

For Consideration	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police and Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	04 February 2021
Report of:	Paddy Tipping Police and Crime Commissioner
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Agenda Item:	7

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT TO DECEMBER 2020

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides the Police and Crime Panel (Panel) with an update on progress in delivering the Police and Crime Commissioner's (Commissioner) Police and Crime Plan (2018-21), in compliance with the Commissioner's statutory duties^a.
- 1.2 The report also provides an interim update on key performance indicators to 31 December 2020 ahead of final publication of the Q3 Performance and Insight Report and the Q3 capital and revenue position, both of which will be presented to the next Panel Meeting in March 2021. A summary of key OPCC and force decisions made over the latest planning period is reported under appendix A.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Panel is invited scrutinise the contents of this report, seek assurance from the Commissioner on any specific areas of concern, request further information where required and make recommendations within the scope of their role^b.
- 2.2 The Police and Crime Panel has a statutory duty^c to provide scrutiny of performance and delivery against the ambitions of the Police and Crime Plan and of the Commissioner in fulfilling his core statutory duties (Section 14 of the Policing Protocol 2011). This update report is designed to assist the Panel in fulfilling these responsibilities.

^a Section 13 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility (PR&SR) Act 2011 requires the Commissioner to, subject to certain restrictions, provide the Panel with any information which they may reasonably require in order to carry out their functions, and any other information which the Commissioner considers appropriate

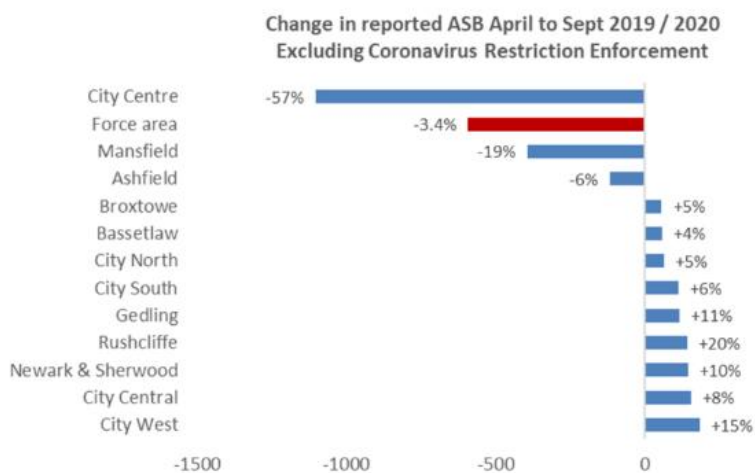
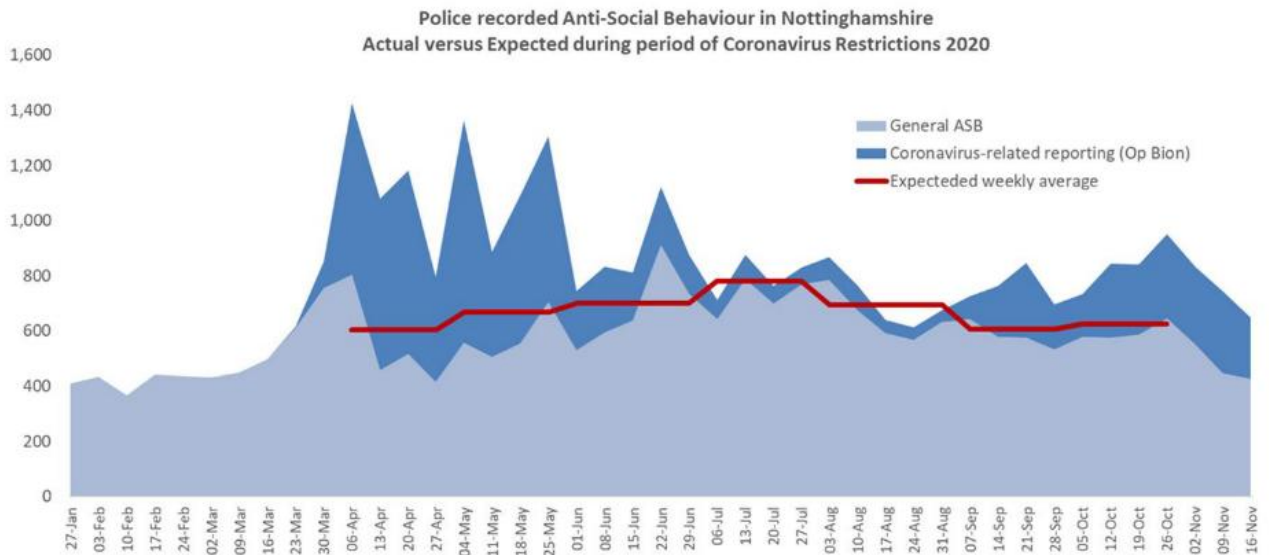
^b [Police and Crime Panels: A Guide to Scrutiny](#), Local Government Association (Updated 2016)

^c Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

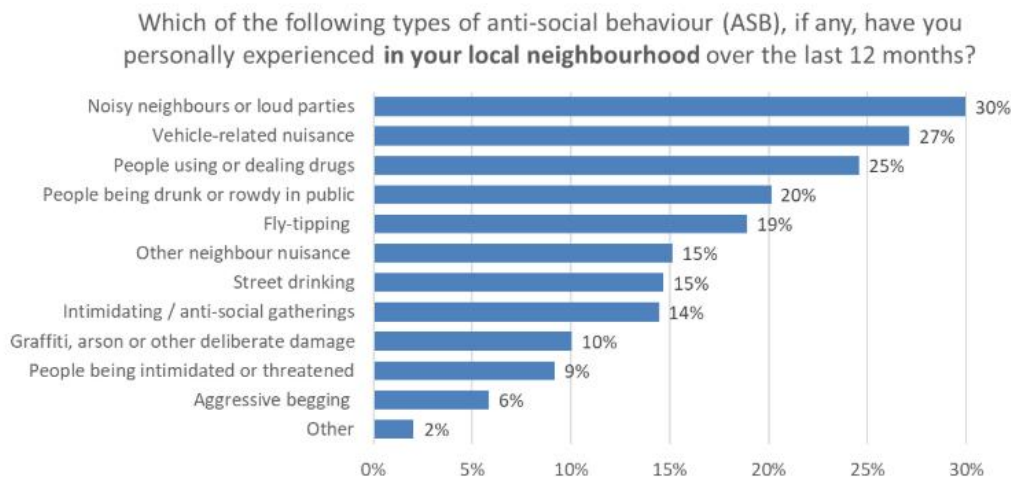
3. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PERFORMANCE (2018-21)

- 3.1 The Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan (2018-21) set 57 performance indicators and 12 sub-measures across four strategic themes. These indicators are tracked by the force and OPCC on a quarterly basis as part of the Performance and Insight Paper which is routinely reported to the Panel and published via the Commissioner's website^d. This paper provides an interim update on key performance headlines ahead of the full quarter 3 Performance and Insight report which will be presented to the panel at its March meeting.
- 3.2 **Protecting vulnerable people from harm:** Ongoing improvements in proactivity, training, risk management and partnership working have helped to secure sustained increases in safeguarding referrals over the last year. The work of a dedicated Missing Persons team and the use of new technology to assist in tracing missing people has also helped to secure a 19% reduction in missing person reports and 15% reduction in the number of individual missing people over the last year. Levels of police recorded online crime continue to rise, partly impacted by increases in online activity as a result of the Coronavirus Restriction measures in place.
- 3.3 **Helping and supporting victims:** Force compliance with the Victim's Code of Practice remains strong following the introduction of stringent reviews across adult and child public protection since June 2020 and continued robust screening of rape and serious sexual offence compliance. Levels of police recorded domestic violence fell by 3% in 2020, with the most notable reductions being recorded in Nottingham City Centre (-23%) and Mansfield Town Centre (-10%). The proportion of crimes resolved via community resolution has been falling throughout the year, however plans are underway to reinvigorate the force's approach to out of court disposals.
- 3.4 **Tackling crime and Anti-social Behaviour:** Police recorded crime (-16%), and most notably burglary (-25%), vehicle crime (-24%) and other theft offences (-28%) fell markedly during the 2020 calendar year coinciding with the period of Coronavirus Restrictions. While overall levels of police recorded anti-social behaviour increased by 43% during 2020, this was primarily driven by police enforcement of Coronavirus Restrictions (Op Bion) during the period. The overall volume of traditional anti-social behaviour saw no significant change (-3%) during the period, with reductions in night time economy-related ASB being off-set by more widespread increases in neighbourhood nuisance and noise complaints at a local level.

^d <https://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Public-Information/Performance/>



The Commissioner's quarterly Police and Crime Survey also found 'noisy neighbours' to have become the most prevalent ASB issue experienced by residents since March 2020, surpassing vehicle-related nuisance for the first time.



- Transforming services and delivering quality policing:** Reflecting national trends, calls to the 999 emergency service began to fall for the first time in two years in April 2020, while calls to the 101 service have also continued to decline. Compliance with National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) increased to the highest level on record during the year (97.2%). Public trust and confidence (+5.7%) in the police has seen a marked improvement over

the last year, largely driven by increases during the post-lockdown period in 2020. The force has been working to implement a fix reporting of resourcing data following transition to the new 'SAFE' Command and Control system^e in January 2020. Final testing is underway on the latest response time data which will be reported to the panel in March as part of the quarter 3 Performance and Insight paper. It should be noted that throughout this period, response times have been reviewed on a live time basis by Force Control Room (FCR) managers and on a daily basis by FCR senior leaders.

3.5 Key areas for consideration as part of the latest insight report include:-

- Understanding and responding to the rising level of reported online crime victimisation, including the risks to vulnerable children and young people during the period of coronavirus restrictions. National increases in online phishing and scam emails relating to Covid-19, Test and Trace and HMRC have been observed over recent months.
- Driving improvements in the use of community resolution and other appropriate out of court disposals as part of changes to the force's framework for delivering these outcomes.
- Monitoring increases in 101 abandoned call rates since January 2020, which have, in part, been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, staff turnover and the impact of training new starters in call handling. Performance in this area is expected to improve over the coming months in line with increases in organisational capacity.

3.6 The force and OPCC will continue to closely monitor and assess the impact that the Coronavirus Pandemic and changes in restrictions may have on levels of crime, ASB and service demand over the coming months.

^e The SAFE' system replaced the Legacy system in March 2020 which was no longer compliant with Home Office requirements. SAFE provides Command and Control, telephony and Airwave radio interfaces into the control room, with all data transactions, including those from the mobile and web clients, being recorded by the system in real time. This provides the foundation for producing near real-time reports.

4. Case Study: Nottinghamshire Police Drone Team

4.1 The Nottinghamshire Police Drone Team has been involved in 811 deployments, both spontaneous (540) and pre-planned (271) deployments) since the team became operational on 6 January 2020. This equates to over 287 hours flown operationally during the year, with the team having direct involvement in 53 arrests and 12 located missing people.

4.2 Spontaneous demand during this period has included:-

Incident Type	Number	%
Misper / Suicide	182	34%
RTC / Road Related	87	16%
Other	70	13%
Violence	37	7%
Burglary	37	7%
Arrest Attempt	32	6%
Firearms	25	5%
Fire Incident	17	3%
Training	17	3%
Intelligence / Drugs	14	3%
Warrant	9	2%
Ops Planning	4	1%

4.3 Over the next 12 months, the team will be working to improve both quantitative and qualitative operational results by adding an additional drone to the current three. This will enable drones to be on duty more often, with images being live streamed operationally across both the police and Fire and Rescue Service, allowing decision makers to take advantage of the situational awareness a drone can bring. Practical examples of the benefit of drone use over the last 12 months include:-

4.4 Missing People

The Drone Team's main source of demand continues to be that of searching for High Risk Missing People (34%). Evidence from a 10 week Performance Review in January / February 2020 found that where a drone was involved, average missing person search times fell from around 8.8 hours to around 3.7 hours. Even in cases where the drone does not directly locate the missing person, search times can be significantly reduced by enabling ground teams to quickly discount areas from their search and explore other fast track enquiries.

One example involved use of a drone to search a large rural area for a high risk missing person. The Drone Operator made use of their Emergency Service Exemptions to increase their flight range and were able to identify a heat source in the middle of a field around 1,300 meters away within 9 minutes of being airborne. Officers on the ground were directed to the area and the individual was found unconscious and cold having overdosed on insulin. Without the drone, this search would have been significantly prolonged, potentially requiring National Police Air Service (NPAS) and Nottinghamshire Search and Rescue Team resources.

4.5 Improving Evidence at Court

The team has also been instrumental in improving the evidence provided at court in a number of high profile cases where aerial stills and video images enabled the courts to visualise scenes and routes taken by offenders. The team has also been involved in many deployments which have provided fundamental evidence in supporting MDA warrants. Magistrates have, on a number of occasions, provided positive feedback on the quality of intelligence gathered as part of MDA warrant hearings, particularly the thermal drone imagery/videography which is now being provided in most cases and is helping to reduce hearing times.

4.6 Serious Collision Investigation Unit (SCIU) Revisits

The following update was received from SCIU while attending a serious road traffic collision to conduct video and imagery capture and 2D mapping of the collision site: *"...what did surprise me was the video and the 'manual' stills that you took. I could see the video removing the need to do 'scene revisits' with family members because it's so good, and similarly the still photos give a useful perspective on where things are... so they will definitely get used if I end up producing a report"*. Work is underway to explore how drones can be further used to assist SCIU.

4.7 Providing a Safer Option

Drones have been used on numerous occasions to avoid putting officers into a potentially dangerous situations and allowing the drone operator the opportunity to provide further information in advance. For example, in November 2020, the Drone Team responded to reports of firearms offence in which an offender had made off in a vehicle with a firearm having threatened another individual. The drone was able to confirm the presence and location of the vehicle prior to officers entering the site and potentially being put at risk.

4.8 A Tool to Tackle Local Issues

- Op Magna – Tackling fuel thefts along the A1 which not only results in theft, but also damage to farmers crops and property. The Team have taken part in numerous Op Magna deployments which have led to arrests and drawn national media attention.
- Op Nebraska (and others in Bulwell and Broxtowe) – Assisting in disrupting Anti-Social Behaviour and safety issues caused by off road bikes to the local communities. This provides a deterrent in addition to assisting enforcement activity.
- Op Farad – The Team have assisted with many Op Farad deployments in enforcing the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place at Junction 27 of the M1. This helps to tackle ABS caused by car cruising and spectators. On one occasion 10 people were issued with FPN's.

4.9 Improved Situational Awareness in Emergency Planning

The Drone Team were used daily to provide aerial imagery of the river banks of the Trent towards Newark during the UK storms experienced in January – February 2020. The drone team was able to provide real-time updates to help in emergency planning at resilience forums. This allowed decisions to be made on evacuations of homes in villages along the Trent.

4.10 Garden Hopper

On the 18 May 2020 local officers at Broxtowe requested the assistance of the Drone Team when attempting to arrest a wanted male who had been avoiding detection for a number of weeks and was taunting the Police with a social media name change to #catchmeifyoucandenham. Whilst conducting the arrest attempt officers were distracted by a female at the address allowing the suspect to jump out of a window and make a run for it through gardens and over hedges. The Drone Team was able to track his movements from above, passing live information to officers. The suspect finally relented and was subsequently arrested for a number of offences including burglaries. The footage gained national and local media interest, including being featured as a clip on BBC1 in February.

4.11 Drone Legislation and Privacy

Nottinghamshire Police's drone use is governed by:-

- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)
- CCTV Code of Practice - ICO provide guidance on CCTV privacy issues, and suggests ways to mitigate the perception of covert working including

clear identification of vehicles, Hi Viz tabards for our operators with drone wording, and clear signage within the area of flight operations.

- Surveillance Camera Commissioners Code of Practice, which includes a Privacy Impact Assessment – showing how we comply with the DPA.
- Freedom of Information Requests
- Audits - Random audits are also conducted within, with the process built into our case management system. This process reviews everything from the incident log, flight record, flight log, flight checklist / Pre-Deployment and On-Site Survey, along with reviewing any footage uploaded. This aims to pick up any issues and identify any team learning.

4.12 The rules governing the flight of privately operated drones changed in the UK on 31 December 2020, removing the distinction between use for Commercial and Recreational purposes in favour of a system based predominantly on weight, safety features and the risk of the activity. Consequently smaller drones (weighing under 250g) can now be flown in congested areas and close to people without technically breaching air safety legislation.

4.13 Use of drones in this way, however, may breach other laws including Public Order, Protection from Harassment, and Public Nuisance, and be dealt with by enforcement agencies in a manner similar to other crimes. Investigation can, however, be problematic on account of the distances by which a drone can be operated from and the short periods of time in which drones are usually flown (average flight time of 20-25 minutes).

4.14 Every person operating a camera-enabled drone weighing in excess of 250g should now be completing the DMARES (Drone & Model Aircraft Registration and Education Scheme). The scheme outlines relevant regulations and includes a 20 question test, including questions relating to privacy and recording footage of people. The government's Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill will give Police powers to deal with breaches of this requirement. The DMARES scheme will act similar to vehicle registrations, with it being linked back to an operator or an organisation. This also requires ID to be displayed visibly on the drone.

4.15 Nottinghamshire Police are not aware of any privacy-related prosecutions to date relating to the use of drones. Most calls received from the public are of general concerns about drone use. These rarely result in an officer being deployed as reports are usually historic in nature. Where drone users have been identified as causing general non-crime-related concerns, these cases have primarily resulted in education, and intelligence gathering.

5. Activities of the Commissioner

- 5.1 The Commissioner is represented at key thematic, partnership and force performance boards to obtain assurance that the police and partners are aware of the current performance threats and taking appropriate action to address emerging issues and challenges. This is reported to the Commissioner who holds the Chief Constable to account on a weekly basis.
- 5.2 The Commissioner also meets heads of Investigations and Intelligence and Operations on a quarterly basis to gain a deeper understanding of threats, harm and risk to performance. The Commissioner seeks regular assurance that the Chief Constable has identified the key threats to performance and taken swift remedial action as appropriate. Key activities are reported on the Commissioner's website.^f
- 5.3 The Commissioner's partnership and community engagement schedule has been significantly affected by the impact of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions since 23 March 2020, however the OPCC has sought to maintain business continuity wherever possible during this exceptional period by adapting to new ways of working. The commissioner continues to engage with partner agencies and communities in accordance with Coronavirus Restrictions and social distancing guidelines. This has included a community walkabout in Stanton Hill (5 November), activity to promote and support National Respect for shop workers week (19 November) and support for local foodbanks (Arnold, 9 December) and hot meal distribution (Sai Dham Temple, 23 November). Formal partnership engagements have included the Safer Nottinghamshire Board (22 December).
- 5.4 Nottinghamshire's Deputy PCC also continues to undertake a diverse range of community engagement activities which have included attendance at the African Women Empowerment Forum (11 November) and a visit to the Kirkby-in-Ashfield neighbourhood Hub (18 December). Formal partnership engagements have included the East Midlands Criminal Justice Board (22 December).

SAFER STREETS PROJECT

- 5.5 In July 2020, the Police and Crime Commissioner was successful in securing £550k Home Office Safer Streets funding to reduce residential burglary and other acquisitive crimes in the Chatham and Northgate areas of Newark.

^f <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/News-and-Events/Latest-News.aspx>

5.6 A Project Board has been established to oversee delivery against the following objectives and interventions:-

T1. Community Engagement to Build Capacity and Resilience	T2. Target Hardening to Prevent and Deter Crime	T3. Hot spots targeted by Police to reduce specified crimes	T4. Environmental Cleansing to make LSOAs look and feel better
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Hub • Neighbourhood Capacity Building • Parking Permit Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle Property Marking & Security • Street Lighting • Target Harden Chatham Court • Target Hardening General 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANPR • Enforcement Activity • Re-deployable 4G CCTV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Improvements

5.7 It is anticipated that the activities incorporated within the Newark Safer Streets project will continue via mainstream resources once the dedicated funding ceases on 31 March 2021. A sustainability plan will be in place until 31 March 2023. Outcomes from the Safer Streets project will be reported to the panel in due course as part of an upcoming case study.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER REVIEW

5.8 On 22 July 2020, the Home Secretary announced a review of the role of Police and Crime Commissioners in line with the government’s manifesto commitment to sharpen and expand the role and further improve public accountability. Measures to be considered include: raising the profile of the PCC model to help the public access information about their PCC; ensuring PCCs have sufficient resilience in the event that they cannot undertake their role, considering how to improve the current scrutiny model for PCCs and better share best practice and; the effectiveness of the current PCC and Chief Constable oversight dynamic.

5.9 The review will be held in two parts with the first being undertaken during summer 2020 and reporting in the autumn. This will be used to inform the Government’s priorities for pre-May 2021 PCC model reform. The second stage of the review will be undertaken following PCC elections in May 2021 and will focus on longer-term reform, including the role PCCs play in tackling re-offending. Further plans to increase the number of mayors with responsibility for policing will be detailed in the Local Recovery and Devolution White Paper, which was due to be published in the autumn 2020, but has been delayed on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

OPERATION REACHER UPDATE

5.10 Operation Reacher Teams have been active in all 12 Nottinghamshire policing neighbourhoods since 5 October 2020 following successful pilots in Bestwood (2019), City North and Gedling (January 2020). During the 2020 calendar year, the combined Reacher Teams helped to secure 731 arrests, 405 drug seizures, 124 offensive weapon seizures, the recovery of around £409,000 in criminal cash and the seizure of 344 vehicles. The teams also issued 388 traffic warrants and generated and submitted around 770 pieces of intelligence to assist further enforcement and safeguarding. A breakdown of outcomes by local authority is shown below.

Operation Reacher Outcomes by Policing Neighbourhood – January to December 2020

	Arrests and VA	Magistrates warrants	Traffic offences	PACE Searches	Stop and searches	Weapons seizures	Drug seizures	Cash Seized	Vehicles seized	Intel generated
Ashfield	58	21	46	12	222	11	30	£3.8k	36	90
Bassetlaw	76	12	93	22	211	4	25	£9.0k	97	65
Broxtowe	25	15	4	11	18	5	11	£9.7k	7	58
Gedling	141	38	90	59	223	34	100	£254k	58	179
Mansfield	90	19	20	11	252	13	36	£0.0k	23	39
Newark & Sher.	26	8	15	8	80	7	15	£6.7k	12	53
Nottingham	290	59	105	83	619	46	182	£117k	105	260
Rushcliffe	25	13	15	12	8	4	6	£9.0k	6	27
Force wide	731	185	388	218	1,633	124	405	£409k	344	771

6. Decisions

6.1 The Commissioner has the sole legal authority to make a decision as the result of a discussion or based on information provided to him by the public, partner organisations, Members of staff from the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (NOPCC) or Chief Constable. The Commissioner's web site provides details of all significant public interest decisions.⁹

⁹ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Public-Information/Decisions/Decisions.aspx>

- 6.2 Panel Members have previously requested that the Commissioner provide a list of all forthcoming decisions (Forward Plan) rather than those already made. This Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the OPCC and the Force has been updated and is contained in **Appendix C**.

7. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 7.1 The Commissioner's Strategic Resources and Performance meetings (SSRP) provide a formal mechanism for holding the Chief Constable to account. At this meeting the Chief Constable submits a number of financial reports for scrutiny.
- 7.2 The current projected outturn as at the 31st of December 2020, Q3, is £217.648m against an original budget of £216.519 million. This is a 1.1 million over-spend. A slight overspend has been projected throughout the year, so this represents a material change. The main cause of this is the impact of the exit of the Vehicles PFI deal as this service has now been brought back in-house. This change has added around £1.8m worth of expenditure to the outturn since the last update. If this was removed, the position would have moved from a slight overspend position to an underspend position.
- 7.3 The main reason for this reduction has been the considerable savings on employee costs seen as a result of higher than anticipated staff post vacancies and an underspend on officer pay following an increase in retirees and an adjustment to the start date of Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP) officers. Staff side vacancies have generated a reduction in spend of around £1/2m during the year. Covid19-related grants received from Central Government have fully covered additional expenditure and have been a little more generous than expected in previous outturn assumptions.
- 7.4 A full report of the quarter 3 outturn will be presented at the next meeting.

8. Human Resources Implications

- 8.1 None - this is an information report.

9. Equality Implications

- 9.1 None

10. Risk Management

10.1 Risks to performance are identified in the main body of the report together with information on how risks are being mitigated.

11. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

11.1 This report provides Members with an update on performance in respect of the Police and Crime Plan.

12. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

12.1 The Commissioner publishes a horizon scanning briefing on a fortnightly basis which is widely accessed by OPCC, policing and other partner agencies nationally. The briefing captures information from a wide range of sources including emerging legislation, government publications, audits and inspections and significant consultations, statistics and research findings in order to help inform local strategic planning and decision making. The briefings can be accessed via the Commissioner's website^h.

13. Details of outcome of consultation

13.1 The Chief Constable has been sent a copy of this report.

14. Appendices

A. Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the OPCC and the Force to December 2020

15. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

- [Police and Crime Plan 2018-2021](#)

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^h <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Public-Information/Horizon-Scanning/Horizon-Scanning.aspx>