



Report by: Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel

SUBJECT: Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report and Accounts for 2013/14

Date: 4th November 2014

Background

1. Police and Crime Commissioners have a statutory duty under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and associated Regulations to prepare an annual report on:-
 - the exercise of the their functions in each financial year, and
 - the progress which has been made in the financial year in meeting the police and crime objectives in their police and crime plan.

Police and Crime Panels must review this report at a public meeting and must make a report or recommendations on the annual report. Commissioners must, in turn, produce a response to the Panel's report and any recommendation and this response is to be published in a manner determined by the Panel.

Annual Report

2. The Panel was provided with a copy of the Commissioner's Annual Report for 2013/14 and also with the Foreword to the Accounts. The Panel was provided with a link to the full accounts. At the Panel meeting on 4th November the Commissioner provided a verbal introduction to her report and her Chief Finance Officer gave an overview of the accounts.
3. The Panel sought clarification of the work done by the Commissioner's innovation partner and asked when results might be apparent from this work. The Panel was advised that the role of the innovation partner was to help the Force to position itself to make savings in the next 4 years. The Panel asked the Commissioner to explain whether this work included consideration of outsourcing and was advised that joint work with Essex, particularly in respect of the joint platform for support services, was producing significant savings.

4. The Panel referred to earlier discussions about engagement with young people and asked whether a version of the report could also be produced in a format that was more likely to engage young people and the general public, who might find the published report quite lengthy. The Panel was pleased to note that the Commissioner agreed to consider this. The Panel also asked the Commissioner to consider including some crime statistics and some graphic representations of data.
5. The Panel advised the Commissioner that, although the report referred to good progress in a number of areas, e.g. establishment of local policing teams, work to commission a Sexual Assault Referral Centre, work to improve the accuracy of crime recording, and support for the Special Constabulary, it failed to mention the problems relating to the introduction of the first Youth Commissioner. It also failed to mention the independent review which was commissioned to enable the Police and Crime Commissioner to learn lessons. The Panel felt that, in view of the widespread publicity surrounding the problems and subsequent resignation of the first Youth Commissioner and the impact this had on the credibility of the office of Police and Crime Commissioner, the Annual Report should have referred to this matter.

2013/14 Accounts

6. The Panel noted a sound financial position and that the Force had made the savings required by the Comprehensive Spending Review 1 year early.
7. The Panel noted that underspending had been used to ensure adequate provision for pensions (including ill-health retirement pensions) and redundancies arising from the need to make savings. The Panel sought and received an explanation
8. for the reasons for using money in this way rather than to support ongoing expenditure. The Panel also noted that money that was provided to the Chief Constable to use on Invest to Save projects.