

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th NOVEMBER 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 Cheryl Butler – Ashfield District Council

Councillor Dave Challinor - Bassetlaw District Council -A

Councillor Azad Choudhry – Nottingham City Council

Councillor John Cottee – substitute for Councillor John Handley, Nottinghamshire County Council

Councillor Michael Edwards – Nottingham City Council

Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council

Councillor Keith Girling – Newark and Sherwood District Council -A

Councillor Alice Grice – substitute for Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle, 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

Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan – Nottinghamshire County 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)

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

Sue Fish – Interim Chief Constable

Charlotte Radford – Chief Finance Officer (OPCC)

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2016, 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 Rizwan Araf, Councillor Dave Challinor, Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle, Councillor John Handley and Councillor Keith Girling.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

Keith Ford introduced the report which had been updated as a result of discussions with the Panel and the OPCC. Keith informed the Panel that it had been had been represented at some recent conferences and the following Members provided feedback to the Panel on the relevant issues raised:

- Suma Harding attended the Justice Management Annual Conference on 21 September which had been very interesting and informed the Panel that the emphasis from the high-powered speakers had been on how prisons were managed.
- Councillor Mason attended the National Police and Crime Panel Conference on 20th October that also featured high profile speakers. Councillor Mason informed the Panel that it was interesting to compare how different Panels operated differently and felt that Nottinghamshire worked very well with both the Commissioner and the Chief Constable, which was not true off all Panels. Councillor Mason informed the Panel that she had attended a workshop on regional collaboration and reported that Nottinghamshire had more experience in this area than almost all of the other Panels. Keith Ford also attended the conference and confirmed that most Panels had yet to commence regional collaboration. Keith shared with the Panel that he thought the Conference was very useful, reminded members that Nottinghamshire had hosted the event in the past and encouraged members to attend future conferences for which a discounted rate would be available.
- Councillor Dave Challinor, who sent his apologies for this Panel meeting, attended the conference entitled 'Brexit – Local Implications for Policing and Security' on 14th September. Councillor Challinor's feedback can be found in the Appendix to these minutes.

The Chair spoke about the 'Power Check' survey carried out by Frontline Consulting and asked if Keith could canvas the views of Panel members and the Commissioner regarding whether the findings should be discussed during the December meeting of the Panel or at the end of that meeting.

RESOLVED 2016/024

- 1) That the updated Work Programme be noted.**
- 2) That the feedback detailing relevant issues from recent conferences attended by Members be noted.**

3) That Members note the agreed dates for other Panel activity:

- a. 9 December 2016 – 11am – Confirmation Hearing for Chief Constable appointment**
- b. 25 January 2017 -10am – 12 noon – Budget Workshop with the PCC in attendance**
- c. 1 February 2017 – 10am – 12 noon – Budget Workshop with the Section 151 Officer of Nottinghamshire County Council**
- d. 24 April 2017 – 10am – 12.30pm – Workshop to share the strategic thinking of the new Chief Constable.**

5. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

The Commissioner introduced the report and confirmed to the Panel that the interviews for the post of Chief Constable would be taking place on 10th and 11th November and that it was intended to announce the name of the successful candidate on 14th November prior to the Confirmation hearing scheduled for 9th December. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the time-consuming process had been undertaken with assistance from the College of Policing and had originally involved 6 candidates, 2 of whom later withdrew, but that this still meant that the post had attracted more candidates than any other appointment in recent times and the Commissioner gave the example of the Lincolnshire force that effectively had had only one candidate for their post of Chief Constable.

The Commissioner stated that the recorded crime figures for the Notts Force were among the best in the country but that the reworking of the figures, which all Forces were undertaking as a result of new guidance on recording, would probably result in a slight increase in the figures, though not as large an increase as some Forces were anticipating for the same reason..

The Commissioner referred to the recent HMIC report and said that the findings would not have come as a surprise either to himself or the Panel as the overspend as a result of the identified errors had been reported to the Panel previously. The Commissioner stated that the report had focussed on the overspend and that at the time of writing the HMIC would not have been aware of the present situation where half way through the financial year there is the possibility that expenditure would come in under budget. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he was a senior member of the group that was reviewing the funding formula and that the aim was to produce a report for February for consultation allowing the implementation of part of the proposals from April 2018. The Commissioner stated that he was optimistic that the Notts Force would achieve a better deal than under the present arrangements where the Force was being under-funded by £10.5m annually, this compared with Lancashire for example, that was receiving £11m in excess annually. The Commissioner told the Panel that financially it had been a difficult 3-4 years and that he would speak to the Panel in more depth at the turn of the year but it was anticipated that savings of around £4m would be needed next financial year as opposed to the £12m savings required this year. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the new Chief Constable would need to be part of the process which would involve another base budget review and that he hoped for a smooth transition.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel asked the Commissioner why victim and witness satisfaction with the Courts was no longer being monitored and what effect was this having on the Police. The Commissioner replied that this is an area the Force considers and though satisfaction has gone down the levels are still above the average both nationally and in the East Midlands. The Commissioner explained that the operation of courts was a shared enterprise with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which is now organised on a regional basis, and the Courts which are organised on a county basis which made it very difficult to obtain local information.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner why regular file quality audits were not being completed and the Commissioner replied that discussions were ongoing but that the CPS and the Courts service have had huge cuts imposed on them which has affected their ability to undertake these audits. The Panel also asked about the Early Guilty plea rates and the progress being made with digitalisation and the Commissioner undertook to report back to the next Panel meeting.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner about the under reporting of offences and asked how many of the crimes are victim based, how many were sexual offences, how the Force compared with others in the country and whether the duplicated figure of 965 in para 5.10 of the report was an error. The Commissioner replied that the figures recorded by the Northumberland Force have been the most affected and that the Notts Force is 95% compliant, though the HMIC is demanding 100%. The Commissioner confirmed that he would come back to the Panel with the updated information aswell as confirming the accuracy of the figure of 965 as stated.
- The Panel expressed its concern at what appeared to be the disproportionate number of those from the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community affected by stop and search and also asked the Commissioner about the process by which members of the community are consulted on such matters. The Commissioner replied that part of the explanation is historical with approximately 14% of the Notts population being from the BME community while the percentage of officers from the same community was 4.3% and explained that it had been difficult to address this imbalance at a time when there had been a freeze on recruitment. In terms of consultation the Commissioner stated that it was not possible to consult everyone but that previously he had commissioned a report from Professor Wright on the BME community's perception of the Police the results of which had been hard hitting and whose conclusions the Force had tried to implement. The Commissioner reminded the Panel that the Notts Force is the only one in the country with body worn cameras and the scrutiny Panel does request footage of stop and search incidents. The Commissioner agreed to discuss further the issue of BME Steering Group representation with Councillor Choudhry outside of the meeting.
- The Panel referred to the large increase in vehicle crime and asked the Commissioner about the cause and what the Force was doing about the problem. The Commissioner explained that the security of new cars had improved and as a result car crime had reduced substantially. The Interim Chief Constable informed the Panel that the majority of vehicle crime involved two wheelers and though work was being undertaken nationally many owners did not use basic prevention measures

meaning these were very easy to steal and of these thefts many were opportunistic rather than part of an organised that many of those thefts were opportunistic rather than organised.

- The Panel referred to a Daily Mail article which detailed how there were only 73 officers on duty on the night of 7th April and asked whether this was just a blip as well as asking how many officers the Force would be employing in the future. The Commissioner replied that he had spoken to the journalist in question before publication and stated that though he would like to say that it was not a blip the Panel would be aware of the number of officers currently employed and the financial restraints the Force is operating under, but stated that perhaps the period of greatest demand for the Force's services was not 4am in the morning. In terms of numbers of officers in the future the Commissioner stated that he had been reassured that by 2020 the Force could cope with 1600/1800 and though the general view is that there is a relationship between the satisfaction of the public and the numbers of officers employed, much would depend on the size of the final financial settlement from Government.
- The Panel questioned the Commissioner on the Thematic Model Business Cases referred to in Appendix B of the report and the Commissioner agreed to supply the relevant figures and information when they became available.
- The Panel spoke of its concern at the Force's lack of financial control, giving the example of the high cost of the policing the recent EDL march, the failings highlighted in the HMIC report and whether this would affect other Forces' willingness to co-operate. The Commissioner replied by stating that he did not think that the HMIC report was well written, that the costs of the IT system had not overrun and while the benefits of the shared services scheme had accrued the associated costs were not accounted for until part way through the financial year. The Commissioner also spoke of the problems caused by the turnover in finance staff but stated that with Paul Dawkin taking an overview of Notts, Leicestershire and Northants finances and a new head of finance in post he was confident everything was now on track. The Commissioner stated that the Audit and Scrutiny Panel was diligent in monitoring the Force's financial performance.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner about sickness levels and the fact that they seemed to be increasing. The Commissioner replied that the levels were going up but that he discussed this with the Force bi-monthly and was aware that this was an issue that the Force focusses on. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the Force does keep in touch with staff when they are off work and sees them when they return to work but that many of those are affected by stress which is a reflection of the effect of reducing resources with the remaining staff having to work harder as a result. The Chair stated that she thought this was one of a number of problems that was supposed to be addressed by the Force's new operating model and asked whether the new Chief Constable might need to take a look at the effectiveness of the model. The Commissioner agreed that the new Chief would want to review many current aspects and thought the issues could be dealt with at either a future meeting of the Panel or at the planned workshop with the new Chief.

RESOLVED 2016/025

That the contents of the report be noted.

6. TRI-FORCE COLLABORATION UPDATE

The Commissioner introduced the report and spoke of the need to reduce costs and the difficulties encountered in trying to reduce back office costs in particular, though HR, Finance and Estate functions are now being managed jointly. The Commissioner informed the Panel about 2 ongoing pieces of work, the first concerned the Northants Force moving HQ where their control room is based at a time when control room requirements are required across the three forces and secondly the potential effect of collaboration on the work of the Standards Department which could mean in future different officers looking at different forces, though the Policing Bill currently going through parliament may affect this.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Chair spoke of the Panel's concerns about the need for an effective governance structure especially as 20% of the Force's expenditure was on collaborative working. The Commissioner replied that he thought the percentage of spend would increase as further collaboration developed but that he was involved in the work being undertaken regarding governance and believed solutions could be found if the various parties worked together.
- The Panel shared its concerns about how collaboration would work in practice given the Forces' different ways of working and the various budgets involved. The Commissioner replied that he understood the point being made and that there would be winners and losers in the collaboration process and though Notts might only gain marginally through its participation, if the service to the public was improved overall he felt it was important to co-operate fully in the process.
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- Some Panel members informed the Commissioner that some of their constituents had complained to them of the difficulty in contacting the Police through using the 101 number and asked whether collaboration would help the situation. The Commissioner replied that just that morning he had commissioned a piece of work to undertake a qualitative and quantitative analysis and felt that the potential of moving to a new system provided the opportunity to do things better and that the possibility of using a single number for all local services was an option that was being explored.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner if there were any other forces collaborating that could provide a model to gauge whether the concept was working or not. The Commissioner replied that the East Midlands forces were more advanced than most in this area and expressed his disappointment that the recent HMIC report did not acknowledge what has been achieved by the Force to date. The Commissioner spoke of the Norfolk and Suffolk forces who were collaborating similarly but were not as advanced as Notts in the process and also Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire who were also taking things forward. The Commissioner informed the Panel that other collaborations had been designed in a 'bottom up' manner which had resulted in a patchwork approach and that he had spoken to the Home Office about drafting a

template to be used by other forces but that this had been regarded as anathema with a localism approach being favoured.

RESOLVED 2016/026

That the progress made on Tri Force Collaboration be noted.

7. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – THEME 2 – IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY, ACCESSIBILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS – MONITORING REPORT

The Commissioner introduced the report and spoke about how difficult this area was and how the landscape was changing, informing the Panel that funds had been made available to the courts and justice system to progress the digital agenda but that the police were slightly behind in the process because of the disparate nature of the organisation. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he would soon be announcing the winner of the tender for new services to victims and expressed his disappointment at the level of take up of this service. The Panel felt that many of the topics in the report had been dealt with earlier in the meeting but asked the Commissioner about the problem of children giving evidence in court and asked about the possibility of their being able to provide this evidence off-site via a video link. The Commissioner explained that some children did find the experience of providing evidence from a police station uncomfortable also but that work was ongoing in Worksop and consideration being given to the location of a camera for this purpose.

RESOLVED 2016/027

That the progress being made against the themes and activities set out in the Police and Crime Plan be noted.

8. COMPLAINTS UPDATE

RESOLVED 2016/028

That the complaints received in respect of the Police and Crime Commissioner since April 2016 be noted.

The meeting closed at 3.22pm

CHAIRMAN

Appendix

Councillor Dave Challinor attended the conference entitled 'Brexit – Local Implications for Policing and Security' on 14th September and fed back the following comments:

- Issues were raised that would not automatically be associated with the Brexit vote
- Since 1972 7,000 or more pieces of legislation regarding Policing had been passed, all of which needed to be looked at to see what may need changing
- Article 50 is going to be expensive to implement and as there is no budget for this there may well be a knock on effect on the Policing budget.
- It was important that all PCCs started to speak to the Home Secretary/Home Office about topics affected including information sharing, the EU arrest warrant, Europol
- In the past EU connections have been fundamental in countering terrorism and though the quality of these connections may suffer as a result of the Brexit vote it was important that co-operation with European neighbours continued. Although there is no reason that Brexit should hinder co-operation it does not assist it either and it was essential that political leaders worked to ensure that the quality of co-operation is not diminished
- The UK model of Policing is something many countries aspire to with the high level of professional skill of the UK force and intelligence officers much sought after