

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel

27th June 2024

Panel Annual Report 2023/24

Recommendation:

The report was circulated to members for comment prior to its presentation by the Chair to the Host Authority Annual Council on 18th May 2024. Members are invited to formally endorse the report and to liaise with their respective councils in accordance with the requirement to keep the component authorities informed of the Panel's functions and work.

1. Summary

The Police and Crime Panel is a strategic joint partnership made up of representatives from the five unitary authorities in the Avon and Somerset Police force area; Somerset, North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bristol. There are 14 elected members and 3 Independent Co-opted Members. Somerset Council is the designated Host Authority and is therefore responsible for the administrative and specialist officer support provided to the Panel.

The Panel was established in 2012 following the dissolution of Police Authorities. The new arrangements saw the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners and a new accountability framework for strategic policing.

As the key support and accountability mechanism for the decisions and activities undertaken by the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, the Panel has a statutory duty to publish an Annual Report that reflects the scrutiny and assurance work carried out in 2023/24.

2. Component Councils

The report will be sent to the respective council Monitoring Officers for the purpose of assisting Panel Members with the requirement to keep the component authorities informed of the Panel's functions and work. The Host Authority is aware that some members already have a reporting mechanism in place with their councils either through full council or their crime and disorder scrutiny functions.

3. Background Papers/Information

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 is the primary legislation that made provision for the administration and governance of police forces with effect from

November 2012. It transferred strategic control to Police and Crime Commissioners and established Police and Crime Panels as the key checks and balance mechanism.

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