

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel - Annual Report 2023/24

Chair of the Police and Crime Panel: Councillor Heather Shearer

Lead Officer: Scott Wooldridge, Interim Head of Governance and Democratic Services

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1. Summary

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Panel is a Joint Committee and 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. The Panel's membership includes 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.
- 1.2 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 its scrutiny and assurance work carried out in 2023/24. The Panel also has a complaint handling function that requires the Panel to resolve complaints that relate specifically to the Commissioner's personal conduct.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are invited to consider and comment on the Panel's working arrangements in 2023/24 and priorities for the year ahead.

3. Background

- 3.1 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.

4. Implications

4.1 Legal

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.

5. Background Papers/Information

- 5.1 This report provides an additional opportunity for Council members to consider and comment on the work of the Police and Crime Panel during 2023/24 and its priorities for 2024/25.

The agendas and reports for the Police and Crime Panel can be viewed on Somerset Council's website [here](#) The Panel's website can be found here:- <https://www.avonandsomersetpoliceandcrimepanel.org.uk/>.

Note: For sight of individual background papers/information please contact the report author.