



Bedford Borough Council and Central
Bedfordshire and Luton Borough Council

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel

Clerk: P. J. Simpkins

The Police and Crime
Commissioner for
Bedfordshire

(by email)

Please ask for: Jeremy Welch
Direct line: 01234 228903
E-mail: Jeremy.welch@bedford.gov.uk
Your ref:
Our ref:
Date: 7 September 2020

Dear Commissioner

Review of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2019/2020

The Commissioner is invited to respond to the Panel's report and recommendations (below) which are submitted following consideration of her 2019/2020 Annual Report and in accordance with Section 28(4) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

1. Purpose

This report summarises the views and recommendations of the Panel following consideration of the Commissioner's Annual Report on 11 August 2020.

2. Background

The Commissioner has a duty under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to produce an annual report after the close of each financial year and present it to the Panel. The purpose of this report is to respond to the annual report in accordance with Part 1 Section 28(4) of the Act which states that the Panel must:-

- arrange for a public meeting of the Panel to be held as soon as practicable after the Panel is sent an annual report;
- ask the Commissioner at that meeting, such questions about the report as the members of the Panel think appropriate;
- review the annual report;
- make a report or recommendations on the annual report to the Commissioner; and
- publish any reports or recommendations made to the Commissioner.

3. Response of the Panel

- The Panel noted that the Annual Report had originally been intended as a statement on the closing of your four year term of office which you have been willing to extend for a further year due to cancellation of the May 2020 elections as a result of the current pandemic.



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- The Panel noted key achievements referred to in the Annual Report and further verbal comments which you made during the meeting of 11 August 2020 which include:
 - Notable milestones passed in relation to the 8 Priorities of your 2016 Police and Crime Plan;
 - successful internal and external audits completed;
 - record amounts of funding and new recruits attracted to the Force;
 - an estimated over spend of £2.536M for the Force which you anticipated would be covered by reimbursement from the Treasury in relation to spending on PPE and further special grants;
 - a transformation of services for victims, offenders and victims of sexual assault;
 - improved performance in tackling gun and knife crime, gangs and serious youth violence as a result of special grants already received;
 - that having been graded by HMICFRS in 2016 as 'Inadequate' the Force was now graded as 'Good' in every area;
 - completion of a strategic demand assessment;
 - grants issued by your Office.

4. Recommendations of the Panel

As a consequence of its consideration of your Annual Report 2019/2020 and your response to questions put to you during the meeting of 11 August 2020 the Panel makes the following recommendations:

- 1) That the Commissioner be recommended to ask the Chief Constable to review outcomes of misconduct hearings to ensure that there is no risk of reputational damage to the Force.
- 2) That the Commissioner be required to provide the Panel with further detail in relation to contract requirements for her grant awards in order that the Panel may assess whether targets were being met.

Yours sincerely

pp (sent electronically)

Philip Simpkins
Chief Executive of Bedford Borough Council Clerk to the Bedfordshire Police and
Crime Panel