

OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

LEAD CHIEF OFFICER:	Neil Taylor, Head of Performance, Planning & Partnerships
TITLE:	OPCC Report on Engagement options for 1 st April 2016 to 31 st March 2017.
DATE:	24 th May 2016
TIMING:	Routine
PURPOSE:	To provide a framework of engagement options for the period from the 1st April 2016 to the 31 st March 2017.

1. RECOMMENDATION

To note the engagement options for the next 12 months to meet the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) statutory requirements and inform the delivery of the strategic priorities for policing and crime in Gwent.

2. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

This report considers a framework of engagement options for the period between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017 in line with the requirements of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSR2011) (Schedule 3 s.14).

The PCC has additional responsibilities as identified in the PRSR Act 2011, Schedule 3 s.7(d)(e), which is to hold the Chief Constable to account for police's performance in providing policing, including the force's engagement activities, which are identified in Schedule 5 s.34 of the same Act.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) monitors engagement activities to identify gaps and key trends to inform future work. The OPCC is aware of the demographic profile of the Gwent force area and aims to involve a diverse range of people.

All engagement activity is informed by the Joint OPCC and Gwent Police Engagement Strategy. Activity will be supported by a comprehensive communications strategy, cutting across many media platforms, with a view to highlighting the opportunities for citizens to engage, to influence their policing service and for the OPCC to report on the outcomes.

	<p>A strand of engagement options are aligned to the requirements of the Strategic Equality Plan.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION</u></p> <p>Broadly speaking, engagement allows organisations to access wider perspectives, sources of information, and potential solutions to improve decisions and services. It also provides the basis for productive relationships, improved dialogue and deliberation, and ultimately, better democracy.</p> <p>It is essential for any programme of engagement to clarify the engagement objectives and the desired levels of engagement. Once these decisions have been made, appropriate engagement techniques can be selected.</p> <p>There are a number of proposed engagement activities for the PCC and the OPCC to consider. The aims of the engagement work programme is to meet statutory requirements, enabling the OPCC to gather public views regarding their policing service, deliver OPCC projects and develop policy, such as the Police and Crime Plan and Strategic Equality Plan.</p> <p>An OPCC decision is required whether the proposed activities have value, meet the required statutory requirements and are suitable to be progressed with the necessary resources agreed, particularly IT support.</p> <p>Additionally, there are a number of engagement activities proposed for the incoming PCC to consider and decide if they meet his/her needs, particularly for the first 100 days.</p> <p>An engagement options report for 2016/17 is attached at Annex A with two further annexes attached:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex B - Outlines the proposed methodologies for engagement. • Annex C - A proposed engagement plan that meets the legal requirements and identifies a number of options for future engagement.
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>NEXT STEPS</u></p> <p>The engagement work programme proposes a number of innovative approaches to help the OPCC to diversify and reach out to a wider demographic by enabling the PCC / OPCC to be more accessible.</p> <p>The aim is to emphasise inclusivity and imply an organisational mission or vision of continuous stakeholder/societal engagement.</p>

	<p>A large section of the engagement programme will rely on IT support which will enable future work streams to be established and progressed. The Chief of Staff has been made aware of the need for technological support from the Shared Resource Service.</p> <p>Future engagement activities will also be influenced by the incoming PCC.</p>
5.	<u>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u>
	<p>There will be a financial consideration needed for future engagement activities related to the cost of improving engagement and consultation activities, particularly in the event that more face to face consultation events are likely to be required to mitigate consultation fatigue, this occurs when the public feel overwhelmed by the number of consultations in the public domain and question their value.</p> <p>Another matter that may need further thought is developing and meeting the needs of technology and media platforms and the OPCC capacity to utilise them effectively. This is required for a contemporary approach to engagement, particularly to reach some of the lesser heard communities.</p>
6.	<u>PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS</u>
	<p>There are no personnel implications apart from occasional lone working which is covered by policy.</p>
7.	<u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u>
	<p>The legal implications for engagement are set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 s.14, s.1(8) and s.34.</p>
8.	<u>EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS</u>
	<p>This report and engagement activities have been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Strategic Equality Act 2010 and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.</p> <p>Consideration has been given to requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 in preparing this report.</p>
9.	<u>RISK</u>
	<p>Engagement and communication activities are required by legislation and integral to building confidence and legitimacy related to the PCC role. Therefore, good engagement with positive communication aims to mitigate this</p>

	<p>risk and evidences the need to maintain positive engagement and communication activities into the future.</p> <p>There is an identified risk regarding consultation fatigue, a recognised term that describes people feeling overwhelmed by the number of consultations and therefore not engaging with them. This will require a more intensive approach, including face to face events which will include the costs for additional officer time, venues, administration and marketing communications.</p> <p>Another risk is that the OPCC’s aspirational move to enhance engagement by utilising the wider scope of media platforms could be limited by the current OPCC capacity and resources available. This would also have an impact on the Communications Strategy.</p>
10.	<u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u>
	Publication of this report would be in the public interest.
11.	<u>CONTACT OFFICER</u>
	Maria Chapman – OPCC Engagement Officer
12.	<u>ANNEXES</u>
	<p>Annex A – Engagement Options Report</p> <p>Annex B – Engagement Toolbox</p> <p>Annex C – Proposed Engagement Plan</p>

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Consultation:	Tick to confirm (if applicable)
Financial The Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on this proposal.	√
OPCC The Chief of Staff has reviewed the request and is satisfied that it is correct and consistent with the PCC's plans and priorities.	√
Legal The legal team have been consulted on this proposal.	n/a
Equalities The Equalities Officer has been consulted on this proposal.	n/a

Chief of Staff:

I have been consulted about the proposal and can confirm that financial, legal, equalities etc... advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

I am satisfied that this is an appropriate report to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent.


Signature:

Date: 13.07.16

Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:

Date: