreed to fund the purchase of additional knife wands and a knife arch, enabling a wand to be placed in every police vehicle; and the PCC has agreed to fund two roles within his office to directly support violence reduction and prevention, and pump-prime the creation of a Dorset Violence Reduction Unit. Further information on these, and other, initiatives undertaken to reduce violence can be found in the Violence Reduction report.

- 3.10 The Paedophile Online Investigation Team (POLIT) was increased by 2 FTEs and there has also been investment in cutting edge computer equipment in order to enhance the capability to triage seized digital devices and the grading of indecent images. This improves the timeliness of investigations and mitigates the risk of offenders being on bail for prolonged periods. As more offenders are prosecuted for indecent image offences, the number of Registered Sex Offenders who require management in the community also increases. The Force has consequently increased its Offender Managers by 2 FTE in order to manage this demand.
- 3.11 In terms of County Lines, the work of Op Viper and Op Scorpion continue to tackle drug crime across the county. For example, during the national week of action on knife crime, in November 2023, Dorset Police gave educational presentations to 3,535 students in 19 schools, removed 28 knives from circulation, (including from knife bins and seizures) and through Op Viper made 14 arrests for knife-related crime, with eight weapons sweeps conducted. Phase Six of Op Scorpion ran during October 2023, and Dorset Police made 26 arrests, charging five people and safeguarding three vulnerable adults, whilst seizing over £93k worth of drugs and over £1300 in cash, plus 17 mobile phones and two weapons.
- 3.12 Considerable activity continues to be undertaken to address Violence Against Women and Girls. Of particular note, the OPCC has secured an additional £261,000 to fund services that support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. This included additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs), Domestic abuse advisors, trauma counselling and behavioural pattern-changing courses.
- 3.13 Work is also underway with the Force and partner agencies to review the services that are currently available to victims in Dorset. Following an independent report from Safelives, in which they raised concerns relating to the independence of the services and ‘scope creep’ between victim care and police tasks, the PCC and Chief Officers approved plans to move towards a Pan-Dorset Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service. Regular multi-agency meetings, led by the OPCC, are driving forward this project.

Fight Rural Crime

- 3.14 That there has been a significant increase in the size of the Force’s Rural Crime Team is, hopefully, now well recognised. The Team has grown fourfold since 2021, with their now being the capacity for 18 members. With this increase, the team have helped return over £1 million worth of stolen machinery to victims of crime over the last year. The PCC has also supported investment into another new vehicles for the Rural Crime Team with a bespoke 4x4 vehicle joining the rural crime engagement van and further allowing the Rural Crime team to reach more remote areas and rural communities.
- 3.15 In April Dorset hosted the first ever ‘South West Regional Rural Crime Conference’ which saw the five police forces across the South West come together to share best practice and learn from industry experts.
- 3.16 The PCC’s Partnership Against Rural Crime (PARC) continues to address issues affecting rural communities. One such example is, as detailed within this meeting’s dedicated paper on fly-tipping, that – following work undertaken by the PARC’s Fly-Tipping Task and Finish Group – the PCC agreed to fund a dedicated post designed to increase the capacity for enforcement action. The aim is that this new approach will result in a higher number of FPNs and Community

Protection Notices/Warnings being issued, as well as an increase in prosecutions relating to fly-tipping. Further developments will of course be provided as part of the Police and Crime Plan monitoring reports in future quarters.

Put Victims and Communities First

- 3.17 Aside from the work to improve victims' services mentioned elsewhere in this report, Dorset Police has addressed resourcing issues this year, and delivered on the well-developed plans to invest in and increase the number of qualified detectives in Dorset Police by building on the Direct Detective Entry Programme and developing internal recruitment.
- 3.18 The target for recruiting people onto the Direct Entry Detective Programme in 2023/24 was 16 and to date 18 have been recruited, with a potential for a further four in the intakes later in the year. In addition, the Force also recruited nine Police Staff Investigators at the beginning of the year in order to supplement the investigative capability.
- 3.19 Aligned to this, is the ongoing activity to continue to drive up positive outcome, or detection, rates. In the early part of the year the Dorset Police 'Make the Difference' (MTD) team led a deep dive into this area, including visiting and understanding at a far deeper level the actions leading forces had undertaken to improve their rates. The team highlighted investigative and file-building capacity as a primary limiting factor, and the lack of visibility of the detailed arrest and out of court disposals data to local commanders being a further concern.
- 3.20 Whilst it is expected that the additional investigative resource will address the first area of concern, as a result of this analysis, additional measures have been put in place around the numbers and proportions of arrests, versus those for community resolutions – to take steps to improve the rates for both in comparison to elsewhere.

4. POLICE FUNDING

- 4.1 The Budget Report considered by the Panel in February 2023 set out that significant savings would need to be delivered in order to balance the budget for 2023/24. Savings totaling £7.3m were built into the budget and at this stage of the year, almost 85% have been delivered which is a significant achievement. Of the remaining savings, 12% are taking longer to deliver than originally anticipated and will be delivered as part of the 2024/25 budget. Only 3% of the original savings are now considered either unachievable for the 2023/24 year or were double counted. These will be removed from the base budget for the 2024/25 budget process.
- 4.2 The PCC continues to lobby for fair funding for Dorset, both in relation to general funding but also regarding specific funding pots such as Safer Streets Funding and Violence Reduction Units. The Home Office work on the Formula Funding Review is ongoing and a consultation was expected on some aspects of the review in early 2023, however no consultation has yet been issued.
- 4.3 The PCC has been successful in obtaining funding from a number of funding streams such as Safer Streets Round 5 for 2023/24 and 2024/25 working alongside partners to deliver improvements. In addition, Dorset has also been a pilot area for the Immediate Justice scheme, receiving funding to provide quicker consequences for anti-social behaviour. In total, nearly £3.1m of additional government funding has been secured for Dorset.
- 4.4 The Home Office has, once again, declined to provide funding for a Violence Reduction Unit for Dorset. As a result, we are now pushing ahead with plans to create a modest team which will be funded initially by the Police and Crime Plan reserve, with a hope that partners will provide further funding in the future, as part of their Serious Violence Duty. It is hoped to have people in post during Q4 and further updates will be provided through the quarterly monitoring reports.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Members are asked to note the report.

**JULIE STRANGE
CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

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DORSET POLICE & CRIME PANEL – 14 DECEMBER 2023

VIOLENT CRIME AND PREVENTION

REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PURPOSE

This paper provides an update on the work to tackle and prevent violent crime, with a focus on knife-enabled violence, within the Police and Crime Plan. This paper also seeks to address the following four Key Lines of Enquiry as provided by the Dorset Police and Crime Panel:

- I. What is the PCC's strategic approach to fighting violent crime? How does the PCC hold the Chief Constable accountable for delivering on this strategy? How is effectiveness monitored?*
- II. What further measures is the PCC taking to reduce knife crime, including discouraging young people from carrying knives? What assurance does the PCC have that this approach is effective?*
- III. How is the PCC working in partnership to deliver a reduction in violent crime, both within Dorset (local authorities; campaign groups etc) and with neighbouring counties?*
- IV. What further support can be delivered in partnership, and how is the PCC proactively driving this forward?*

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Every day, lives are forever changed or lost through serious violence. Whilst Dorset remains a comparatively very safe place to live, work and visit, the number of knife crime occurrences show an upwards trend over the past several years.
- 1.2. Across the country, ever increasing numbers of young people are carrying knives, many out of fear rather than any nefarious or criminal intention. Some may find themselves drawn into a position where they reach for that knife without thinking or understanding the consequences.
- 1.3. The sad reality is that young people often learn far too late that carrying a knife is neither cool nor glamorous. That carrying a knife does not make you respected or feared, it makes you a target. That a knife does not offer the carrier protection. Statistics show that those who carry a knife, and those whom they are with, are more likely to be hurt, particularly by the very weapon being carried.
- 1.4. This is not to suggest that it is only young people who carry knives. Far from it in fact. But it is young people who are disproportionately impacted by knife crime and therefore, whilst we should remember that 99% of our young people do not routinely carry knives, the challenge is to better understand the complex reasons why a very small number choose to.

- 1.5. Of course, by the time a young person has decided to carry – and potentially use – a knife, it is already too late and therefore it is widely recognised that greater law enforcement on its own cannot reduce serious violence. Thus, a strong and, with partners, joint focus on early intervention and prevention is needed to break enduring cycles of violence – what policing terms ‘hard-edged prevention.’

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Government’s Serious Violence Strategy¹ was published in 2018 and sets out the national response to serious violence and increases in knife crime, gun crime, and homicide. As Dorset is not subject to the kinds of criminality that occur in other areas, the focus of Dorset Police and its partners on tackling serious violence has, and continues to be, around reducing and preventing knife crime.

- 2.2. Following the publication of the strategy, Dorset Police began the development of a local knife crime strategy and associated action plan to drive delivery.

- 2.3. OPCC suggested that it was appropriate to consider a wider partnership approach, given that whilst activity might often coalesce around the immediate threat to safety that is associated with knife crime, a holistic response is needed to ensure all aspects contributing to the increase in knife crime were addressed.

- 2.4. This public health, or harm reduction model, was by then well established in policing. Popularised by Scotland’s Violence Reduction Unit – which spearheaded a halving in the number of homicides in Glasgow over a ten-year period from its formation in 2005, thereby eliminating its reputation as the ‘murder capital of Europe’ – the model takes a public health approach typified by the following:



- Taking a population approach (universal) rather than one just focusing on those at-risk (targeted) or high-risk individuals (specialist);
 - Shifting focus towards upstream risk factors and prevention, not consequences;
 - Placing statistics and a strong evidence-base at the core of any initiatives; and
 - Employing a system-wide, multi-agency approach.
- 2.5. In 2019, the Home Office allocated significant funding² to 18 police force areas to create Violence Reduction Units (VRUs), in line with the Scotland model. The funding was allocated according to the volume of violent crime (specifically the volume of hospital admissions for assault with a sharp object), meaning that geographically larger forces, whom had higher volumes of crime, benefited more than smaller forces.
- 2.6. The OPCC has, for many years, highlighted the unfairness of the funding methodology, and attempted to secure national funding to create our own VRU. To support this, OPCC produced an alternative funding methodology, that split national funds in a fairer way and addressed the local impact knife crime was having.
- 2.7. This proposal would have, not only better accounted for police force size, given that smaller forces have lesser numbers of hospital admissions, but also, better addressed the fact that hospital admissions do not always occur in the same police force area where the incidents took place. For example, some knife and sharp instrument injuries that occur within Dorset are treated in Southampton General Hospital.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-strategy>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-million-funding-for-police-to-tackle-violent-crime>

- 2.8. At the same time, recognising that securing national funding was not a certainty, and that a local solution would most likely need to be found, OPCC took steps to ringfence some of its financial reserves to support the future creation of a Dorset VRU. At the time, VRUs were emerging as national best practice in preventing and tackling knife crime, which was later confirmed through independent academic evaluation³.

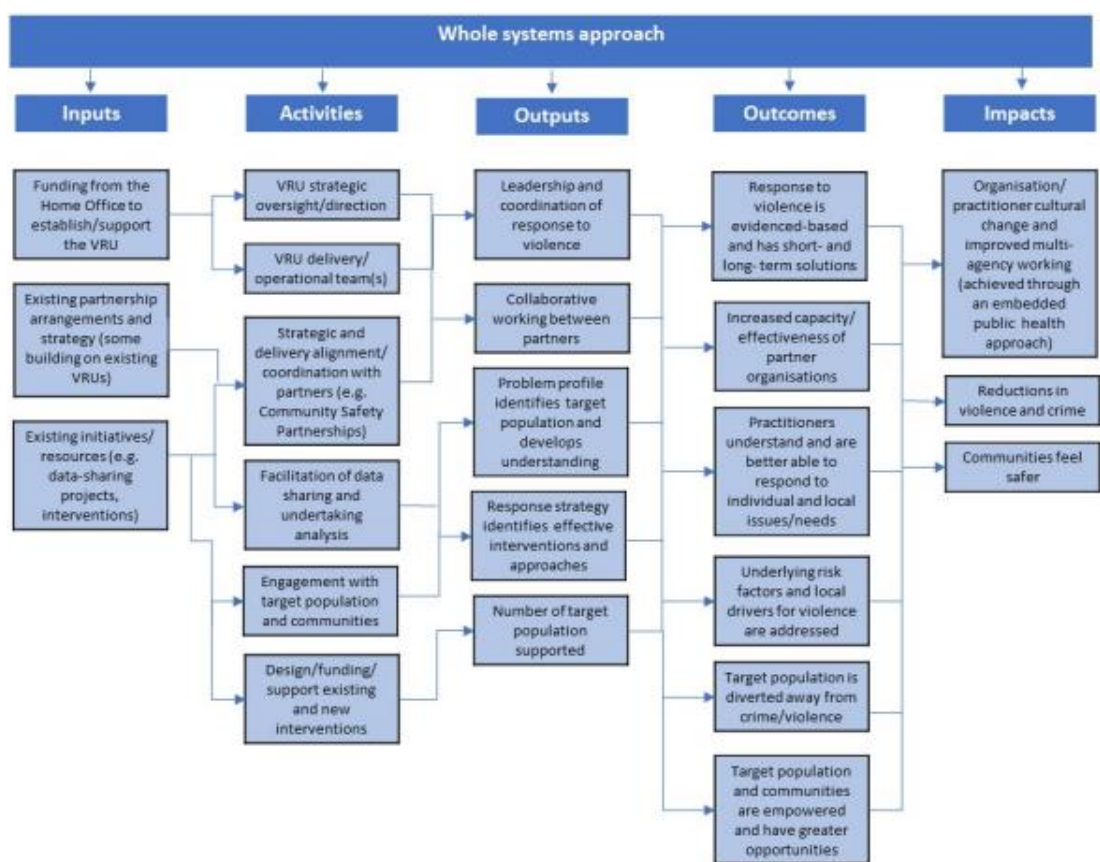
Violence Reduction Units

Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) are partnership structures designed to bring together the relevant local statutory and non-statutory agencies who can act to reduce and prevent violent crime.

These agencies include those already having a responsibility for community safety – namely police, fire, local government, health, and probation services – but also include other statutory partners such as education and Police and Crime Commissioners, as well as representatives from the community and key voluntary sector partners.

An effective VRU will work to identify the local drivers of serious violence and agree the necessary actions needed to tackle these. This includes being responsible for driving local strategy both through the VRU and through individual organisations as needed, plus embedding cultural change alongside their commissioning role as a means to make violence reduction sustainable.

VRUs will typify a broad programme-level ‘theory of change’ encompassing a range of inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and longer-term impacts:



Source: Process evaluation of the Violence Reduction Units, Home Office (2020)

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-reduction-unit-evaluation-2019-to-2020>

3. STRATEGIC APPROACH

Priority Setting

- 3.1. Upon his election in 2021, the PCC immediately took up this mantle, and made fighting violent crime and high harm a priority within the 2021-29 Police and Crime Plan. This priority comprises six themes, including one on violence reduction, where the relevant commitments include:
- Explore opportunities with partners, develop processes and strategies, and identify funding sources for the formation of a Violence Reduction Unit in Dorset so that evidence-based interventions and diversionary work can be introduced to prevent violence, including the use of knives, in the first place.
 - Support all relevant agencies to reduce the number of people killed because of serious violence.

Funding

- 3.2. In recent years, the PCC has undertaken significant lobbying of government to highlight the inequity of national funding, but unfortunately the inaccurate funding methodology remains. As a result, the PCC has steadfastly worked with statutory partners to identify opportunities to align local funding to support the creation of a VRU, albeit, again with limited success.
- 3.3. A good win, however, in terms of achieving local funding, was the Serious Violence Duty, a function arising from Part 2 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022⁴, and which commenced on 31 January 2023.
- 3.4. The Duty, and associated guidance⁵, sets out the requirement for specified authorities (police, fire, health, local authorities, youth offending teams and probation services): *“to work together to plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area”*. The Duty also requires the specified authorities to consult educational, prison and youth custody authorities.
- 3.5. Local policing bodies are not specified authorities under the Duty. However, they are: *“strongly encouraged to take on a role as lead convener for the local partnership arrangements for the Duty in order to support the development and implementation of the local strategy”*.
- 3.6. The Home Office allocated grant funding to each police force area to ease the bureaucratic burden of delivering the Duty⁶, as it comes with a raft of additional reporting requirements. Without dwelling on the disparity of these funding arrangements, the (now) 20 police force areas that receive central funding to support VRUs were awarded £76.6m. At the same time, £12.5m was shared amongst all the 43 police forces to support the management of the Duty.
- 3.7. Dorset was awarded £292,301.57 to support the delivery of the Duty in 2023/24, with comparable allocations confirmed for subsequent years.

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/32/part/2/chapter/1/enacted>

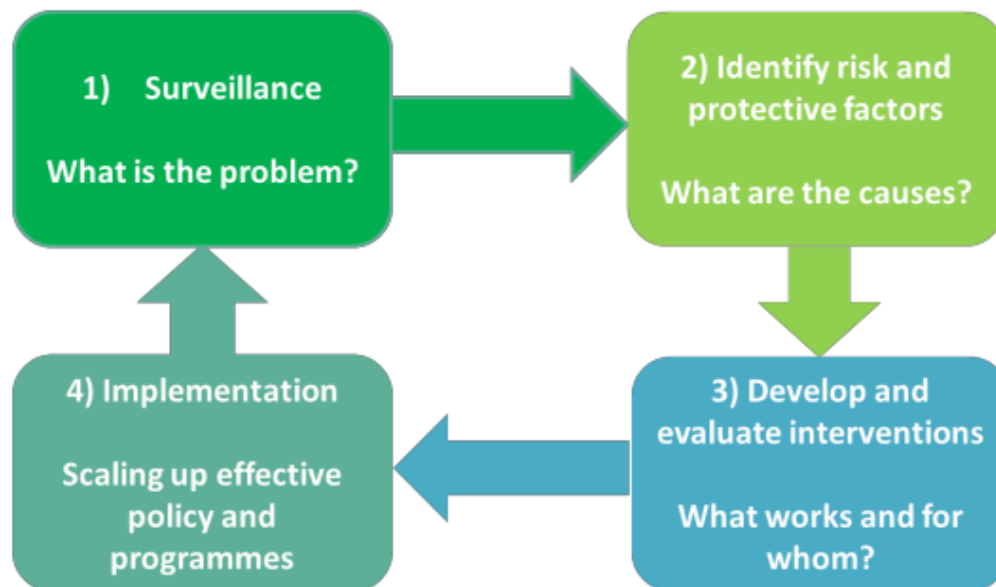
⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-duty>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-funding-allocations/serious-violence-funding-allocations>

Partnership Working

- 3.8. The PCC has taken several steps to deliver the 'lead convener' role, and ensure best value is driven from the Duty fund. Aside from attending Community Safety Partnership meetings, where the delivery of the local authority-led violence reduction and prevention strategies are managed, chairing both the Combatting Drugs Partnership and Dorset Criminal Justice Board, which manage a variety of strategies and action plans which are closely aligned with violence reduction and prevention, and submitting the Home Office returns setting out the use of the Duty fund, the PCC has also convened a quarterly meeting to formally consider the delivery of the Duty.
- 3.9. The first of these meetings was held on 23 June 2023, and initially considered the scope of the Home Office definition of serious violence as "*homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence of its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing.*"
- 3.10. Recognising that, as previously stated, Dorset does not have the kinds of serious violence seen elsewhere, it was agreed that locally both the BCP and the Dorset strategies and action plans for reducing and preventing violence would also consider other areas of violent crime including manslaughter, grievous bodily harm, rape and sexual assaults, aggravated burglary, robbery, and domestic abuse, for example.
- 3.11. Following this meeting, the work to further develop strategic needs assessments for each area continued, including using the Duty fund to recruit and train staff working against the Duty, and draft delivery plans were shared, discussed through the relevant Community Safety Partnerships, and signed off by partners including the PCC.
- 3.12. The second meeting was held on 26 September 2023, and heard a more detailed update from the BCP and Dorset Duty leads on their current work. Again, scope was considered, and it was recognised that collectively policing and local authorities had a good understanding and grip on wider domestic violence and sexual violence, but the shared understanding around the antecedents to knife carrying and knife crime was not as developed.
- 3.13. This demonstrated the need for the detailed local needs assessments to continue, but at pace, to inform the commissioning of intervention activity by the end of the financial year. The PCC's clear challenge was around the additionality – what deeper insight has the activity linked to the Duty identified, compared to what was known previously through the Community Safety Partnership and other pre-existing structures? And what interventions might be commissioned as a result of that further insight?
- 3.14. This question will be picked up at the third meeting, scheduled for 15 December 2023, where the BCP and Dorset strategies will have had the opportunity to go through their own internal governance, and proposals for interventions to be commissioned through the Duty fund would have been set out.
- 3.15. The PCC remains assured that local delivery, against the national timetable as set out in the Duty guidance, is on-track. For example, the specified authorities are working together to identify the common risk factors driving violence, and the protective factors preventing violence, before identifying relevant local interventions that might be taken to address the issues identified, and then testing to ensure these are having the right effect before scaling up the collective approach across the wider partnership. This accords with the World Health Organisation 4-step approach for implementing a multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention⁷:

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-serious-violence-a-multi-agency-approach>



Source: *A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention*, Public Health England (2019)

- 3.16. A collective approach is critical in making a difference. Without joined-up effective communication and shared objectives, tackling the scourge of knife crime and protecting our young people from harm will not be successful. It is only through a broad church of expertise and multi-agency working, that the tide can be turned for the future generations of Dorset residents.

Leadership

- 3.17. In the interim period of delivery against the Duty, whilst partnership interventions have yet to be determined, the PCC has continued to ensure that the OPCC and Dorset Police approach to tackling and preventing knife crime is robust. Some highlight activity, for brevity just over the past few months, includes:

Safer Schools and Communities Team

- 3.18. The Safer Schools and Communities Team (SSCT) is a partnership between Dorset Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service, with a remit to provide targeted interventions to prevent and reduce ASB, and crime amongst children and young people and to help keep them safe in a digital world.
- 3.19. SSCT has collated several in-house produced resources and those from national and local services to offer specialist support and advice on a wide range of needs, concerns, and topics⁸. These resources can be used to educate, guide and support children and young people in keeping safe.
- 3.20. On the topic of weapons, SSCT has made available two ‘click-and-play’ presentations to educate young people around the subject of weapons to safeguard and protect them and to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system, and to give students a clear understanding of the legal consequences of carrying items such as catapults, BB guns, and sharp, pointed objects in schools and public places.

⁸ <https://www.dorset.police.uk/police-forces/dorset-police/areas/about-us/local-support-and-guidance/ssct-young-people/supporting-young-people/>

- 3.21. Additionally, a toolkit is available, designed for professionals to use with children and young people who are at risk or carrying or using a knife. This is often used in youth offending or other secure settings.
- 3.22. SSCT also deliver in-person talks to students – as part of the Firearms and Knife Education (FAKE) inputs to schools. SSCT officers (often firearms officers as they have the greater experience in managing incidents involving knife injuries) deliver an uncompromising and straightforward message – carrying a weapon puts you in more danger of serious injury or worse⁹. This powerful interactive talk includes real life examples, videos and interactive engagement, and typically receives very positive reviews from the most important people in the room – the students.

Fix the Future

- 3.23. It is recognised that enforcement alone cannot combat the crimes affecting our communities. To truly tackle the root cause, we must also have clear prevention and education pathways. The PCC's Fix the Future Fund aims to help create more prevention and diversion schemes across Dorset by supporting projects and initiatives which will benefit young people and their local community.
- 3.24. The first round of the fund was hugely successful with over £40,000 being awarded to nine community projects across Dorset, including a youth outreach project in Sherborne, and a skills and capability building project for at-risk young people in Portland, by way of example. The recipients of the second round of the Fix the Future fund are currently being finalised and will be communicated by the OPCC shortly.
- 3.25. Related to this is the BCP Council conference on 'Keeping Our Young People Safe', which was held during the knife crime week of activity in November, and which was opened by the PCC. Attendees heard powerful personal testimonies along with expert findings on the best ways to help vulnerable young people in Dorset. The event provided a welcome opportunity to hear about the work that key partners, charities, and voluntary organisations do to help local children, teenagers, and young adults.
- 3.26. The event also heard about the devastating impact of knife crime as told through the moving testimony of Cameron Hamilton's grandmother, Tracy Jose. Cameron, 18, died after being stabbed in Bournemouth town centre in August this year, and in describing the impact of the family's tragic loss, Tracy's powerful words and determination to stop this happening to another family struck a chord with every person in the room.
- 3.27. Similarly, the PCC continues to offer his platform with those who have an important message to share, and at the beginning of December, the words of the mother of Tom Roberts, Dolores Roberts-Wallace, were published¹⁰. Tom, 21, died after being stabbed in Bournemouth in March 2022 whilst acting as a peacemaker in a fight between his friend and his killer. His killer was jailed for life earlier this year and will serve a minimum term of 29 years. Dolores continues to call for knife crime education, and better support for young people both in terms of diversionary activities and targeted interventions for those at higher risk.

Police Operations and Patrols

- 3.28. During August, hundreds of residents came together to march against knife crime, a campaign wholeheartedly supported by the PCC. Over the same weekend as the 'No

⁹ <https://www.bournemouthcho.co.uk/news/23931726.police-bring-knife-crime-education-bournemouth-school/>

¹⁰ <https://www.dorset.pcc.police.uk/news-and-newsletters/dorset-pcc-news-blog/2023/12/the-devastating-impact-of-knife-crime/>

More Knives' march, officers proactively patrolled Bournemouth seafront, the Lower Gardens and The Square as part of Op Fireglow, which happens every summer and Op Nightjar which was a shorter-term 'surge' operation.

- 3.29. Both operations have the specific intent to apprehend those individuals looking to cause serious violence and carrying dangerous implements or offensive weapons, and over the Summer led to 28 arrests, 47 Section 35 dispersal orders (individuals directed to leave the area and not return for up to 48 hours) and 21 stop and searches.
- 3.30. Dorset Police also invoked the use of increased stop and search powers under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. These powers allowed officers to stop and search anyone in the area for weapons, without needing to explain why. Fourteen people were stopped and searched, including two youths under the age of 18, who were found in possession of a quantity of suspected drugs. No weapons or knives were found during any of the searches that were conducted.

Op Sceptre and Knife Wands

- 3.31. In May and November, the national biannual operation to tackle knife crime, Op Sceptre, took place, and Dorset officers focused, not only on apprehending those who carry knives and using intelligence gathered to target those who are known to be habitual knife carriers, but also, took the opportunity to raise awareness of the issues surrounding knife crime to assist in its prevention as well.
- 3.32. In the latest operation, which ran from 13 to 19 November, Dorset Police arrested 14 people on suspicion of knife-related crimes and removed 28 knives from circulation.
- 3.33. In order to prevent and detect knife carrying, the PCC agreed to fund the purchase of additional knife wands and a knife arch, enabling a wand to be placed in every police vehicle, to be deployed operationally to enhance officers' ability to search for weapons, both keeping them safe whilst also providing every opportunity to locate concealed weapons being concealed.
- 3.34. The wands will not replace the requirement for a physical search but be used as a screening device available to officers already conducting a lawful and justified physical search of a person following their arrest.

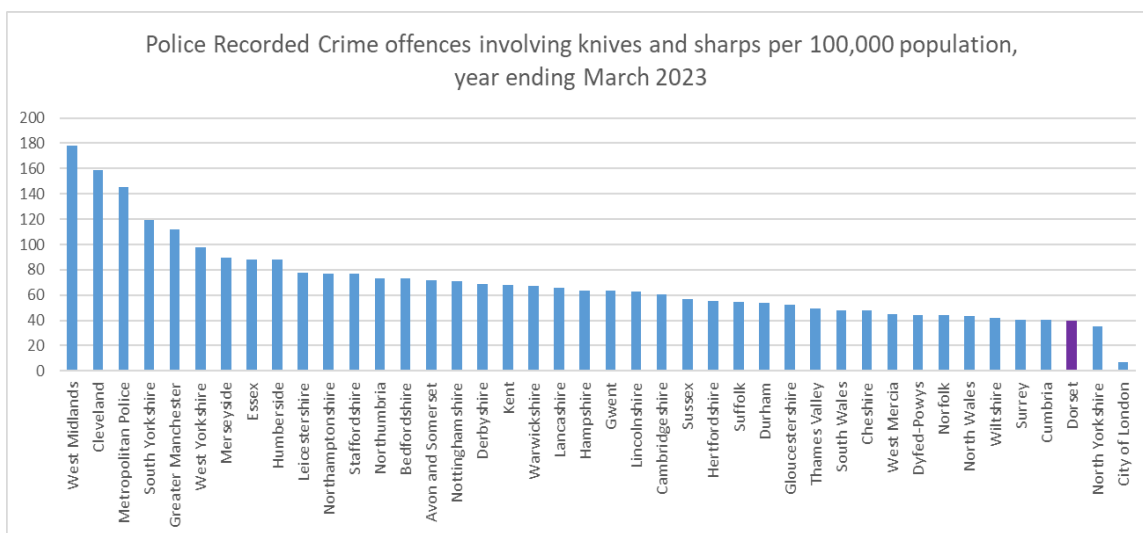
Violence Reduction Unit

- 3.35. Whilst these measures are having a positive impact, the PCC has set out his continued campaign and ambition for a VRU in Dorset. As has been seen in other parts of the country, the model is effective as VRUs understand the local needs of the area and can identify where and how interventions would be most effective.
- 3.36. The PCC continues to call on the local authorities to support setting up a VRU, and continues to meet with local officials, politicians, and Parliamentarians to further that aim. However, given to financial constraints and competing demands for resources within the wider public sector, it can often be helpful for one partner to show clear leadership and determination to make a difference.
- 3.37. To that end, the PCC has agreed to fund two roles within his office to directly support violence reduction and prevention, and pump-prime the creation of a Dorset VRU. At the beginning of December, therefore, two newly created permanent roles have gone live¹¹, for a Head of Violence Reduction and Prevention to lead the OPCC's new violence reduction function, and for a Performance and Insights Manager to provide data insight and analytical support to support the function, and the wider OPCC team.

¹¹ <https://www.dorset.pcc.police.uk/get-involved/recruitment/>

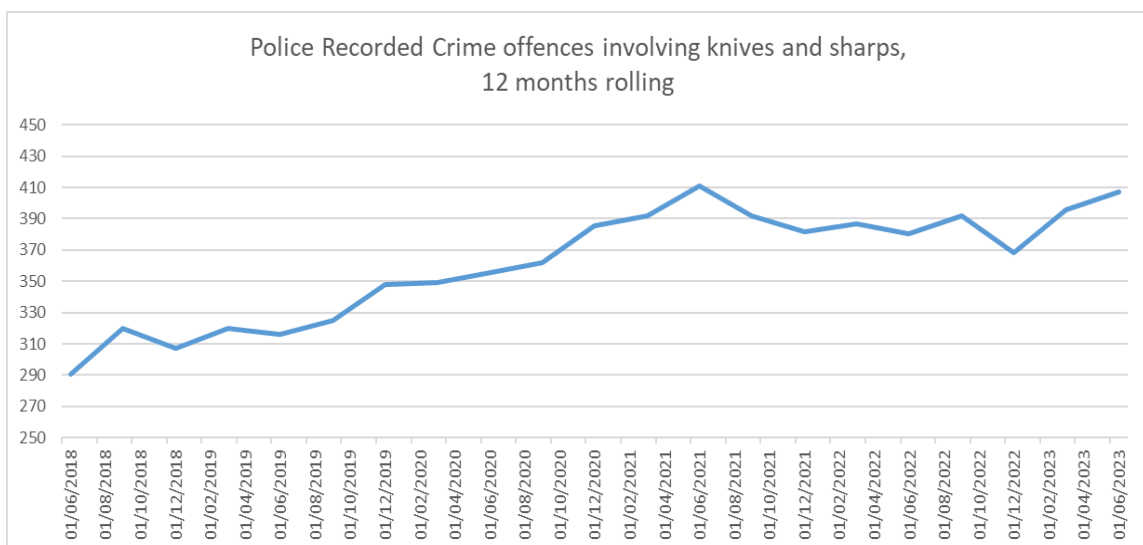
4. EFFECTIVENESS

- 4.1. Knife crime has a profound impact on families and communities, and collectively the partnership agencies in Dorset are determined to work together to reduce and prevent future tragedies.
- 4.2. That said, Dorset has the second lowest rate of knife crime across England and Wales. Specifically, this is based on police recorded crime data involving the use of knives and sharp instruments, for the year ending March 2023¹² (excluding the City of London due to its low resident population). This position is an improvement on the year ending March 2022, where Dorset was third lowest (excluding City of London):



Source: HMICFRS (2023)

- 4.3. At the same time, it is important to not become complacent, and to recognise, that although the incidence of knife crime remains very low in Dorset, the longer-term trend is increasing. This is based, again, on police recorded crime data involving the use of knives or sharp instruments, but this time shown on a rolling 12-months basis to smooth out month-on-month variation and provide a more reliable measure of trend:



Source: HMICFRS (2023)

¹² <https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/our-work/article/digital-crime-performance-pack/#serious-violence> (tab 5)

5. PCC SCRUTINY

- 5.1. Reducing and preventing the incidence of knife crime and knife-related violence is clearly an important matter, and the PCC and his office apply considerable scrutiny to Force and partner activity and performance. This is to ensure that the commitments within the Police and Crime Plan are being progressed and, crucially, that public expectations are being met.
- 5.2. Overall force performance – which includes violent crime performance and other relevant areas – is monitored by the Performance Board, which is attended by the Chief Executive. Key updates from this forum are provided to the Joint Leadership Board for further discussion and scrutiny as needed.
- 5.3. Likewise, as a cross-cutting area, the reduction and prevention of violence is also discussed at other strategic boards – including the Combatting Drugs Partnership and the Dorset Criminal Justice Board. As outlined above, the PCC has also used his convening power to bring together relevant specified authorities to outline progress against the Serious Violence Duty.

6. NEXT STEPS AND CHALLENGES

- 6.1. The PCC is determined to further reduce and prevent violence crime within Dorset, and the commitments and strategies set out above outline how he, and his office, are working hard to accomplish this. Over the past two and a half years, considerable progress has been made against the commitments within the Police and Crime Plan.
- 6.2. In the short-term, by the end of the calendar year, both BCP Council and Dorset Council will have signed off their own local plans and strategies for violence reduction. Furthermore, by the end of the financial year, the associated needs assessments and indicative commissioning activity to be undertaken to address the issues found will also be made available.
- 6.3. The OPCC will be recruiting its two new violence reduction and prevention roles early in the new year. Assuming successful recruitments, those roles will be staffed around the beginning of the 2024/25 financial year. OPCC will work closely with the Duty specified authorities to ensure clear alignment of effort, information, and objectives, and set out how it can contribute to the wider partnership delivery landscape.
- 6.4. Funding, inevitably, will be an enduring challenge. Dorset Police is amongst the lowest funded forces in England and Wales and the PCC continues to lobby for additional investment, arguing that imported crime and disorder (through county lines, for instance) should be accounted for within the national funding formula calculations. The PCC will continue to raise these issues at a national level.
- 6.5. Nevertheless, the PCC is confident that positive changes are being made and he, along with his office, will continue to deliver the commitments within the Police and Crime Plan.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1. Members are asked to note the report.

SIMON BULLOCK
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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Media Enquiries to: Susan Bloss, Head of Communications & Engagement (01202) 229095



DORSET POLICE & CRIME PANEL – 14 DECEMBER 2023

FLY-TIPPING UPDATE

BY THE POLICY MANAGER

PURPOSE

This paper provides an update on the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) work to target fly-tipping. It will detail progress to date and the actions undertaken by Dorset Police, partner agencies and the PCC. This paper also seeks to address the following five Key Lines of Enquiry as provided by the Dorset Police and Crime Panel:

- I. What does the PCC believe are the main causes of fly-tipping in Dorset?*
- II. What new approaches has the PCC taken to dealing with fly-tipping in hotspot areas and how are these measures being monitored for effectiveness?*
- III. What is the PCC doing in partnership with other Agencies across Dorset to combat and reduce fly-tipping?*
- IV. How does the PCC hold the Chief Constable to account for ensuring that all officers and staff in Dorset Police know and understand their powers in relation to fly-tipping?*
- V. What is the PCC doing to ensure all police forces nationally are working together to combat and reduce fly-tipping and ensure that all officers are trained/educated and know their powers? How successful has the PCC been in lobbying for tougher sentences, as set out in the Police and Crime Plan?*

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To Fight Rural Crime is a priority within the PCC's 2021-29 Police and Crime Plan. This priority comprises four themes, including one to target fly-tipping. Members of the public regularly raise concerns about fly-tipping in Dorset, including within the recent Regional Rural Crime survey, set up and administered by the Dorset OPCC. Indeed, this survey showed that fly-tipping was the most common type of rural crime that respondents had experienced in the last 12 months (nearly 18%). Responses from other areas in the region returned almost identical results, indicating that the problem is common across many force areas. It is a problem that the PCC is determined to address.
- 1.2. To clearly set out his ambitions to tackle fly-tipping, the PCC identified three key commitments within the Police and Crime Plan, namely:
 - Work with partner agencies, such as the local councils and the environment agency, to prevent and detect fly-tipping issues across all of Dorset, protecting Dorset's wonderful scenery and wildlife as we do so.
 - Introduce new approaches to dealing with fly-tipping in hotspot locations.
 - Lobby for tougher sanctions for those responsible for fly-tipping.

1.3. In order to drive forward these actions, the PCC established the Dorset Partnership Against Rural Crime (PARC), formerly known as the Rural Crime Reduction Partnership, in April 2022. PARC members subsequently agreed a delivery plan which evolved to include seven actions to target fly-tipping (and help address the three aforementioned Police and Crime Plan commitments):

- Target resources effectively to enable landowners and farmers to reduce risks of fly-tipping, and promote awareness of advice and support;
- Partnership work to prevent and detect fly-tipping issues across Dorset, protecting the Dorset environment;
- Scope ways to improve partnership work on reporting, recording, data analysis and sharing of intelligence of fly-tipping;
- Increase partnership campaigns to raise awareness of householders on fly-tipping and waste disposal responsibilities;
- Lobby for tougher sanctions for those responsible for fly-tipping;
- Work with magistrates to raise awareness of fly-tipping and support them around intimidation in court;
- Introduce new approaches to dealing with fly-tipping in (hotspot) cluster or problem locations.

2. CONTEXT AND KEY ISSUES

2.1. The Government defines fly-tipping as the illegal disposal of household, industrial, commercial, or other 'controlled' waste. The waste can be liquid or solid; controlled waste includes garden refuse and larger domestic items such as fridges and mattresses. 'Waste Crime' is also related and is defined as the unlawful management of waste by those who do not manage, transport, or dispose of waste correctly. Anyone dealing with waste needs to abide by the environmental regulations designed to control the disposal, management, and transfer of waste. Neither Fly-tipping, nor waste crime, is the same as littering, which is commonly assumed to include materials often associated with smoking, eating, and drinking.

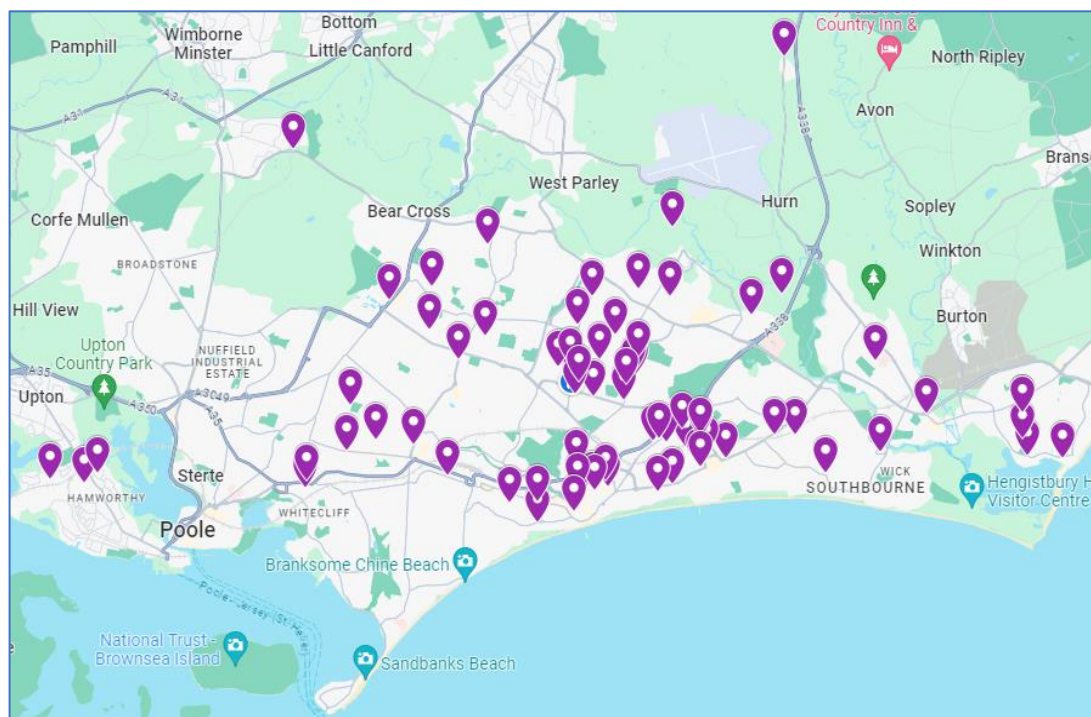
2.2. Nationally both fly-tipping, and waste crime, are monitored by the Government, with clear expectations on the agencies with statutory responsibilities to tackle it.

National [fly-tipping statistics](#) for 2021/22

- Local authorities in England dealt with 1.09 million fly-tipping incidents, a decrease of 4% from the 1.14 million reported in 2020/21.
- The percentage of fly-tips involving household waste has fallen from 65% in 2020/21 to 61% in 2021/22. Total incidents involving household waste were 671,000 in 2021/22, a decrease of 9% from 740,000 incidents in 2020/21.
- The most common place for fly-tipping to occur was on highways (pavements and roads), which accounted for 43% of total incidents in 2021/22, the same as in 2019/20 and 2020/21. In 2021/22, the number of highway incidents was 464,000, which was a decrease of 5% from 486,000 in 2020/21.
- The most common size category for fly-tipping incidents in 2021/221 was equivalent to a 'small van load' (32% of total incidents), followed by the equivalent of a 'car boot or less' (26%).

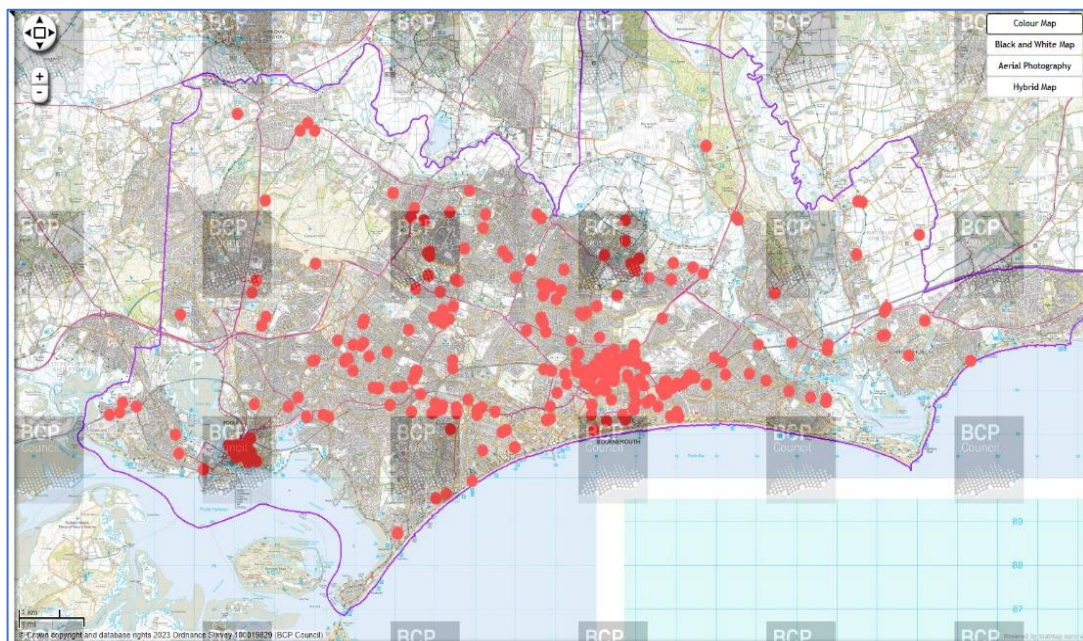
- 2.3. Local authorities are responsible for investigating, clearing, and taking appropriate [enforcement action](#) in relation to small scale fly-tipping on public land. The Government has guidance on fly-tipping and council responsibilities. In England, the Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for dealing with waste crime including larger scale fly-tipping (over a full lorry load), hazardous waste, and fly-tipping by organised crime gangs.
- 2.4. On private land, it is normally the responsibility of the landowner to remove the waste. Local authorities and the EA have legal powers to require landowners to clear fly-tipped waste from their land. They also have powers to enter the land and clear it and may seek reimbursement for costs related to it. Dorset Council has a policy to try to support private landowners in investigations to enable private prosecutions, where capacity allows.
- 2.5. In terms of local information, BCP Council has a contract with WISE to deal with reports of fly-tipping and litter. WISE carries out the investigations and issue enforcement action such as [Fixed Penalty Notices](#) (FPNs) as appropriate. Cases involving fly-tips on private land, where removal is required by the landowner/occupier, are referred to the relevant Environmental Protection (EP) teams in BCP Council – either domestic or commercial. Recent mapping of fly-tipping clusters in the BCP area show that they are mainly in urban areas and are predominately fly-tips left by waste and recycling bins, and individual bulky items such as mattresses. Maps 1 and 2 below indicate the recent levels reported to BCP Council.

Map 1: Fly-tipping reports (direct from the public and from WISE the contractor) to the EP Domestic Team May to November 2023:



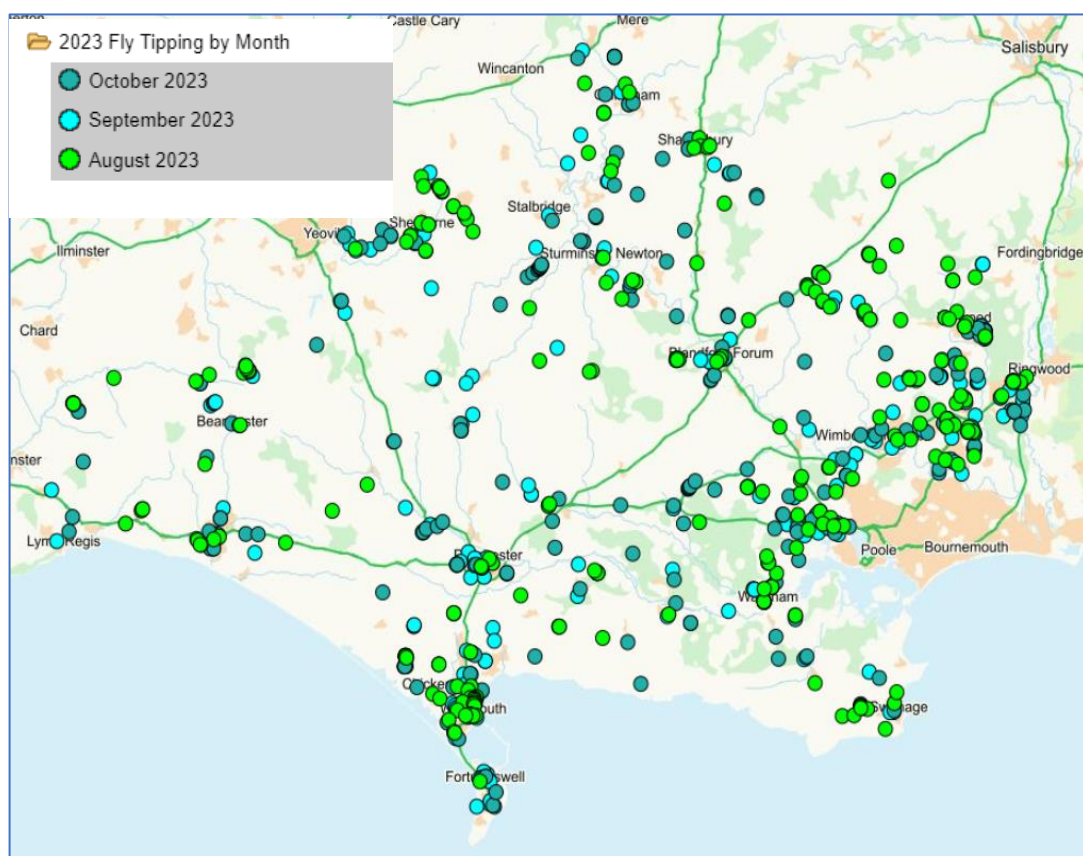
NOTE - This will only be a small proportion of the reports as WISE receive the majority via: [Fly-tipping \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/fly-tipping).

Map 2: WISE fly-tipping reports via BCP Council from 25 October to 24 November 2023 (last 30 days):



2.6. Dorset Council deal with [reports of fly-tipping](#) via the Waste Enforcement Team (WET) which has recently moved from Waste Management Services to the Licensing and Community Safety service. Reports of fly-tips are reviewed by the WET. Small volumes of waste are cleared by the council's Waste Management Services who assess them – those likely to provide evidence are then investigated by the WET and appropriate enforcement action is taken, including [FPNs](#).

Map 3: Dorset Council Fly-tipping Reports - August to October 2023



- 2.7. Moving nationally, there is a National Rural Crime Unit (NRCU) that supports policing, and a National Fly-Tipping Coordinator role has been funded by the Government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and will be based in this unit from February 2024. The new role will focus on applying a problem-solving approach to identify what policing can bring to tackle fly-tipping.
- 2.8. Although the causes of fly-tipping are varied, it is recognised that increased charges to dispose of waste – because of higher costs to process, manage, and safely and environmentally reduce/recycle and store waste – along with the reduced frequency of kerbside collections, has impacted on fly-tipping in recent years. Although nationally there was a reduction in fly-tipping, as outlined in the data box at 2.2, it is likely that these factors still have an impact within Dorset.
- 2.9. The PCC concludes that other likely causes of fly-tipping include selfish behaviour by a small minority, who perhaps perceive that the impact of a boot full of their rubbish will have minimal impact on Dorset's wide expanses of countryside. Equally there will be other unaware and vulnerable people who are being exploited by 'a man and a van' style criminals and – in some cases – instances of organised crime gangs with lucrative large scale waste operations. The PCC has received numerous complaints about the blight of fly-tipping, particularly in rural Dorset, and is clear that the causes are numerous and that an approach involving education, prevention and enforcement is required.

3. RESPONSE AND PROGRESS MADE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

- 3.1. The Panel will be aware of the multi-agency partnership meeting, PARC, which the PCC established in order to bring agencies together to Fight Rural Crime. Since April 2022 partners involved in the PARC, have focussed on the fly-tipping actions in both the Police and Crime Plan and the PARC Delivery Plan, see sections 1.2 and 1.3 respectively, via the establishment of a fly-tipping task and finish group (FT&FG) with membership from both BCP and Dorset Councils, the EA and Dorset Police. The FT&FG is coordinated by the PCC's office.
- 3.2. The PARC's FT&FG notified the PCC of a lack of capacity to enforce fly-tipping in rural Dorset as Dorset Council did not have a dedicated role to gather evidence to enable increased enforcement of fly-tipping offences. The PCC and his office worked with Dorset Council to identify a potential solution, with the Commissioner asking Dorset Council to develop a one-year pilot proposal to meet the resource gap. Subsequently, the PCC agreed to fund a dedicated post and this commitment was match-funded by Dorset Council by increasing the overall enforcement capacity of the WET. The aim is that this new approach will result in a higher number of FPNs, and Community Protection Notices/Warnings being issued, as well as an increase in prosecutions relating to fly-tipping.
- 3.3. As outlined earlier in this paper, both local authorities share the data and mapping of fly-tipping reports with PARC members, which enables relevant partners to identify areas of repeat reports, including hot-spots/clusters of fly-tipping. This means resources can be deployed to target these locations to identify perpetrators, resulting in enforcement action. The PCC's office has previously provided cameras to both Dorset Council and BCP Council in order to assist with investigations. Both BCP and Dorset Councils share intelligence with each other, and with both Dorset Police and the EA to target offenders. Existing agreements are utilised to enable investigations, such as the forensic protocol, which was facilitated by the PCC's office.
- 3.4. Two waste crime operations between the FT&FG members took place, using mobile units, during National Rural Crime Action Week 18 to 24 September 2023. These

resulted in 15 vehicles being stopped with five enforcement actions and two intelligence logs recorded. The FT&FG also work together to ensure that all personnel – including officers within Dorset Police – know and understand their powers in relation to fly-tipping.

- 3.5. In July 2022, the PCC raised the issue of fly-tipping with the other Southwest (SW) PCCs and proposed that they lobby the Government to raise the level of the minimum fine for fly-tipping from £400 to £1,000. The SW PCCs agreed, and a letter was sent to the Secretary of State for DEFRA.
- 3.6. In March 2023, the Prime Minister announced his anti-social behaviour (ASB) action plan including proposals to increase the levels of fly-tipping fines. These changes were introduced via a statutory instrument, which increased the upper limits for various fixed penalty notices. This was added to statutory guidance in Part 1A of the [Litter and refuse: code of practice](#) in October 2023. This includes a change to fly-tipping fines that more than doubles the maximum penalty for offenders. Under the changes, the upper limit for fines handed out over fly-tipping has risen from £400 to £1000. The limit for fines handed out to those who breach their [household waste duty of care](#) has also risen from £400 to £600. This is when householders pass their waste to an unlicensed waste carrier which is subsequently fly-tipped.
- 3.7. The PCC is also a member of the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) – this group successfully lobbying for the national fly-tipping role as outlined at section 2.7. The NRCN also supported the PCC, and the SW PCCs, in their lobbying of the Government to raise fines for fly-tipping.
- 3.8. In January 2023, the PCC met with the Chair of the Dorset Magistrates Bench and it was agreed the PCC, or his office, would present at the Dorset Magistrates AGM. The presentation on the 18 October 2023 highlighted the sanctions now available for fly-tipping offences in court and requested feedback on whether any intimidation has been received by Dorset Magistrates from these offenders – the response would suggest that intimidation has, thankfully, not been recently experienced in Dorset.
- 3.9. In September 2023, the PCC joined with his counterparts in the south-west to lead a new campaign and bring together all police forces in the region to combat the involvement of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) in rural crime. Under the new initiative known as Operation Ragwort, the OCGs who target rural communities and are at the forefront of crimes such as burglary, the theft of farm vehicles and equipment, poaching and fly-tipping, will be the focus of a regional, co-ordinated, campaign led by the south-west region's Police and Crime Commissioners. As the south-west's response to serious, organised, acquisitive crimes and rural crime, the operation will utilise and coordinate intelligence from our smallest communities through to local policing areas and across to other force areas and national and international borders.
- 3.10. Finally, the PCC and his office established the Country Watch Dorset website, in partnership with the members of the PARC. This includes a dedicated page on [fly-tipping](#) to raise awareness of the issue, how to report it, responsibilities of agencies and individuals, and penalties. The website's news page has highlighted successful prosecutions for waste crime and fly-tipping and the PCC has also highlighted the issue of fly-tipping in several news articles over the last two years.

4. PCC SCRUTINY

- 4.1. The PCC has established the PARC to enable the delivery, and therefore scrutiny, of partnership working to fight rural crime. The PARC meeting is held quarterly and reviews and updates the progress of the PARC delivery plan. At each meeting there

are one or two headline items, rotated from the five key topics and/or three sub-topics of the delivery plan. Therefore, each topic or sub-topic is reviewed in detail annually.

- 4.2. Fly-tipping was a headline item in both July 2022 and July 2023. At the 2022 meeting, the PCC recommended the establishment of the FT&FG, which was supported by the PARC membership. At the 2023 meeting, following discussions with Dorset Council, the PCC offered to consider funding to close the resourcing gap as outlined at section 3.2. This will ensure that there is the ability to deliver all the fly-tipping actions as detailed earlier within this report. A key, and regular theme, of fly-tipping discussions at the PARC is the need for organisations, including Dorset Police, to know and understand their powers in relation to fly-tipping and the PCC seeks reassurance from leads that this should be the case.
- 4.3. To ensure that his scrutiny is informed by public opinion, the PCC, along with his SW counterparts, launched a rural crime survey to explore how crime impacts rural communities. Most respondents said they had not experienced rural crime in the past year. However, the survey also showed, as stated in the introduction to this report, that fly-tipping was the most common crime experienced by Dorset respondents, as well as one of the offences which concerned them the most. This cemented the PCC's resolve to fund an evidence gathering role to increase enforcement of fly-tipping offenders in Dorset.
- 4.4. In addition to the work of the PARC and the FT&FG, the PCC and his office examine the work of the Force to support the tackling of fly-tipping and target waste crime by offenders, including OCGs. This has included consideration of work by the Force's Rural Crime Team and Roads Policing Unit to share data and carry out partnership operations with the Environment Agency. The PCC and his office also examine the Force's implementation of any national recommendations that arise from the NCRN or DEFRA.

5. NEXT STEPS AND CHALLENGES

- 5.1. The PCC is determined to improve the county's approach to fly-tipping and to deliver this element of his Police and Crime Plan. Key to this will be the success of the new fly-tipping evidence gathering role, which is anticipated to be in place from early 2024.
- 5.2. To support this role, a prioritisation process to assess those fly-tips most appropriate for evidence gathering has been agreed and the monitoring of the performance of the new fly-tipping role and pilot project, will be reported quarterly to the PCC's office and six-monthly to the PARC. The monitoring report will include information on:
 - Cases taken forward for prosecution and those prosecution outcomes e.g. recovered clearance and disposal costs;
 - Fixed penalties issued and for which environmental crimes;
 - Community Protection Warnings/Notices issued;
 - Other actions e.g. verbal warnings, written warnings;
 - Vehicles seized (including destroyed) in relation to environmental crimes;
 - Publicity items of successful enforcement action.
- 5.3. The PCC and the FT&FG still wish to undertake further publicity work. A campaign to raise awareness of fly-tipping responsibilities for both householders and businesses is planned for early in 2024; this will be followed by work with landowners and farmers to reduce the risk of fly-tips on private land in rural Dorset, in late spring 2024. Also, further joint waste crime operations will be planned by the FT&FG in the New Year.
- 5.4. The PCC, and his office will continue to work with the Force and partners to tackle fly-tipping. With continued pressure on funding the PCC and his office needs to work together effectively and innovatively with our PARC partners to raise awareness of

all agencies and individuals' responsibilities, and proactively target perpetrators and offenders of fly-tipping and related waste crime. Fighting rural crime is extremely important to the PCC and he, along with his office, will continue to deliver the commitments within his Police and Crime Plan.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1. Members are asked to note the report.

POLICY MANAGER

Members' Enquiries to: Adam Harrold, Director of Operations (01202) 229084

Media Enquiries to: Susan Bloss, Head of Communications & Engagement (01202) 229095

Dorset Police and Crime Panel Forward Workplan

Priority Leads:

Priority	Priority Lead One	Priority Lead Two
Cut Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	Cllr Pete Barrow	Cllr Tony Trent
Make Policing More Visible and Connected	Cllr Sherry Jespersen	Cllr Graham Carr-Jones
Fight Violent Crime and High Harm	Cllr Patrick Canavan	Dr Elizabeth Mytton
Fight Rural Crime	Cllr Les Fry	Cllr David Flagg
Put Victim and Communities First	Cllr Alasdair Keddie	Cllr Peter Sidaway
Make Every Penny Count	Mike Short	Cllr Batstone

Item	Agenda Item	Title	PCP Lead	KLOEs
Q3 – 1 February 2024				
1)	Declarations of Interest			
2)	Minutes			
3)	Public Participation			
4)	Budget Precept	Budget Precept – 2024/25		
5)	Monitoring Report	Quarter Three 2023/24		
6)	Local/National Issues			
7)	Discussion Item One	Rehabilitation	Priority 3	
9)	Annual Activity			
10)	Complaints Update			
11)	Forward Workplan			
Q4				
1)	Declarations of Interest			
2)	Minutes			
3)	Public Participation			
4)	Monitoring Report	Quarter Four 2023/24		

Item	Agenda Item	Title	PCP Lead	KLOEs
5)	Local/National Issues			
6)	Discussion Item One	Right Person / Right Care	Priority 5	
7)	Discussion Item Two	Alcohol, drug and gambling abuse	Priority 5	
8)	Annual Activity	PCC Annual Report Police and Crime Plan Update? Election of Chair / Vice Chair		
9)	Complaints Update			
10)	Forward Workplan			

Items To Be Scheduled

<u>Item</u>	<u>Rationale</u>	<u>Lead</u>
Review demand model / police numbers	Postponed from Feb 23 meeting	
The value of the Restorative Justice Service	Identified Dec 22 meeting	
Serious Violence Duty legislation	Identified Feb 23 meeting	
Deep dive into Domestic Abuse, incl encouraging male victims to come forward	Identified Feb 23 meeting	
Police Race Action Plan update	Identified July 23 meeting	

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