

By: Gaetano Romagnuolo – Panel Clerk  
To: Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel, 23 April 2026  
Subject: Draft Panel Annual Report – 2025/26  
Classification: Unrestricted

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### **Summary:**

Preparation and publication of an Annual Report by the Panel is a legal requirement under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The Panel is asked to consider and approve the content of the 2025/26 Annual Report of the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel.

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## **Draft Annual Report**

### **Introduction**

1. This report summarises the work of the Panel between February 2025 and February 2026. It follows annual reports that have been produced every year since the Panel was established in November 2012. The objective of the Panel is to scrutinise and support the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in his role in helping tackle crime and disorder in Kent and Medway.
2. The Panel performs a ‘checks and balances’ role to monitor the performance of the Commissioner regarding his priorities for Kent Police. These are set out in his Police and Crime Plan ‘Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust’ (2025-29). The Panel plays a vital role in holding the PCC to account and supporting him in the effective exercise of his duties, in particular in the way he holds the Chief Constable of Kent Police to account.
3. The Panel consists of 18 elected members from local authorities across Kent and Medway and two additional co-opted independent members. The current membership of the Panel can be viewed here: [Membership of the Panel](#).

### **Meetings**

4. Between 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026, the Panel met formally 5 times. [The meetings’ agendas and minutes](#) are available to view. In January 2026 the Panel also received one briefing from the Chief Constable which covered the Kent Police Pledge, the findings of the latest HMICFRS PEEL Inspection, the latest crime figure in Kent and the performance of Kent Police

against a number of indicators. In the same period, the Panel met informally with representatives of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to discuss the development of the 2026/27 Precept Proposal.

## **Panel's business**

5. The Panel met its statutory duty in February 2026 to consider, and make recommendations on, the Commissioner's refreshed 'Cut Crime, Support Victims, Build Trust' Police and Crime Plan (2025-29) as well as his proposed Budget and Precept. The Commissioner attended to present his proposal and answer questions from the Panel. The Panel supported the Plan and Precept Proposal.
6. The key points from the 2026/27 Budget and Precept Proposal from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) were:
  - A proposed increase in the precept of £15 a year, or 5.6% for a Band D property, equivalent to £1.25 a month, or 4.1p per day.
  - A council tax for an average Band D property of £285.15.
  - An increase in Government funding of £12.9m.
  - Projected savings gap of £2.9m for 2026/27.
  - Cost pressures of £30m including, £16.4m for pay awards.
7. The Panel noted that the Kent PCC remained among the ten lowest PCC council tax preceptors in the country.
8. As required, the Panel reported on the Commissioner's Plan and Precept, and the Commissioner provided a written response – both reports are available here ([Published Reports and Recommendations](#)).
9. The Panel met its statutory duty to consider the Commissioner's Annual Report for 2024/25, which it considered at its meeting on 14 October 2025.
10. Between 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026, the Panel received a number of reports which covered topics including:
  - HMICFRS PEEL Inspection 2023/25 – the Panel received a report on the HMICFRS PEEL Inspection 2023/25 and an update on Kent Police's progress in addressing the findings from the Inspection. The Commissioner continued to hold the Chief Constable to account for performance. The Commissioner's Performance and Delivery Board continued to focus on identified areas for improvement.

- Contacting Kent Police - this paper provided an update on Kent Police's performance in managing public demand within the Force Control Room (FCR).
- Safer Streets Summer Initiative – this was a government initiative aimed at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in town centres across England and Wales. It ran from 30 June until 30 September 2025 and involved over 500 town centres and high streets. The initiative focused on visibility, prevention, and enforcement, aiming to reduce criminality, shop theft, street crime and ASB.
- Holding the Chief Constable to Account – the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Kent Police, including the priorities he has set in the Police and Crime Plan. This report provided a summary of the governance arrangements, and formal and informal mechanisms, that were put in place by the PCC to discharge his duties.
- Crime Prevention - this report outlined Kent Police's approach to crime prevention and highlighted some of the work the PCC supported in this area.
- Criminal Justice System update – this paper provided an update on the outstanding local court caseload, the reasons for it and the actions taken to tackle it.

11. "Questions to the Commissioner" continued to be a regular item at each meeting. The Panel welcomed the Commissioner's willingness to answer questions which were submitted to him in advance. This agenda item continued to provide a greater opportunity for Panel members to discuss issues with the Commissioner that did not form part of his formal reports. Topics included: measures to tackle anti-social behaviour, shoplifting, sexual offences, law enforcement and technological advances to tackle crime.

## **Complaints**

12. The Panel maintained oversight over formal complaints made against the Commissioner under the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012. Between February 2025 and February 2026, no complaints had progressed to a Complaints Sub-Committee hearing. The annual report providing details on the number of complaints received against the Commissioner will be submitted to the Panel later in the year.

## **Commissioner's decisions**

13. The Commissioner published the following decisions during this period, which were considered and noted by the Panel:

- Decision OPCC.D.036.25 - Chief Constable Appointment: Retire and Rehire Scheme

## **Panel terms of reference**

14. The Panel's terms of reference require these to be reviewed annually. It is considered convenient to do this at the same time as the Panel reviews its work over the past year. Minor wording changes, clarifications or consequential amendments to address changes in law or external arrangements may be made from time to time by Officers, subject to review by the KCC Monitoring Officer. No significant changes to the terms of reference are proposed at this time for the Panel's consideration and approval. The full terms of reference can be found by following this [link](#).

## **Panel budget**

15. The Panel's terms of reference also require the Panel to review its budget on an annual basis. Finance for the Panel's work comes from an annual Home Office grant of £71,700. The expenditure incurred is predominantly on staff support to the Panel but also relates to subscriptions to relevant membership bodies and payment of co-optee members' allowances and expenses. The outturn for 2025-26 was £66,190 (compared to £46,700 in 2024-25 and £35,850 in 2023-24).

16. The main reason for the increase is that, in response to communications from the Home Office in the previous two financial years highlighting that Kent's claims were significantly below the grant funding available, KCC's Finance team conducted a review of administration costs in 2025/26. This resulted in an increase to Kent's staffing recharge against the grant, which more accurately reflected the true time and cost of KCC Officers in supporting the Panel and completing the necessary grant monitoring/returns.

17. While meeting all statutory obligations and undertaking appropriate work, the Panel has contained its costs well within the existing Home Office Grant, demonstrating that Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel continues to deliver good value for money.

## **Conclusions**

18. Panel Members remain focused on supporting and scrutinising Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to key policing and crime issues in local communities. The Panel reviews and agrees a future work programme at each meeting. This ensures transparency and the delivery of the Panel's function in a timely way.
  
19. Meetings of the Panel have continued to be webcast to promote public engagement. The Panel welcomes the positive approach taken by the Commissioner in responding to questions as well as the standing invitation to all Panel Members to attend the Commissioner's Performance and Delivery Board meetings.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

To consider and approve the draft Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2025/26.

Contact:

Gaetano Romagnuolo

[gaetano.romagnuolo@kent.gov.uk](mailto:gaetano.romagnuolo@kent.gov.uk)

Tel: 03000 416624