

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE ON THE DRAFT POLICE AND
CRIME PLAN FOR BEDFORDSHIRE 2013-2017

FEBRUARY 2013

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document constitutes the report and recommendations of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel in respect of the Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017 for Bedfordshire (Building a Safer Bedfordshire) and is submitted to the Commissioner in accordance with the requirements of section 28(3)(6) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act).
- 1.2 The report expresses the Panel's preparedness to support the draft plan as submitted, acknowledging that the limited time available in which to produce this initial plan so that it can inform the Commissioner's budget for 2013/14, means that it contains less detail than either the Commissioner or the Panel would ordinarily wish to see. In expressing its support, the Panel asks however that once the current discussions with the Chief Constable to agree the framework for assessing performance against the Plan have been concluded, the proposed framework be submitted to the Panel for its consideration.

2. DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME PLAN FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

- 2.1 Section 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act requires Police and Crime Commissioners to issue a Police and Crime Plan by 31 March 2013. The steps which the Act requires the Commissioner to take prior to issuing the Plan include requirements to:

- send the draft plan to the relevant Police and Crime Panel
- have regard to any report or recommendations made by the Panel in relation to the draft plan
- give the Panel a response to any such report or recommendations, and
- publish any such response.

The Panel is required to review the draft plan and to make a report or recommendations on it to the Commissioner.

- 2.2 The Panel considered the draft Police and Crime Plan for Bedfordshire at its meeting on 5 February 2013. In doing so, it had particular regard

to the following matters which are required to be included in such plans:

- the Commissioner's police and crime objectives;
- the policing of the police area which the Chief Constable is to provide;
- financial and other resources which the elected local policing body is to provide to the chief officer of police for the chief officer to exercise the functions of chief officer;
- the means by which the Chief Constable reports to the Commissioner;
- the means by which the Chief Constable's performance in providing policing will be measured;
- the crime and disorder reduction grants which the elected local policing body is to make, and the conditions (if any) to which such grants are to be made.

recognising that the Police and Crime Plan differs from the traditional Policing Plan to which Panel Members are accustomed, and covers wider community safety and criminal justice services.

- 2.3 The Panel noted that, once determined, further detail will be added to sections of the plan dealing with performance monitoring and oversight arrangements and in relation to equalities and children and young people. It also noted that if you make crime and disorder reduction grants for 2013/14, these will also be included in the Plan in accordance with the Act's requirements.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Panel Members appreciated your responses (recorded in the minutes of the Panel's meeting) to their detailed questions on a number of aspects of the plan and recognise that, given time limitations, your discussions with the Chief Constable and with other partners about a number of issues, which the Panel might otherwise have expected to be covered in more detail in the plan, remain ongoing. In this context, Panel Members welcome your intention in due course to report back to them with proposals to refresh the Plan in order to provide more details and specific objectives for years 2-5. The Panel understands that you will do this in approximately 12 months' time (ie February 2014).
- 3.2 The Panel noted that discussions with the Chief Constable about the police performance framework by which you will hold him to account for delivery against your Plan have yet to be concluded.

- 3.3 The robustness of that framework is critical in enabling you and the Panel to judge delivery of the ambitions set out in the Plan. The Panel therefore requests that, once that framework has been agreed, it is submitted to the Panel for consideration.
- 3.4 The Panel would like to extend its appreciation of your attendance at its meeting on 5 February 2013 and the responses which you provided to the wide variety of questions and issues that Panel Members raised.

Fiona Chapman MBE
Chair, Bedfordshire
Police and Crime Panel

Philip Simpkins
Clerk, Bedfordshire
Police and Crime Panel