Dear Mr Ellis

Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel – 3 July 2018

Consideration of Annual Report 2017/18

As you’re aware, under Section 28(4)(d) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel is required to formally report to you their views on your Annual Report for 2017/18 following consideration of its contents at the Panel’s ‘public’ meeting on 3 July 2018.

Accordingly, I summarise below the main points highlighted and discussed by the Panel:

When introducing the Report you emphasised the significant changes in the demands on policing during your period of office. Cyber crime was cited as an example of how the Service was having to develop new skills and redesign its approach to policing with greater emphasis on collaboration at regional level whilst supporting neighbourhood/local policing which continued to be viewed as the ‘bedrock’ of the policing service.

As a Panel we acknowledged the challenges facing the Staffordshire Force and welcomed your comments on the importance of local policing. We noted that the Chief Constable was currently engaged in the development of a new operational model aimed at increasing policing visibility.

We received a summary from you of the achievements of the service, generally in partnership with other agencies in delivering projects under the five themes of your Safer, Fairer, United Communities for Staffordshire strategy.
We were particularly interested in a number of schemes focussing on youth engagement, including the SPACE and Police Cadet schemes and their overall effect in reducing the likelihood of offending or re-offending.

Looking at ‘Public Confidence’ we are aware that increased reporting of issues such as Domestic Violence and Child Sexual Abuse, is a result of increased public confidence with a knock-on effect on demands for policing resources. Locally you had sought to develop public confidence through the establishment of Safer Neighbourhood Panels, providing a route for dialogue between the Force and local communities.

At the conclusion of our discussions we were satisfied that your Annual Report summarises activity during 2017/18. We look forward to receiving regular progress reports over the next year, particularly on the collaboration between the Policing and Fire and Rescue Services as your new joint governance role is developed.

This letter will be published on the websites of local authorities represented on the Panel. You are requested to publish it on your website alongside your Annual Report.

Yours sincerely

David Williams
Chairman – Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel