

North Somerset Council

9 November 2021

Report on the Police and Crime Panel

Councillor Richard Westwood

There have been two relevant meetings of the panel following the last NSC Full Council meeting : 22 September, and 26 October.

In terms of business the new Commissioner continues to re-staff his office, and set out his vision for the future of policing in Avon and Somerset. So far, there have been no actual appointments, of a Chief of Staff, and a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, but the panel is carrying out its duties of monitoring and observation of the process. Hopefully, we will have firm news of appointments by the time of our next NSC meeting, together with news of the appointment of a new Chief Constable.(You may be pleased to know, that myself and Cllr Peter Crew, are the two panel members observing at the initial interviews for the appointment of a new Chief, on Wednesday November 3).

As to the future of policing in Avon and Somerset, the Commissioner is on track to finalise the new Policing Plan by December, with the draft plan having been scrutinised and commented on at the Panel meeting of 26 October.

Moving from necessary organisational processes, to what may be happening on the streets of our towns and cities, numerous people have expressed their concerns over the subject of the ' spiking' of the drinks of, mainly, young women, with the Commissioner. As I understand it, he has responded directly to one of our councillors in a timely fashion. Furthermore, this issue was raised at the 26 October panel meeting where an apparent disparity between the number of reports of this worrying crime, and any apprehending of offenders, was brought to the Commissioner's attention. He said he would investigate forthwith.

Councillor Richard Westwood