



## **Suffolk Police and Crime Panel Panel Report on the PCC's Annual Report 2021/22**

On 7 October 2022, the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel considered the Annual Report of the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for 2020/21. The panel has a statutory role in scrutinising this report at a meeting held in public.

The meeting was held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, and 11 of the 13 members of the Panel were present. The PCC was accompanied by the Head of Communications and Engagement and Head of Policy and Performance from the Office of the PCC (OPCC). The [agenda and papers](#) from the meeting are available on the County Council's website.

The Annual Report provided Members with an update on the work undertaken by the PCC during the financial year 2021/22, including details of the PCC's performance, commissioning activities, support for victims, the impact of PCC grants and consultation activities.

The PCC, in presenting his report to Members, discussed the impact of the lockdowns during the Covid 19 pandemic which had restricted the public engagement activities that he had been able to hold, and had also affected the pattern of crime in the County. However, progress with technology since the first lockdown had enabled the business of his office to continue.

The PCC also referred to the continuation of his grants and commissioning responsibilities which were set out in the report, and the increasing backlog in the courts system which impacted on victims, witnesses and defendants. Recorded incidents of domestic abuse had also increased during the pandemic; however, the funding provided by the Home Office for policing costs, and by the Ministry of Justice for the provision of support provided by the voluntary sector, was having a positive impact on the support available to victims.

In response to a question, the PCC advised that security of the Suffolk coastline was important, and there was a good relationship between the Constabulary and Border Force; the PCC's role was to ensure the Constabulary had the resources to deal with this important issue. There was a dedicated police force at the Port of Felixstowe, as well as a National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service base.

The Panel referred to the assistance provided by Suffolk Constabulary to the policing of events during the 10 days of national mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, and asked the PCC to pass on the Panel's thanks for its contribution.

Concerning the 72 additional officers to be recruited as part of Operation Uplift, the PCC explained that this was a net figure which took into account turnover rates for officers. The PCC advised that by the end of the financial year there would be c. 1400 full time equivalent officers in the Constabulary.

In response to a question on the new Environmental Responsibility Strategy referenced in his report, the PCC advised that this concerned the better use of scarce natural resources, including water, as well as eliminating waste and taking advantage of new technology.

In response to a question, the PCC advised that all contacts made to the OPCC were monitored, with analysis taking place to pick up any trends. These contacts also helped to shape the PCC's policies. The Head of Communication and Engagement advised that a synopsis of the contacts received could be included in future annual reports.

The Panel thanked the PCC for outlining the range of work taking place across Suffolk to meet the objectives set out in his Police and Crime Plan.

### **Decision of the Panel**

The Panel, having reviewed the PCC's Annual Report for 2021/22:

- a) noted the PCC's Report; and
- b) delegated the production and publication of the Panel's formal report on its scrutiny of the PCC's Annual Report to the Chairman of the Panel.

Councillor Mark Jepson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Jepson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chairman of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

7 October 2022