

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 2.00PM AT COUNTY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

Chairman - Christine Goldstraw OBE – Independent Member
Vice-Chairman Councillor Debbie Mason – Rushcliffe Borough Council

Executive Mayor Kate Allsopp – Mansfield District Council - A
Rizwan Araf – Independent Member
Councillor Cheryl Butler – Ashfield District Council
Councillor Eunice Campbell – Nottingham City Council
Councillor David Challinor – Bassetlaw District Council
Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council
Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Nottinghamshire County Council
Councillor John Handley – Nottinghamshire County Council
Suma Harding – Independent Member
Councillor Tony Harper – Broxtowe Borough Council
Councillor Nicola Heaton – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Neghat Khan – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council - A
Councillor Maddy Richardson – Bassetlaw District Council
Councillor Tony Roberts – Newark and Sherwood District Council
Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member
Councillor Linda Woodings – Nottingham City Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

Keith Ford – Team Manager, Democratic Services) Nottinghamshire
Pete Barker – Democratic Services Officer) County Council
	(Host Authority)

OTHERS PRESENT

Paddy Tipping – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Chris Cutland – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC)
Kevin Dennis – Chief Executive, Office of PCC (OPCC)
Sue Fish - Deputy Chief Constable – Nottinghamshire Police
Charlotte Radford – Chief Finance Officer (OPCC)

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2015, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Executive Mayor Kate Allsopp, Councillor Cheryl Butler, Councillor Tony Harper and Councillor Keith Longdon.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Ellis declared a private and non-pecuniary interest as his daughter now works for the Nottinghamshire Police Force. This did not preclude him from speaking or voting on any of the agenda items.

4. URGENT ITEM – REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP – BALANCED APPOINTMENT OBJECTIVE

Further to discussions at the last meeting of the Panel, Keith Ford explained that the Home Office had responded sooner than expected and had agreed to the request to co-opt a further Conservative Member onto the Panel. This item had therefore been added to today's agenda as an urgent item to enable the new Members to be appointed without delay. Following discussions it was agreed that the Conservative Group at Nottinghamshire County Council should be approached to provide a nomination.

RESOLVED 2015/25

That Nottinghamshire County Council be invited to nominate a Conservative member to join the Panel.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Keith Ford introduced the report and informed Panel Members that the Work Programme had been updated following both the last panel meeting and the pre agenda meeting and also in discussion with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Kevin Dennis.

RESOLVED 2015/26

That the work programme be noted and updated in line with Members' suggestions as appropriate.

6. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

The Commissioner introduced the report and focussed on three areas:

- Where the report indicated crime increasing there was a possibility that this was due to changed practices in terms of recording. Nationally, most other Forces' crime figures had also increased.

- The Force needed to make savings of £11m this financial year and at the moment was well behind that target. The second half of the year would be very challenging. Deloitte's had undertaken a review of the Force during the Commissioner's first year in office and had been asked to review the implementation of their recommendations. As 80% of the budget was spent on staffing the report would look at this area in particular. No recruitment would take place this year and the expectation was that 110 staff would be lost as a result of retirement etc. Deloitte's would also look at other areas where savings could be made.
- The Commissioner spoke of the work being undertaken to form a strategic alliance with the forces of Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire. A meeting was held in August and another was scheduled to take place in September. It was possible that such an alliance could begin in early 2016. The Commissioner explained that it will not be a merger as each Force would still keep its Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables. The aim was for the forces to converge in order to standardise procedures, make savings, increase resilience and identify more opportunities for savings.

The Deputy Commissioner gave an update to the Panel regarding domestic violence (DV):

- Work was under way to try and pull services together in this area and a DV service covering the County had been co-commissioned with the County Council in order to avoid duplication. The contracts had been awarded to Nottinghamshire Women's Aid for the North of the County and to Women's Aid Integrated Services for the South. A similar exercise would take place in the City with the aim of contracts being awarded in February 2016.

During discussions the Panel raised the following issues:

- With regard to recent media coverage of the high level of sexual assault in schools, the Commissioner was asked whether this was a problem in Nottinghamshire schools. He replied that 3 years ago there were 17 incidents reported whereas there were 50 incidents reported in the last financial year. He felt that the scale of the problem though was not as large in Nottinghamshire as in other parts of the country. 'Sexting' was largely responsible for the increase in incidents and the Commissioner gave the example of a boy who had a photo of himself on his phone, his school became aware and the boy ended up with a caution from the police. This was a new area that needed to be thought through carefully and education was needed not just for pupils but for parents too.
- The Panel asked about the increase in the number of repeat victims of domestic violence and the decreased detection rate for Victim-Based Crime. The Deputy Commissioner replied that the increased figure of 117 for repeat victims of domestic violence were individual offences but could include those who have suffered 4 or 5 incidents. The Commissioner replied that in terms of detection rates the Force was confident that the change could be explained by the way in which the information was being recorded. In reality there has been no increase in the number of incidents but unfortunately it was not possible to compare present figures with ones from the past because of the change in recording methods.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner whether he thought that the increase in all crime detailed in paragraph 4.7.11 of the report could have been caused by economic factors, changes in policing or changes in recording methods. The

Commissioner replied that he was not sure what had caused the increase. Priority was given to the 15 Partnership Plus Areas in the County and the Five High Impact Areas in the City. Kevin Dennis had reviewed Partnership Plus Areas and it was clear that joined-up working was not taking place. The situation in the City was better and the Commissioner gave the example of Project Aurora as an example of good practice. The Commissioner felt that economic deprivation must have played a part in the increase in crime with the disadvantaged becoming more disadvantaged because of the austerity measures being taken. The Commissioner gave the examples of Wollaton and The Meadows as two areas where the measures would have differing effects.

- With regard to the resolution of the A19 issue, the Commissioner clarified that in the Superintendents Federation and the Police Federation had lodged a further appeal and although no dates had been given for a decision it was hoped that the outcome would be known in the Spring of 2016. The Panel therefore queried what the Commissioner intended to do with the 'windfall' arising from the sum kept back for dealing with the consequences of settling the A19 issue. The Commissioner replied that £3.5m was in the budget but that this money would not be used for any other purpose. The consensus was that the sum would not be enough if the judgement went against the Force. Devon and Cornwall police were also involved and they had no funds to use for compensation. The Commissioner had been speaking to the Home Office and while the possibility of a special grant had not been approved it had not been dismissed either.
- The Panel queried the overspend of £877k compared to forecast, under the heading of Corporate Services which was caused by spending on agency staff. The Panel asked the Commissioner whether he was happy with the performance of such staff and if so would these staff be employed permanently in the long term. The Commissioner replied that as permanent staff left they were not being replaced and agency staff had been used where necessary. However, because of budgetary pressures the numbers of agency staff employed in the future would be reduced significantly, though there would always be a place for such staff within new structures.
- The Panel brought up the subject of policing in the north of the County and asked about the extent of cooperation with other forces, as criminals from outside the County did travel into it to commit crimes. The Commissioner replied that the Force did liaise effectively with the South Yorkshire force and also some work had been undertaken with the Lincolnshire force and G4S regarding crime in Bassetlaw. The use of ANPR was also crucial in identifying travelling criminals.
- The Panel asked whether the Commissioner had yet achieved the desired reduction in the numbers of PCSOs. The Commissioner replied that he would address this issue later in the meeting but that the process of recruiting more Specials was underway. The target was to recruit 50 more and already 40 applications had been received. Also, the Youth Commission was advertising for members. The Commissioner felt that this was an important development as youth were a force for good, bringing fresh ideas and useful knowledge in certain areas, for example Facebook, texting etc

That the contents of the update report be noted.

**7. UPDATE ON POLICE AND CRIME PLAN STRATEGIC PRIORITY THEME 4 –
REDUCE THE IMPACT OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON LEVELS OF CRIME AND
ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Commissioner introduced the report and explained that in the past the focus had been on drugs and not sufficient attention had been paid to alcohol. The Commissioner stated however that progress was now being made and that the Notts force was one of the leaders nationally with many requests being made for the Force to speak on the topic. The Commissioner said that there was still work to be done, for example in the City centre, regarding the elderly and also the extent of drinking in the home. He stated that it was important to try and tie the approach into the health agenda. The Commissioner informed the Panel of the powers the Force possessed in terms of licensing premises. Four premises had been closed down in the City recently and in fact the Force had the power to close premises overnight if necessary.

- Members thanked the Commissioner for his interesting and useful report and asked the Commissioner about the work being undertaken with youth, especially in the area concerning 'stop and search.' The Commissioner spoke of how the figures were falling in Notts and that this reduction had been disproportionate. An Asian youth was now less likely to be stopped than a white youth of the same age. The rollout of body worn cameras had begun so in future all stop and searches would be recorded. This was important as the young had complained about the lack of respect shown to them. The cameras were likely to affect the behaviour of both the officers and those being stopped. The Commissioner stated his aim to continue working on preventative measures. The consultants, Grant Thornton, had reported that the Force spends £3m annually on preventative measures, which was one of the highest in the country, and the Commissioner spoke of the need to ensure that this expenditure could be justified.
- The Panel discussed with the Commissioner new psychoactive substances and felt that the term 'legal highs' was one which should be avoided. The contents were not known, they were addictive and therefore they could not be legal. The Panel asked the Commissioner about the forthcoming Bill on psychoactive substances. The Commissioner replied that all such substances would be banned and that the Bill should be passed by summer 2016. The Commissioner was asked what was being done to address the lack of information on psychoactive substances and the Commissioner replied that work was being undertaken with other stakeholders, the City was involved, Health partners were involved and a workshop had been arranged by the County Council to try and get a better feel for the developments in this area. In response to a question from the Panel the Commissioner confirmed that Panel members would be welcome to attend the workshop.
- The Panel asked about the body worn cameras and in particular who would have access to the data collected and whether the data would be secure. The Commissioner answered that the Force was responsible for purchasing the equipment nationally and was involved in the specification of the equipment and he stated that he was confident the storage of the data would be secure.

RESOLVED 2015/027

That the Police and Crime Panel note the report.

8. DELIVERING THE FUTURE

The Commissioner introduced the report and explained that the programme had been put together by the Force with the aim of achieving the savings targets. Steve Cooper has been seconded in order to develop the proposals further as the Commissioner anticipated that more operational changes would need to be made in the face of the expected severe Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) settlement.

In discussion the Panel raised the following points:

- The Commissioner was asked whether the reduction in PCSOs had taken place and he replied that much work had been undertaken with the GMB and UNISON and that the process was nearly complete. Those PCSOs affected would be informed at the end of the week.

RESOLVED 2015/027

That the Police and Crime Panel note the report.

9. COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW AND FUNDING FORMULA REVIEW

The Commissioner introduced the report and informed the Panel that following the broad outline delivered by the Chancellor in the summer he was anticipating a reduction in the grant to the Force of between 25% to 40%. The results of the CSR would be announced on 24th November, though the figures then would only be a broad indication with the detailed result of the grant settlement for Nottinghamshire not becoming available until Christmas. The Commissioner explained that as 70% of the funding for the Notts Force came from the grant the Force suffered disproportionately compared to some other Forces when the grant was cut. The Surrey Force's funding derived only 40% from the grant with the remainder of the budget coming from the precept. A 40% cut in the grant to Notts. would present major problems as 80% of the expenditure was on staff. The number of officers would need to be reduced significantly and it was unlikely that sufficient reductions could be achieved through natural wastage.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that the deadline for submissions regarding the formula was 15th September. He had taken part in a lively debate with the Home Office and officials working on the proposals for the last 18-24 months. The Commissioner explained that there would inevitably be winners and losers and anticipated that 20% of forces would probably gain with 20% likely to be losers. The Commissioner advised the panel to treat any figures with caution however as they were based on limited information. Ministers had been unwilling to discuss matters in detail until after the general election.

In discussion the Panel raised the following points:

- The Commissioner was asked whether he felt that the Force was being pushed in a certain direction by the Treasury. He replied by saying that there was a divergence of opinion within Government. On the one hand the Chancellor was in favour of increased devolvment but on the other the Home Secretary had

rejected calls for the merger of Forces. The Panel asked whether a minimum response time was required and whether there should be a basic level of service provided funded centrally with extra services being funded by the precept. Members queried whether the Government was listening and wondered why the Government was intent on implementing such drastic measures while at the same time providing little guidance as to the way forward.

- The Panel discussed whether it should be providing a response to the consultation on the formula. The Commissioner felt that the Government was open to receiving input from a range of sources and offered his support to anyone that wanted to respond. He also confirmed that although the deadline had passed for commenting on the CSR he felt that further responses could still be submitted. Members welcomed the Commissioner's offer of help in drawing up a response but pointed out that time was very limited. And underlined the difficulty in formulating a response on behalf of the Panel. It was suggested that elected members may want to submit views via their respective authorities. Bob Vaughan-Newton informed the Panel that he had commented on the funding formula proposals and was happy to share his responses with the other independent Members.

RESOLVED 2015/028

- 1) **That the Chair and Vice-Chair discuss further with support officers the different options for responding to the consultations.**
- 2) **That Bob Vaughan-Newton's response to the funding formula proposals be circulated to the independent members of the Panel to allow them the option of supporting his response.**

10. PETITION FROM UNISON REGARDING A PROPOSED REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS.

The Commissioner thanked the Panel for giving him the opportunity of putting this into the public domain. The petition contained 20,000 names and he felt the public should be congratulated on this and the fact that they had succeeded in raising the profile of the debate. It was a debate that would need to continue and the Commissioner pointed out that much depended on the level of the CSR settlement. The need for difficult decisions to be made would remain but hopefully there would be greater clarity on the issue in October/ beginning of November. The Commissioner confirmed that the Notts force would continue to employ more PCSOs than any other East Midlands force. The Panel sympathised with the problems the Force faced in this area but it was an operational matter for the Chief Constable to manage.

RESOLVED 2015/029

That the Police and Crime Panel note the report.

11. COMPLAINTS UPDATE

Keith Ford updated the Panel on developments since the last meeting and informed the Panel that two complaints had subsequently been dealt with and that one complainant had submitted a further complaint which would be passed to the Chair of the Panel to review. A copy of the complaints procedure had been appended to the report for the benefit of new panel members.

RESOLVED 2015/030

That the Police and Crime Panel note the report.

12. PANEL MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Keith Ford introduced the report and confirmed that the date for the Member Induction event was 5th October to be held at the Police HQ. Keith informed the Panel that the workshop originally planned for October would now be rescheduled to early December, possibly on the morning of the 7th December ahead of the Panel meeting that day. Also, the Budget workshop arranged for 22nd January 2016 clashed with a meeting of the Fire Authority so would need to be rearranged.

RESOLVED 2015/031

- 1. That the Police and Crime Panel note the report.**
- 2. That the proposed workshop to consider national Policing governance and funding issues be deferred to early December (date to be agreed with Members).**
- 3. That the Budget Worksop planned for 22nd January at 10am be rearranged to 1pm that day.**
- 4. That the funding available for attending relevant conferences, seminars and training events be noted.**

The meeting closed at 3.45pm

CHAIRMAN

Miins 7 September 2015