

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 2.00PM AT COUNTY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

Chairman - Executive Mayor Tony Egginton – Mansfield District Council

Vice-Chairman - Christine Goldstraw OBE – Independent Member

Rizwan Araf – Independent Member

Councillor Chris Baron – Ashfield District Council - **A**

Councillor David Challinor – Bassetlaw District Council

Councillor Eunice Campbell – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Georgina Culley – Nottingham City Council - **A**

Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council

Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Nottinghamshire County Council

Councillor John Handley – Nottinghamshire County Council

Suma Harding – Independent Member

Councillor Rosemary Healy – Nottingham City Council - **A**

Councillor Neghat Khan – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Pat Lally – Broxtowe Borough Council

Councillor Bruce Laughton – Newark and Sherwood District Council

Councillor Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council

Councillor Debbie Mason – Rushcliffe Borough Council

Councillor Roger Steel – Nottingham City Council

Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member

OFFICERS PRESENT

Heather Dickinson – Group Manager, Legal &) Nottinghamshire

Democratic Services) County Council

Keith Ford – Team Manager, Democratic Services) (Host Authority)

Pete Barker – Democratic Services Officer, Democratic Services)

Nigel Stevenson – Service Director, Finance & Procurement)

OTHERS PRESENT

Paddy Tipping – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Chief Constable Chris Eyre – Nottinghamshire Police

Chris Cutland – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC)

Kevin Dennis – Chief Executive, Office of PCC (OPCC)

Paul Steeples – Head of Business & Finance, Nottinghamshire Police

Charlotte Radford – Chief Finance Officer, OPCC

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2015, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Baron, Culley and Healey.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Steel replaced Councillor Culley for this meeting only.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Laughton declared a private and pecuniary interest as his wife works for Nottinghamshire Police, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting on any agenda items.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Keith Ford introduced the report and during discussions the following points were raised:

- The Priority Themes to be discussed at future Panel meetings were decided.
- The Panel felt that the continued participation in the regional PCP network was useful and that it allowed access to national best practice.

RESOLVED 2015/008

- 1) That Priority Theme 4 – Reduce the Impact of Drugs and Alcohol on Levels of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, and Priority Theme 6 – Prevention, Early Intervention and Reduction in Reoffending, be discussed at the meeting of the Panel in April and that Priority Theme 5 – Reduce the Threat from Organised Crime, be discussed at the meeting of the Panel in June.
- 2) That the Work Programme be noted and updated in line with Members' suggestions.
- 3) That a subscription for membership of the regional PCP network for 2015/16 be approved at a cost of £500.

6. THE COMMISSIONER'S BUDGET AND PRECEPT REPORTS 2015-16

The Commissioner introduced the report on the Budget which had also been endorsed by the Chief Constable. The Commissioner confirmed that the Panel was being asked to approve an increase of 1.98% on the police and crime element of the Council Tax precept, an increase which was in line with other East Midland Commissioners'

proposals. It was noted that the grant from central government had been reduced by 5.1% for the next financial year which meant a reduction of £6.8m in monetary terms. An increase of 1.98% in the precept would generate an additional £1.2m in revenue which would be useful, bearing in mind that £12m savings overall were required in the next financial year. The Commissioner gave details of how those savings were going to be achieved, including through regional collaboration with a shared back office service and also by reconfiguring the Force to make savings, for example by reducing the numbers of officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

The Commissioner predicted that the next spending review would be equally challenging with the assumption being that the grant would reduce by 5% annually between 2010 – 2020. The Commissioner explained how the Force's reserves would be used to achieve change smoothly up to the year 2019/20. He said that Nottinghamshire was highly dependent on the grant received as a percentage of the total budget (72%), which meant that a 5% cut in the grant would affect a Force like Nottinghamshire more than areas where a higher percentage of revenue was generated locally. This was why it was important that the reserves were maintained at their present level, which was 4% of the budget compared to a national average of 5%.

In response to issues raised by Members, the following points were clarified:-

- Although £3m was a large sum to be spent on collaboration with other authorities on back office services the Commissioner was confident that this approach would generate savings in the future. The procurement team based at Sherwood Lodge was recognised as being one of the best in the country and the collective procurement of body-worn video had saved £800k. The Home Office has stated that overall, procurement savings of £360m were possible, though the Commissioner was not hopeful that such a level of savings was attainable.
- Paul Steeples confirmed that the PFI transport contract was being monitored more closely now than in the past and consultants had been employed to see if any further changes could be made. It was possible for further savings to be made through how much the Force paid for vehicles and also by reducing the number of vehicles used, without affecting operational matters. The Chief Constable stated that the transport costs of all the East Midlands forces had been examined and that Nottinghamshire was found to have the lowest.
- Other areas to be scrutinised in future would include contract management, intelligence (to avoid duplication), Hi Tech crime and other areas for collaboration/integration. The Commissioner emphasised that the Force was dependent on other Forces collaborating in the various areas and that the Force could only progress at the pace of the slowest.
- The Commissioner assured the Panel that despite the budget reductions the Force would still be able to fulfil its statutory duties. Her Majestic Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) had studied the change programme

and the Commissioner discussed the implications with the Force on a weekly basis.

- The Commissioner confirmed that the new IT system would be introduced in Nottinghamshire after its introduction in other forces. The Chief Constable confirmed that the system would be complete by March 2016 with integration planning currently being undertaken. The delayed introduction would allow any teething problems to be addressed prior to introduction in Nottinghamshire.
- Members queried whether Cohort 41 had been trained and uniforms issued and the Commissioner confirmed that this had happened, but that because of budget constraints it had not been possible to recruit. This was the first time in 3 years that this had happened and he could understand people's anger and frustration. The Chief Constable stated that in future when recruitment did take place then their 'pass' would be counted.
- Members queried how it was possible for the budget to be reduced by £40m over 4 years but that in monetary terms the budget for 2011 was roughly comparable to the budget in 2015. Paul Steeples explained that the figures were not comparable because of inflation.
- Some Members expressed disappointment at the impending increase in the cost of a firearms licence and the Commissioner confirmed that the Prime Minister had changed his mind and that the first increase since 2010 would be implemented.
- Members queried the discrepancy in the figures for the workforce on pages 56 and 57. Charlie Radford confirmed that the error was on page 57 and that the correct total for FTEs in the workforce was 3396. Members expressed their disappointment in the reduction in the number of PCSOs and queried whether this would impact on neighbourhood policing. The Commissioner shared members' disappointment but even with these reduced numbers Nottinghamshire compared well with other forces. Also much work had gone into the new operating model which was designed to deliver services with fewer resources. The Chief Constable confirmed that neighbourhood policing would remain as the foundation of the approach in Nottinghamshire. In the face of increasing demands in the fields of child sexual exploitation (CSE), historical abuse, hi tech and on-line crime, some forces had abandoned neighbourhood policing entirely but Nottinghamshire would not be one of those forces.
- Some Members felt that the freeze grant offered by the Government should be taken but the Commissioner felt that as this could not be built into the base budget on an annual basis it would be perilous to do so. Looking forward the Commissioner felt that a greater proportion of funding would come from local sources and that the approach currently being taken would pay dividends in the future.

- Members expressed concern at the numbers of staff and officers being funded externally and wondered whether it was a possibility that these staff would return to the Force and add to costs. The Commissioner confirmed that potentially this was the case, though many of the staff were at the East Midlands Special Operations Unit (EMSOU) and were helping to drive out savings. The Chief Constable confirmed that these external posts were constantly being reviewed and that many of those seconded would see out their service as secondees. He emphasised the importance of senior staff being involved in collaborative work.
- Some Members raised the issue of rural crime and its seasonal nature and expressed concern that with the reduction in the number of PCSOs there was a danger of giving the impression that this was an area that was being neglected. If the Force worked with farmers who knew what to look for then it should be possible to target rural crime more effectively. The Commissioner explained that it was intended to refocus the Force's work in this area and that he was confident that rural areas would be policed effectively.
- The Chair asked the Commissioner whether the formation of a Combined Authority in Nottinghamshire would offer the opportunity for further savings. The Commissioner felt that it was a question for Central Government and explained that a shared estate and integrated approach were very much part of the Force's thinking and that it was a case of everyone 'slimming down together.'

RESOLVED 2015/008

That an increase of 1.98% on the police and crime element of the precept be supported.

7. REFRESHED POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2015-18

The Commissioner introduced the report, saying that it was still being refreshed. At the moment there were few differences to the previous plan, though there were now sections on CSE and rural crime. Crime levels had not changed in real terms in 12 months, though in the cases of domestic violence and hate crime there was a desire for the reporting of incidents to increase. Reporting of historical abuse had been at a higher level compared to other areas as a result of publicity. Satisfaction levels continued to increase and were well above target for the last 12 months.

- Members suggested partnership working with Trading Standards in an effort to reduce rural crime and again working with Trading Standards and businesses along with the Police to reduce crime generally, as had happened recently with the problem of fake aspirin. If resources were pooled then hopefully the number of incidents overall could be reduced. The Chief Constable appreciated the usefulness of the insight. The Deputy Commissioner spoke about the promising early start to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) but it was now time for things to move on with

proper shared teams. The Commissioner pointed out that those working in the MASH were still not using a common IT system.

RESOLVED 2015/009

- 1) That the draft Police and Crime Plan (2015-18) be noted.
- 2) That Members of the Panel provide feedback to the Commissioner on the content of the Plan by 31st March 2015.

8. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

This item was deferred until the next meeting as no updated performance data was available since the information presented to the last meeting of the Panel.

The meeting closed at 3.15pm

CHAIRMAN

M_2 February 2015