

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6th JUNE 2016 AT 2.00 PM 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 Allsop – Mansfield District Council
Rizwan Araf – Independent Member -**A**
Councillor Andrew Brown – Nottinghamshire County Council
Councillor Cheryl Butler – Ashfield District Council -**A**
Councillor David Challinor – Bassetlaw District Council -**A**
Councillor Azad Choudhry – Nottingham City Council -**A**
Councillor Michael Edwards – Nottingham City Council
Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council
Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Nottinghamshire County Council-**A**
Councillor Keith Girling – Newark and Sherwood District Council
Councillor Alice Grice – 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 Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council -**A**
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)
Paul Dawkins – Assistant Chief Officer, Finance and Resources
Kevin Dennis – Chief Executive, Office of PCC (OPCC)
Chris Eyre – Chief Constable
Sue Fish – Deputy Chief Constable
Charlotte Radford – Chief Finance Officer (OPCC)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED 2016/009

That Christine Goldstraw OBE be appointed Chairman of the Panel for the 2016/17 municipal year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED 2016/010

That Councillor Debbie Mason be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the 2016/17 municipal year.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2016, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Araf, Councillor Challinor, Councillor Choudhry, Councillor Gilfoyle and Councillor Longdon.

5. MEMBERSHIP

It was reported that Councillor Choudhry, Councillor Edwards and Councillor Girling had been appointed in place of Councillor Campbell, Councillor Khan and Councillor Roberts respectively.

It was further reported that Councillor Grice had been appointed in place of Councillor Gilfoyle for this meeting only.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

7. RULES OF PROCEDURE

Keith Ford introduced the report and informed the Panel that this report was brought annually to the Panel's first meeting of the municipal year. The rules were agreed at the very first meeting of the Panel and the contents of the report were especially useful to new members of the Panel.

RESOLVED 2016/011

That the Panel's Rules of Procedure, as set out in the appendix to the report, be noted.

8. REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP - BALANCED APPOINTMENT OBJECTIVE

Keith Ford introduced the report and stated that as there had been no local elections recently the political balance of the Panel remained unaffected. Keith informed the Panel that there had been some changes to representation on the Panel made by the relevant Councils and that these changes were detailed in the report. Keith informed the Panel that as the independent members were appointed for a two year term last year no such new appointments were required at this time.

RESOLVED 2016/012

- 1. That the changes in Council representation on the Panel, as detailed in paragraph 6 of the report, be noted.**
- 2. That, in light of the balanced appointment objective being met, no further changes to the Panel's membership be pursued at this point.**

9. RESULTS OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTION

The Chairman introduced the report, congratulated the Commissioner on his re-election and hoped that the runners up were not too downhearted.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel congratulated the Commissioner on his re-election but expressed disappointment at the low turnout. The Panel noted that the turnout for the PCC elections was higher in areas where other elections were taking place at the same time and gave the example of the Welsh Assembly elections where the turnout for the PCC elections was 40% compared to the turnout in England of approximately 20%, where the vast majority of Force areas had no other elections. The Commissioner welcomed the new members of the Panel and agreed that the low turnout was disappointing. The Commissioner informed the Panel that there were many spoilt ballot papers and spoke of the difficulties in reaching such a large electorate, which in Nottinghamshire was 800,000. The Commissioner felt that a free mailshot would be a positive development and had recently written to the Electoral Commission who would welcome comments on the process.

RESOLVED 2016/013

That the results of the recent election be noted.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

Keith Ford introduced the report and informed the Panel that the programme had been updated after liaising with the OPCC. Keith stated that a 12 month monitoring report on the Police and Crime Plan was due to be taken to the September meeting of the Panel and that he welcomed views from Panel members either within the meeting or outside for topics for the December meeting. Keith reminded members that the February meeting

would consider the Commissioner's proposed Council Tax Precept and Budget for 2017/18.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- In answer to questions as to how the Panel works the Chair informed members that in the past task and finish groups had been set up to look at specific issues and that also there had been one day and half day workshops convened on various subjects, including the budget review. Keith Ford confirmed that the Panel was supposed to focus on particular topics and that it was up to the Panel how it approached them. The Commissioner stated that he was always willing to address questions on any topic. The Panel felt it would be useful if someone working in the criminal justice arena could attend the September meeting to speak about their work area. The Chair confirmed that the Work Programme is adaptable and would probably need to change.

RESOLVED 2016/014

That the Work programme be updated in line with Members' suggestions as appropriate.

11. CHIEF CONSTABLE RECRUITMENT

The Commissioner introduced the report and paid tribute to the Chief Constable who has overseen a period where crime in Nottinghamshire has been falling quicker than anywhere else in the country and where the Force is improving faster than any other Force. The Commissioner also thanked Sue Fish for agreeing to delay her retirement until the end of March 2017 and confirmed that Sue would address the Panel at the September meeting to inform them of her plans for the future. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he was keen to appoint a new Chief Constable as soon as possible but that the recruiting of Chief Constables was difficult. The Commissioner hoped that the process could be completed before Christmas which would allow a period of overlap for the new Chief Constable before Sue retired.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel asked the Commissioner about the process of appointing Sue temporarily to the post of Chief Constable and the Commissioner confirmed that he had discussed the matter with the Chief Executive and the Chief Constable and that he was keen not to lose the two most senior officers at the same time. The Commissioner also confirmed that Simon Torr would begin his role as Deputy Chief Constable on 11th June. In answer to the question about the extent of the increased pension costs that would result from Sue staying and acting up the Commissioner replied that the figure was not yet known as negotiations were continuing but that he would inform the Panel as soon as he knew.
- The Panel agreed with the Commissioner that it was important that the right appointment was made but concern was expressed at the length of time the recruitment process would take. The Commissioner replied that the work on appointing an independent assessor had begun and that he was due to meet the

Chief Executive of the College of Policing soon. The Commissioner assured the Panel that if the process could be completed sooner then it would be. The Chair stated that if it helped then the Panel could meet earlier than currently planned.

RESOLVED 2016/015

- 1. That the contents of the report be noted.**
- 2. That the organisation, in December 2016 at the latest, of an appointment confirmation hearing to enable the Panel to review the recruitment process in accordance with legislation, be approved.**

12. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

The Commissioner introduced the report and confirmed that crime continued to fall. The Commissioner confirmed that this included violent crime with significant progress being made with the City's night time economy where the use of street pastors has proved to be effective attracting 120 volunteers, with plans to roll out the scheme across the County. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he had been briefed regarding the knife incidents that had taken place in the past week and that the recent bomb scare had highlighted the need to re-work the relevant protocols.

The Commissioner reported that the Grade 2 response time were not meeting the targets, especially in the Ashfield/Mansfield area, though this could be explained by the fact that the new processes are bedding in. The Commissioner told the Panel that real progress is being made regarding hate crime though stated this is not purely a Police matter but one for society as a whole.

The Commissioner brought the Panel's attention to the part of the report dealing with rural crime. He informed the Panel that he had been having robust discussions with the Chief Constable on the subject as he felt it was important that wherever you lived you needed the reassurance that the Police are there when needed and that he had heard that in some areas the Police were under represented. He informed the Panel that the Chief Constable had been deploying officers in the areas with the highest risk which included the City and the Bassetlaw/Ashfield/Mansfield areas and that his staff had been working with partners to ensure that rural areas were not being neglected.

The Commissioner spoke about the reorganisation of the Force in the City and informed the Panel that there would be no loss of the Chief Superintendent post until the meeting of the CDP, which had now been brought forward to 10 June, before which a report would be circulated that dealt with the Force's and City Council's concerns. The Commissioner reiterated that the organisation of the Force was entirely a matter for the Chief Constable and felt that some of the public debate had not been helpful. The Commissioner made clear that his door was always open and he would be happy for the City Council to take up his offer of a meeting.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel drew the Commissioner's attention to paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4 of the report and felt that it was the less serious crimes that were decreasing and the more serious crimes that appeared to be on the increase. The Commissioner replied that in reality there had been no significant changes and the trends could be explained by the changes in the reporting procedures. The Panel expressed its opinion that the figures given in paragraph 4.4 gave the impression that crime was going up and requested that actual figures were provided in addition to the percentages stated.
- The Panel expressed several concerns including the fact that it felt that partnership work was struggling, the quality of communications was falling, officers were being asked to do too much, a lack of police attendance at neighbourhood meetings, a concern that the Police did not have the right resources and a general feeling that things were regressing.
- The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed the Commissioner's point regarding the fact that the level of crime was reducing and that any perceived increase was due to the changes in recording procedures. The Deputy Chief Constable spoke to the Panel about the challenges being faced in prisons with the use of drones etc being used to get contraband in to prisons. The Deputy Chief Constable informed the Panel that the issue of weapon possession was a priority for the Force and that there is now a full-time bespoke team undertaking intelligence-led work into the problem and which has led to a 70% positive outcome rate for stop and search. The Deputy Chief Constable also spoke about community protection and cohesion, giving the example of Operation Vanguard, and where the emphasis is on prevention through early intervention as well as through more traditional approaches and this has led to real differences to young people in particular. The Deputy Chief Constable spoke about the recent murder in Forest Fields and assured the Panel that the Force was aware of the community tension, that arrests had been made, briefings undertaken and work was ongoing to bring all those involved to justice.
- The Commissioner reassured the Panel that crime was falling and he knew that there were good relationships between the neighbourhood inspectors, his team and Councillors and though there had been some changes recently at the City he had met senior figures and had asked for Neighbourhood Chairs to be briefed.. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he thought that public finances were very unlikely to improve in the short term and that it was essential for the Police, NHS and local authorities to work as one team. The Commissioner knew that there was a good basis on which to build in the City and in Mansfield too. The Commissioner apologised if attendance at meetings was not what it should but the subject had been discussed and it had been made clear that attendance at neighbourhood meetings was required and if it was not possible to attend then a briefing note should be sent instead.
- The Chief Constable stated that there was a determination on the Force's part to work together and since 2003 there had been continued investment to achieve this. The Chief Constable reminded the Panel about the existence of Aurora as an example of this as well as pointing out the integrated teams that were now co-located in Byron House. The Chief Constable confirmed that all of the Police's partners were facing a period of change and spoke to the Panel of

the need to maintain the commitment to partnership working and react to the risks locally. The Chief Constable thought the improvements achieved in difficult circumstances were a credit to those involved.

- The Vice Chair asked the Commissioner about the Partnership Plus areas, specifically that across the board performance was poor and the Commissioner was asked for an update on implementing the results of the review. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he had the results of the review and was happy to share them, but it was clear that the initiative was not working. The Commissioner told the Panel that if it was felt that this approach was the right one then resources needed to be reallocated from other areas which is a difficult balancing act. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the Acting Chief Constable would address the issues around the Partnership Plus initiative at the next meeting of the Panel as part of the report detailing her aims and objectives for the coming year. The Chief Executive confirmed that the changes recommended by the review had been implemented. He told the Panel that in the past the process had been 'top down' and the effort was now being made to work more inclusively with more sustainable approaches being developed. The Chief Executive gave the example of the work being undertaken on the Ashfield estates as a way forward, with the focus being on the long term.
- The Panel questioned the Commissioner over the closing down of the Nottingham City Division on 1st May. The Panel was under the impression that no changes to the organisational structure were to take place until the summer and cited the examples of the meeting of the CDP on 14th March, a press statement issued on 22nd March, a quote from the Chief Constable in the Nottingham Post on 23rd March, none of which made reference to any changes taking place on 1st May, and references made on Radio Nottingham and Notts TV that no changes were to be made until after the PCC elections. The Panel asked the Commissioner who made the decision, when the decision was made, how it was taken and when was the Commissioner asked for his opinion on the change and what was his response.
- The Commissioner replied that a joint report on the way forward would be taken to the CDP on 20th June and the Chief Superintendent would remain in post until that meeting. The Commissioner informed the Panel the proposed changes were first discussed before he was in post and that his opinion on the changes had been well documented over time, including at meetings with the City's Leader and Chief Executive. The Commissioner was clear that it is on the record that the decision is one for the Chief Constable.
- The Chief Constable informed the Panel that over the years he had met the Leaders and Chief Executives of the City and County Councils and the District Councils to discuss the plans to restructure the Force. The Chief Constable told the Panel that he had met representatives from the City Council to discuss specific services and that though they showed some reluctance regarding the changes the Chief Constable had made it clear that criminals did not respect political boundaries and that now as a result of changes made the Force was working much more efficiently across boundaries.

- The Commissioner informed the Panel that he was in dialogue with the City Council on a daily basis and that he was keen to resolve all the outstanding issues and did not think it was positive for public bodies to argue publicly. The Commissioner told the Panel that he would bring an update report to the next meeting.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner whether he was in favour of the proposal by the Leicestershire PCC to re-establish a City Commander and the Commissioner replied that the Nottinghamshire job kept him busy enough without getting involved in Leicestershire's problems as well.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner about hate crime, reporting that several incidents had occurred recently in the Meadows. There was concern that those who were reporting such crimes were not being taken seriously and the Panel asked the Commissioner about the statistics regarding criminal justice outcomes. The Commissioner responded by informing the Panel that the reporting of such crimes was up by 11% and while this was encouraging he felt that this still underestimated the extent of the problem. The Commissioner reassured the Panel that a number of such cases had progressed to court. The Deputy Chief Constable informed the Panel that a positive outcome was achieved in the majority of cases.

RESOLVED 2016/016

That the contents of the revised update report be noted.

13. STRATEGIC ALLIANCE UPDATE

The Commissioner introduced the report and informed the Panel that he was due to meet the PCCs and Chief Executives of Leicestershire and Northants to bring them up to date with progress so far. The Commissioner informed the Panel that a more formal meeting was due to be held on 23rd June where the final business case would be presented. The Commissioner felt that the proposals would result in a greater resilience and that in a complex world it would be positive if all Forces adhered to a common set of procedures thereby giving the opportunity to make major savings, especially in the back office, at a time where budgets continue to decrease.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel asked the Commissioner about any plans to combine call centres, how cots were being shared and whether in the future crime statistics would still be available by area. The Commissioner replied that he was aware of problems encountered elsewhere regarding the combining of call centres and said that although Northants were moving their main site it was an area where plans had not been finalised. The Commissioner replied that the costs involved would be shared pro rata between the parties involved but there will be significant funds used on an 'invest to save' basis.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner how the Panel would fit into this process and wondered whether the relevant Panels needed to start to work together. The Panel expressed its concern that arrangements needed to be put in place

sooner rather than later. The Commissioner replied that the landscape of policing will change fundamentally in the next few years and that the relevant Chief Constables and PCCs had been involved in discussions as to what policing would take place at a national level, what policing would take place at a local level and what policing would cut across both. In the circumstances the Commissioner stated he would welcome the input of all three Panels, especially in the area of governance and that he was happy to liaise with Keith Ford as to the best way forward.

RESOLVED 2016/017

That the progress on the design of the Strategic Alliance be noted.

14. SPECIFIC FOCUS ON POLICE AND CRIME PLAN STRATEGIC PRIORITY 7 – SPENDING YOUR MONEY WISELY

The Commissioner introduced the report and informed the Panel that he thought its contents underpinned everything that had previously been discussed. The Commissioner informed the Panel that not only had crime had fallen but also that the nature of crime had changed. The Commissioner spoke of the difficulties of bringing to justice perpetrators of child sexual abuse after a period of 50 years and of the increasing incidence of cyber-crime, emphasising that this was an area where the Force had to improve its performance. The Commissioner told the Panel that Superintendent Steve Cartwright was working on how the Force would look in the year 2020 and that the process of change was iterative, some of the changes may well prove to be controversial but that it was crucial to adapt to survive.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel asked the Commissioner about the progress being made in closing down the Carlton Police Station and the Commissioner replied that discussions with the ambulance service about accommodation were well advanced and that the aspiration was for the current building to be closed by the end of 2016.
- The Panel queried the lack of references to risk management in the report and asked about the progress of service planning. The Panel also asked about whether the experiences of other Forces were examined. Superintendent Cartwright confirmed that all areas of work had a service plan and that other Forces' learning was taken into account along with the examination of the Force's own strengths.
- The Panel asked about the future structure of the Force and questioned whether there were any plans to change the neighbourhood policing boundaries. The Commissioner replied that discussions were ongoing about how the Force operated locally, for example if more inspectors were to be employed could fewer neighbourhood inspectors be employed. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the Force worked alongside CCG colleagues and their boundaries and that the aspiration was for one public

service to be available in each locality. The Commissioner admitted that there was still a long way to go before this could be achieved but that the process was quite advanced in the City whereas the two-tier structure in the County made progress slower.

- The Panel asked the Commissioner about his weekly meetings with the Chief Constable where any slippages against budgetary targets should be highlighted, conscious of the fact that last financial year the late identification of such slippages resulted in overspends. The Commissioner agreed the importance of identifying any potential slippages at an early stage and informed the Panel that the Head of Finance at Sherwood Lodge was moving from a part-time to a full-time basis soon and hoped that this would also help the situation.
- The Panel referred to the new operating model which was due to be in place for 2020 and requested that it would be useful for the Panel to be informed when key landmark points were achieved. The Commissioner agreed to provide the Panel with such information though emphasised the process was bound up with the conversation at a national level.

RESOLVED 2016/018

That the contents of the report be noted.

15. DRAFT CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

The Commissioner introduced the report and emphasised that it was at the draft stage, consultation was ongoing and he welcomed comments from members of the Panel.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel referred to the full and frank discussions that had already taken place during the meeting and asked the Commissioner to highlight the significant aspects of the report. The Commissioner replied that victim satisfaction had increased and though rates were higher in the City than the County this was a good base to build from. The Commissioner also referred to the quality dialogue that is taking place between the Force and the BME community and the dynamism of the Youth Commission was another positive aspect. The Panel asked about the deadline for responses and the Commissioner said he would be happy to receive responses within one month.

RESOLVED 2016/019

That the contents of the report be noted.

The Chair paid tribute to the Chief Constable, wishing him a happy retirement and thanking him for his honesty and willingness to attend the Panel meetings, the Chair was aware colleagues on other Panel envied the access the Notts Panel has to their Chief Constable.

The meeting closed at 3.51pm

CHAIRMAN