



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council



# Cork City Joint Policing Committee

## **Six Year Strategic Plan**

(2016-2021)



## Table of Contents

Chairman’s Foreword.....	3
A brief history of the Cork City JPC .....	4
Local Policing Fora (LPF):.....	5
Community Safety Fora (CSF) .....	6
Local Policing Fora Management Committees (LPFMC).....	6
Revised guidelines.....	7
Six Year Strategic Plan.....	8
Consultation to inform the strategy .....	8
Implementation of the Strategy .....	10
List of Appendices .....	22
Appendix 1 Membership of the Joint Policing Committee as at 31st March 2016.....	23
Appendix 2 Extract from the Joint Policing Committees Guidelines –.....	24
Appendix 3 List of those that made submissions.....	26
Appendix 4 Plan Development Timeline .....	27

## Chairman's Foreword



As I approach the end of my term as Lord Mayor it is my privilege to launch the first Joint Policing Committee Six Year Strategic Plan. The

Joint Policing Committee is

an evolving committee and as best practice is developed nationally and improvements delivered locally it is clear that its role as a driver of community safety initiatives will continue to grow in the coming years.

The eight strategic aims addressed in the strategy are:

1. JPC Structure
2. Communications
3. Community Engagement
4. Crime Prevention
5. Anti-social behaviour
6. Road Safety
7. Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs and related Crime
8. Support for crime victims

This strategy will be delivered through annual JPC plans which will be the instruments through which the actions will lead to outcomes which the public will see through improvements in the way that they can connect with the JPC, there will be clear reporting and a clear focus on issues that need interagency consideration to resolve them.

I would like to thank everybody involved in the development of the strategy. This includes the staff of Cork City Council, An Garda Síochána and the Public Participation Network. Also, I would like to thank those that considered the various drafts including those on the Local Policing Fora Management Committees (LPFMC) and the local policing fora, City Councillors and Oireachtas members, PPN and all those bodies and individuals that made submissions on the drafts.

I look forward to overseeing the implementation of the strategy and anticipate great cooperation from the JPC in delivering the six year strategy.

**Councillor Chris O'Leary, Lord Mayor**

**Chairman Cork City Joint Policing Committee**

## A brief history of the Cork City JPC

*“Joint policing committees will provide arenas where the Garda Síochána and local authorities can co-operate and work together to address local policing and other issues.<sup>1</sup>”*

The statutory basis for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees (JPCs) is set out in section 35 of the An Garda Síochána Act 2005. It provides for the establishment of and sets out membership of the committees to be made up of councillors, An Garda Síochána, Oireachtas members and community representatives.

The functions of Joint Policing Committees are set out in the Act. Section 36(2) states that... *“the joint policing committee’s function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area, and in particular to -*

*(a) keep under review—*

*(i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and*

*(ii) the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area,*

*(b) advise the local authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area,*

*(c) arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area,*

*(d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and*

*(e) co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora established under paragraph (d) or otherwise.”*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://debates.oireachtas.ie/JUS/2006/05/17/printall.asp>

Responsibility for the Joint Policing Committees nationally rests between the Department of Justice and the Department of the Environment and Local Government. The Local Policing Authority recently established now has general powers relating to the establishment and maintenance of joint policing committees.

In 2007 the then Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell consulted with the then Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. Dick Roche, to develop JPC guidelines.

The first meeting of the Cork City JPC was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Cork on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007, as part of a national pilot project.

The first Cork committee consisted of twenty seven members – 16 local authority elected members, 6 members of the Oireachtas, 2 members of An Garda Síochána and 3 persons representing the community and voluntary fora.

Additionally, the Lord Mayor and the City manager were ex-officio members.

The Cork City Joint Policing Committee Chairpersons are listed as follows:

Cllr. Dara Murphy

Cllr. Patricia Gosch

Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald

Cllr. Chris O’Leary, Lord Mayor (2015 -date.)

### **Local Policing Fora (LPF):**

The statutory basis for the formation of Local Policing Fora is set out in section 36(2) (d) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005. The JPC must

*(d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and*

*(e) co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora established under paragraph (d) or otherwise.”*

The fora provide a mechanism through which the community, Gardaí and Cork City Council can come together in a formal structured way with the community to consider issues of community safety.

## **Community Safety Fora (CSF)**

In 2006, the National Monitoring Committee, in consultation with An Garda Síochána, identified community safety as a key priority, following which Community Safety Fora were established in the four Cork City RAPID areas in 2007:

- Togher & Mahon,
- Knocknaheeny, Hollyhill & Churchfield
- Blackpool, the Glen & Mayfield and
- Farranree, Fairhill & Gurrabraher.

Members of the public can raise issues of concern with respect to community safety, additionally; a structure is in place to ensure an appropriate response is received. These meetings are held three times a year.

These fora have received significant support from An Garda Síochána and the City Council and a number of achievements can be identified, namely:

- The creation of family friendly bonfire nights to overcome anti-social behaviour on bonfire night.
- Installation of fixed and mobile CCTV in anti-social behaviour hotspots.
- Establishment of the community warden service.

- Graffiti removal initiatives were undertaken
- Greater interagency cooperation has been achieved in relation to alcohol and drugs in the north west of the city.
- Youth cafes and late night soccer games were also arranged.

The terms Local Policing Fora (LPF) and Community Safety Fora (CSF) are used interchangeably in Cork.

Local policing fora are now established per Garda Divisional structures

- Anglesea Street
- Gurrabraher
- Mayfield and
- Togher.

Neighbourhood Watch groups still in existence are also represented on the citywide structures. New community safety fora are being developed to allow people to get as close to local communities as possible.

## **Local Policing Fora Management Committees (LPFMC)**

A management committee in each Garda district oversees the work of the local policing fora in its district (including community safety fora and neighbourhood watch).

The composition includes elected JPC members (i.e. Councillors and Oireachtas members) and community JPC representatives, chairs of the local policing fora and representation from the local alcohol and drugs task force committee.

Matters arising at the LPF meetings that cannot be resolved locally are referred to the management committee and issues that cannot be resolved by the management committee are referred to the JPC for resolution.

### **Revised guidelines**

In August 2014, the Minister for Justice and Equality in consultation with the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, issued revised guidelines for the operation of each JPC, following a review carried out in 2012.

Important changes noted in the Preface to the Amended Guidelines include:

- The requirement for Committees to develop a six year and annual strategic plans and to report on their implementation in Annual Plans
- The number of community representatives was increased and
- The need for a proper communications strategy to support interaction with local communities and effective and

efficient coordination with other local structure.

The revised guidelines increased the number of members on the Cork City JPC by six to thirty three members –

- 16 local authority elected members,
- 6 members of the Oireachtas,
- 2 members of An Garda Síochána,
- 7 Community representatives
- 2 local authority officials. The Chief Executive, being an ex-officio member and one other nominated by the Chief Executive.

### **Policing Authority and the JPC**

The Policing Authority has been established under the Garda Síochána (Policing Authority and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015 and confers on the Authority general powers relating to the establishment and maintenance of joint policing committees by local authorities and the Garda Commissioner, which had previously been held by the Department of Justice and Equality.

It provides that the Authority shall issue from time to time guidelines for the operation of JPCs. Current guidelines remain in place until such time as they are amended.



In addition, the Authority may convene meetings of the chairpersons and such other persons as the Authority considers appropriate, of JPCs for the purposes of coordinating, or otherwise facilitating, the performance of the functions assigned to them. The first such meeting will take place on 13 July 2016.

As an example of a bottom up approach, the JPC will be invited from time to time to make submissions to the Policing Authority, including for example in relation to the development of policing priorities."

### **Six Year Strategic Plan**

Cork City JPC is tasked with developing a six year community plan which will be delivered through annual work plans and which must include relevant objectives from the Garda annual policing plans applying in the City.

The Chair Cllr. Chris O'Leary advised a public meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015 that it was his intention to oversee the development of six year strategy for the JPC.

The intention to identify strategic priorities and will address the following areas:

- Crime Prevention
- Anti-social behaviour and street crime

- Misuse of drugs and related crime
- Support for crime victims

At its meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015 the Joint Policing Committee Steering Committee agreed to commence the process of developing the strategy. The JPC meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> September was informed that a public consultation process would be embarked upon to inform the development of the strategy.

### **Consultation to inform the strategy**

A public consultation process was undertaken by way of a public call for submissions.

Local policing fora were invited to consider what might be included in the six year strategy at their meetings and submissions were made on their behalf.

All submissions received from the public generally and the local policing fora were reviewed and draft objectives collated by a sub group comprising representatives of An Garda Síochána, City Council and the Public Participation Network (PPN).

Cork City Council and Oireachtas members considered the draft objectives at a specially convened meeting and the draft objectives also considered at a plenary



meeting of the Public Participation Network (PPN).

At its meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 the JPC referred an amended draft for consideration to the local policing fora management committees.

At its meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 the Joint Policing Committee agreed the final draft of the JPC Six Year Strategy subject to amendments noted at the meeting.

## **Implementation of the Strategy**

### **Strategic Aims**

The strategic aims outlined below will be prioritised by the JPC Steering Group and annual plans will be developed with the JPC membership for the implementation of the different aspects of the strategy.

A system of periodic reporting and overview of the delivery of the annual plans by the JPC membership will be developed to drive the strategy forward.

## Cork City Council Six Year Strategic Plan

Strategic Aims	
Strategic Aims	Scope
1. JPC Structures	Enhance the structure and representation on the JPC
2. Communications	Develop a communications strategy to enhance internal and external communication
3. Community Engagement	Increased liaison with community groups
4. Crime Prevention	Develop a crime prevention strategy
5. Anti-Social Behaviour	Tackling anti-social behaviour
6. Road Safety	Promote Road Safety
7. Misuse of Alcohol & Drugs and Related Crime	Promote initiatives aimed at reducing harm caused by misuse of drugs/alcohol
8. Support for Crime Victims	Promote support services for victims of crime

## 1. JPC Structure

Enhance the structure and representation on the JPC

Objective	Action	Lead Partner/ Subgroup
1.1 Develop improved structures to enhance representation from a wider cross section of the community on the JPC.	Co-opt a representative from the Cork City Business community onto the JPC	JPC
1.2 Review the interaction between the JPC and Local Policing Fora.	Establish standardised procedures for referring unresolved problems from the Local Policing Fora (District) Management Committee to the JPC.	JPC/ AGS/ CCC/PPN
1.3 Improve the effectiveness of the local policing fora and local policing district management committee structure.	Empower local policing fora to resolve local issues speedily by establishing standardised procedures for recording, assessing and referring issues.	JPC/ AGS/ CCC/ PPN
1.4 Develop clear procedures for referring issues to government departments/agencies.	Develop clear procedures for referring issues to government departments/agencies and ongoing liaison until they are concluded.	JPC

## 2. Communications

Develop communications strategy to enhance internal and external communication

Objective	Action	Lead Partner/ Subgroup
2.1 Improve communications with the public to encourage their participation with the JPC.	Develop procedures for the engagement and inclusion of the public at Local Policing Fora meetings.	JPC
2.2 Ensure strong interactive links are developed between JPC and PPN.	Provide formal communication lines from JPC to PPN to ensure that all feedback is delivered back to the PPN.	JPC
	Provide formal communication lines from PPN to JPC to ensure that issues/concerns /feedback are delivered to the JPC.	JPC
2.3 Develop an external communications strategy to keep members of the public of the function and work of the JPC.	Develop a JPC website with links from CCC website and ensure it is updated regularly.	CCC
	Utilise social media to ensure that the public are notified of JPC developments.	CCC
	Notify the public of upcoming JPC meetings by updating the JPC website and social media.	CCC
	Publish relevant documents and minutes from the JPC meetings on the JPC website to inform the public on the work of the JPC and sent tweets to the public when new updates are uploaded on the website.	CCC
	Develop a clear procedure for recording issues referred to and from other government departments/agencies and reporting on the outcome.	CCC

### 3. Community Engagement

#### Increased liaison with Community Groups

Objective	Action	Lead Partner/ Subgroup
3.1 Increase Garda visibility.	Develop initiatives to enhance Garda visibility with communities in Cork City	AGS
3.2 Enhance links with diverse or marginalised members of our community.	Increase liaison with diverse and marginalised community groups e.g. NASC, Roma Community, TVG, Muslims and LGBT community.	JPC/ AGS/ CCC/ PPN
	Promote the inclusion of diverse and marginalised groups through the Social Inclusion Unit, Cork City Council	CCC/ JPC
	Encourage diverse and marginalised groups to get involved with local District Management Committees, Policing Fora and PPN	JPC/ AGS/ CCC/ PPN
	Promote engagement of all members of society by liaising with major employers in Cork City.	JPC/ AGS/ CCC/ PPN
3.3 Empower young people to be involved in the democratic process in Cork City.	Promote interaction with young people through visits to colleges/schools.	AGS
	Increase links with all youth services and youth groups including Comhairle na nÓg/ Garda Youth Diversion Project to encourage positive engagement.	JPC/ AGS/ CCC/ PPN
	Invite representatives from youth groups to attend annual JPC Public Meeting so that their views can be heard.	JPC/ AGS/ CCC/ PPN
	Encourage representatives from youth groups to get involved with local	JPC/ AGS/ CCC/ PPN

	District Management Committees, Policing Fora and PPN.	
<b>3.4 Enhance links with older members of our community.</b>	Promote interaction with older people through the Age Friendly Alliance.	JPC/ AGS/ CCC/ PPN
	Encourage older people to get involved with Local District Management Committees, Policing Fora and PPN so that they can support their own communities.	JPC/ AGS/ CCC/ PPN
<b>3.5 Community Supports to be utilised to engage with Communities.</b>	Promote support for older and vulnerable people through Policing Fora and PPN.	JPC/ AGS/ CCC
	Engage with existing structures for community engagement to improve the capacity to liaise with relevant stakeholders (e.g. Roads, Community Development etc)	JPC/AGS/CCC



## 4. Crime Prevention

### Develop Crime Prevention Strategy

Objective	Action	Lead Partner/ Subgroup
4.1 Develop a multi-faceted approach to making Cork a safer city	Collaborate with key partners in Cork City to improve our crime prevention capabilities.	JPC
	CCC to engage with AGS in planning new developments so that crime prevention is incorporated into planning design.	CCC/ AGS
	Joined approach to improve the environment to reduce crime e.g. better road lighting, overgrown trees, vacant houses etc.	CCC/ AGS
	Empower communities to engage in community initiatives to develop sustainable communities.	JPC/ CCC/ AGS/ PPN
4.2 Increase Garda visibility to prevent crime	Implement initiatives to promote Garda visibility to prevent crime.	AGS
4.3 Promote Crime Prevention in Cork City	Organisation of an annual 'Crime Prevention Day (Joint venture with Cork City & County JPC & Councils)	AGS/ CCC
	Promote new crime prevention theme each quarter through Local Policing Fora.	AGS
	Promote local crime prevention meetings through the District Management Meetings/Policing Fora.	AGS
4.4 Develop a crime prevention communications strategy	Continue the development of a system crime prevention alerts to members of the public.	AGS

	Further develop Watch Schemes including Business Watch, Hospital Watch and Campus Watch Schemes in Cork City.	AGS
	Create a link from the JPC website to the Garda website and make printed notices available in public locations e.g. Post Offices so that members of the public can access crime prevention information.	CCC
<b>4.5 Develop the use of CCTV to prevent crime</b>	Identify opportunities to establish CCTV systems to prevent crime.	JPC/ CCC/ AGS
<b>4.6 Increased liaison with community groups to facilitate tackling crime</b>	District Management and local Fora to promote engagement with local groups to facilitate targeting of local issues.	AGS/ CCC

## 5. Anti-Social Behaviour

### Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Objective	Action	Lead Partner/ Subgroup
<b>5.1 Support initiatives to reduce anti-social behaviour through Community Policing and Local Authority support.</b>	Work with the community to identify local hotspots and issues and implement a plan to target them.	AGS/ CCC
	Promote and support the Community Warden service in Cork City.	
<b>5.2 Increased partner inter-agency to bring a joint response to anti-social behaviour.</b>	Organise inter-agency meetings to formulate a cohesive plan to jointly tackle anti-social behaviour.	JPC/ CCC/ AGS
	Empower communities to engage in community initiatives to ensure safe communities.	JPC/ CCC/ AGS/ PPN

	Promote safe communities through the Purple Flag initiative	CCC/ AGS/ JPC
	Increase liaison with Student Unions, University/Colleges, residents and landlords to tackle anti-social behavioural problems.	JPC/ CCC/ AGS
	Develop initiatives to work with partners to promote responsible alcohol use e.g. Cork Vintners Association	JPC/ CCC/ AGS
	Promote effective estate management to eliminate anti-social behaviour hotspots e.g. increased lighting etc, working with Gardaí. Engage with other organisations including HSE/Cork ETB on the planning and provision of youth facilities.	CCC/AGS/JPC
<b>5.3 Enhance Community Policing Service.</b>	Promote and support the Garda Community Policing service throughout Cork City <sup>2</sup> .	JPC/ AGS

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<sup>2</sup> Tasks to be included in the Annual Plan ref: Football etc.

## 6. Road Safety

### Promote Road Safety

Objective	Action	Lead Partner/ Subgroup
6.1 Promote and support road safety initiatives.	Implement road safety initiatives throughout Cork City to ensure the safety and accessibility of all road users.	JPC/ AGS/ CCC
	Promote road safety through communication with the public.	JPC/ AGS/CCC
	Explore all technological opportunities to advance the promotion of road safety.	CCC/ AGS
6.2 Increase Garda visibility.	Target road users to improve, prevent and detect driving offences.	AGS
6.3 Improve road safety by educating young people.	Conduct road safety demonstrations/deliver road safety talks at colleges/schools.	CCC/JPC/ AGS
6.4 Enhance Road safety through investment and infrastructure and traffic management plans.	To conduct meaningful consultation with communities and partners when bringing forward plans for traffic management and infrastructure investment.	CCC/ AGS

## 7. Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs and Related Crime

Promote initiatives aimed at reducing harm caused by misuse of drugs/alcohol

Objective	Action	Lead Partner/ Subgroup
7.1 Develop a coherent multi-agency approach to the misuse of alcohol and drugs in Cork City.	Enhance links with Cork Local Alcohol & Drugs Task Force through local policing fora.	JPC/ AGS/ CCC
	Collaborate with HSE and Local Alcohol & Drugs Task Force to target problem areas.	JPC/ AGS/ CCC
	Lobby for more outreach workers for alcohol and drug problem areas.	JPC
	Engage formally with the HSE on alcohol and drug problems and refer to the relevant local alcohol and drug services.	AGS
	Improve the facilities available to drug users e.g. sharps containers etc.	JPC/ CCC

## 8. Support for Crime Victims

### Promote Support for services for Victims of Crime

Objective	Action	Lead Partner/ Subgroup
8.1 Promote the support services that are available to victims of crime	Provide information on support services to victims of crime.	AGS
	Promote the availability of the Garda Victim Service Office.	AGS
8.2 Promote Restorative Practice in Cork City	Identify opportunities for implementing restorative practice in Cork City.	AGS

## **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 Membership of the Cork City Joint Policing Committee

Appendix 2 Extract from the Joint Policing Committees Guidelines

Appendix 3 List of those who made submissions

Appendix 4 Plan Development Timeline



## **Appendix 1      Membership of the Joint Policing Committee as at 31st March 2016**

The Lord Mayor,	Cllr. Chris O’Leary, Chair
Ms. Ann Doherty,	Chief Executive Cork City Council
Chief Supt. Mick Finn,	An Garda Síochána
Mr. Paul Moynihan	Cork City Council
Supt Tom Myers	An Garda Síochána

Cllr. Tim Brosnan	Cllr. John Buttimer	Cllr. Henry Cremin
Cllr. Stephen Cunningham	Ms. Katherine Dullaghan	Cllr. Paudie Dineen
Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald	Cllr. P.J. Hourican	Cllr. Joe Kavanagh,
Mr. Lucky Khambule	Cllr. Seán Martin	Mr. James Nolan
Cllr. Thomas Moloney	Cllr. Michael Nugent	Dr. Darren McAdam O’Connell
Ms. Nora O’Donovan	Cllr. Terry Shannon	Cllr. John Sheehan
Cllr. Mary Shields	Mr. David Roche	Cllr. Ted Tynan

(Oireachtas members to be included when confirmed)

(Business representation to be appointed)

## **Appendix 2      Extract from the Joint Policing Committees Guidelines –**

### **Appendix 2**

#### **JPC Work Plans**

Each JPC must make strategic work plans which link with other appropriate plans and strategies. In this regard each JPC must put in place

A six year plan linked to the relevant objectives in the Local Economic and Community (LCD) Plan of the local authority

An Annual Work Plan which, as well as linking to the LCD Plan, must include relevant objectives from the Garda Annual Policing Plan(s) applying to the local authority area.

JPC plans should be confined to a limited number of strategic objectives to facilitate appropriate monitoring and review.

JPCs plans should focus on areas where cooperative and collaborative actions can add most value to the existing work of relevant stakeholders. It is important that plans set specific and measurable objectives, identify lead individuals or agencies as well as others responsible for contributing to relevant actions, include relevant resource allocation and set out defined timescales. In addition to including key objectives derived from the LCD and Annual Policing Plans as set out above, consideration should be given to linking JPC plans to

Appropriate elements of other local authority or Garda strategies (e.g. accommodation plans or particular crime prevention initiatives)

Drugs Task Force Plans relevant to the area

Other issues which the JPC considers to be important for crime prevention, policing and public safety (including road safety) in the area

Strategic actions to enhance communications with the public and to ensure adequate communication with other local fora (e.g. Drugs Task Forces, local policing fora, Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch, Groups, and other relevant local fora) to prevent duplication and support coordinated action

Annual work plans should include consideration of how JPCs can enhance overall efforts to address key issues affecting community life, including

Crime Prevention

Anti-social behaviour and street crime

Misuse of drugs and related crime

Support for crime victims, including those affected by domestic violence

In addition, work plans must prioritise objectives and highlight at least three strategic priorities. Templates for the JPC six year and annual work plans have been devised and it is hoped that these will assist committees in their work. JPCs should use the templates provided but are free to include other relevant information in their plans if they so wish.

## **Appendix 3      List of those that made submissions**

Submissions received from:

- Ballinlough Garda Forum
- Cork Chamber
- NASC
- North West Community Safety Forum
- Sexual Violence Centre Cork
- Togher Community Partnership Fora
- Traveller Visibility Group
- Cork City Comhairle na nÓg
- Vintners Federation Ireland
- Councillor Paudie Dineen
- Councillor Paudie Dineen and Connaught Avenue Residents Association
- Barrack St. Community Safety Forum
- Mahon Community Safety Forum

## **Appendix 4      Plan Development Timeline**

September 2015	JPC Steering Group commits to delivering the JPC Six Year Strategic Plan
September 2015	Call made for Public Submissions
November 2015	Consideration of submissions commence and initial compilation of draft strategy
February 2016	Draft Strategy presented to the Joint Policing Committee for consideration
April 2016	Consideration of Draft strategy by Local Policing Fora Management Committees
May 2016	Joint Policing Committee adopts the Joint Policing Committee Six Year Strategy
June 2016	Joint Policing Committee Six Year Strategy Launched