

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2013 AT 10.30 AM AT GEDLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

Chairman - Councillor John Clarke – Gedling Borough Council - **A**
Vice-Chairman - Executive Mayor Tony Egginton – Mansfield District Council

Rizwan Araf – Independent Member (agenda item 5 onwards)
Councillor Chris Baron – Ashfield District Council - **A**
Councillor David Challinor – Bassetlaw District Council
Councillor Eunice Campbell – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Jon Collins – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Georgina Culley – Nottingham City Council - **A**
Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Nottinghamshire County Council
Christine Goldstraw – Independent Member
Councillor John Handley – Nottinghamshire County Council
Suma Harding – Independent Member
Councillor Pat Lally – Broxtowe Borough Council
Councillor Bruce Laughton – Newark and Sherwood District Council - **A**
Councillor Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council
Councillor Debbie Mason – Rushcliffe Borough Council
Councillor Carole McCulloch – Nottingham City Council – **A**
Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member (agenda item 5 onwards)
Councillor John Wilmott – Ashfield District Council (substitute for Councillor Baron)

OFFICERS PRESENT

Sue Bearman – Senior Solicitor) Nottinghamshire
Keith Ford – Senior Democratic Services Officer) County Council
	(Host Authority)

OTHERS PRESENT

Paddy Tipping – Police and Crime Commissioner
Chris Cutland – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Kevin Dennis – Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Chief Constable Chris Eyre – Nottinghamshire Police
Deborah Perkins - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

CHAIR

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman chaired the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2013, 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 Councillors Baron, Clarke, Culley and Laughton.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP – UPDATE

Keith Ford introduced the report which detailed the outcomes of the independent co-optee recruitment process.

RESOLVED 2013/031

- 1) That Rizwan Araf be appointed as an independent co-optee to the Panel for a two year term of office.**
- 2) That Bob Vaughan-Newton be appointed as an independent co-optee to the Panel for a two year term of office.**

The Chair welcomed Mr Araf and Mr Vaughan-Newton to the meeting.

5. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

The Commissioner introduced his update report and highlighted the following key points:-

- although Anti-Social Behaviour figures had continued to fall for several years, it was highlighted that the percentage of people who felt that the Police and Councils were dealing with this issue had also fallen;
- overall crime continued to increase, although the latest figures as of 28 October 2013 showed a drop to 2.3% from the 3.2% increase contained in the report. More than half of the Forces nationally had also experienced an increase;
- crime had risen fairly significantly within some of the priority areas (as detailed in paragraph 4.27 of the report) and further discussions were needed around outcomes in Partnership Plus areas;
- Gold Groups and workstreams had been developed to address the three significant areas of increase - shoplifting, burglary and assault;

- one unforeseen consequence of the recruitment of new Police Officers was a reduction in the number of special constables and Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs), with many of the new Police Officers being recruited from those backgrounds. Recruitment was underway for further PCSOs and early signs were encouraging in terms of the proportion of applicants from Black and Minority Ethnic communities. Work continued with community groups in a bid to coach and mentor applicants prior to the next recruitment round of Police Officers in order for the workforce to better reflect the communities served by the Force.

During discussions, the following points were raised:-

- the Commissioner clarified that the key emerging risks in the priority areas included assaults, burglary and shoplifting. This was partly down to an increase in domestic violence figures, which he felt reflected an increase in reporting rather than incidents. The Force had started an awareness raising campaign about the issue of assaults in public places, focussing on the impact which a single punch could have. Shoplifting and burglary figures were now starting to reduce. The Commissioner was hoping to develop more preventative work around burglaries, including targeting properties neighbouring those that had been burgled. Work was being undertaken with partner agencies, including Nottingham City Homes and A1 Housing in Bassetlaw. Members felt that a lot of the funding in the Partnership Plus areas had been invested in long-term, preventative initiatives and agencies now needed to refocus on the current priority issues. Members also felt that Police ownership of issues had been reduced by officers leaving, Beat Managers being tasked with response duties and areas of focus wider than beat areas. Members highlighted concerns raised by the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner about the operating model in that area. Members underlined the need to look at the longer-term financing of Partnership Plus areas with existing levels of County Council funding unlikely to continue.

In response, the Commissioner stated that he hoped to be able to put some funding into the Partnership Plus areas as he was firmly in favour of such initiatives although he felt that improved outcomes could be achieved. He was grateful to Ashfield District Council for their recent decision to invest a further £30,000 in each of the Partnership Plus areas in Ashfield. The Commissioner agreed that the focus had been more on long-term issues whilst the crime figures had been continuing to fall. He acknowledged that Neighbourhood Officers and Beat Officers had been drawn into response tasks but he underlined that the new officers are for Neighbourhood Policing and response. He added that the Force was currently looking at how Neighbourhood Policing teams work and would report on that in the New Year. He underlined that he would not favour a model of neighbourhood teams with no warranted officers but the role of warranted officers was being reconsidered. The Chief Constable felt that the commitment of partner agencies had not reduced in the Partnership Plus areas but underlined the importance of crystallising current activity. He also recognised the need to do things differently, in light of the current economic context, in order to assist the Commissioner in achieving his priorities. He stated that he would use best practice from elsewhere and

highlighted some of the additional factors that were having a bearing on South Yorkshire's performance including the Hillsborough and Orgreave inquiries and the Rotherham child abuse investigations;

- with regard to the stance taken by the Co-operative Group (the Co-op) on staff tackling shoplifting, talks had been held nationally about this issue. The Co-op had seconded a member of staff to work with the Force in Nottinghamshire and vice-versa to try and address the issues. This approach was now being replicated elsewhere and the responsibilities of national retailers to communities and the need to work in partnership were recognised;
- the Chief Constable underlined that the Force was clearly focussed on the priority types of crime and high-crime locations. He felt that the Force and partner agencies had become complacent in the last year and he commended the work undertaken by the Crime and Disorder Partnership in the City (led by Councillor Collins) in addressing work that had stalled. An 'Alliance against Violence' had been established to address public violence in the City, focussing on key locations. The Alcohol Strategy was also vital in setting out work with partners to stop alcohol being a cause of crime. The Chief Constable hoped that the Cardiff Model, which had been developed by an Accident and Emergency consultant, could be followed in Nottinghamshire as a means of reducing both crime and demand on health services (as part of wider Public Health aims). With regard to burglaries, Probation's commitment to Integrated Offender Management continued and the need to keep a grip on offending on a day to day basis was recognised;
- Members raised concerns about the quality and timeliness of case files for Magistrates' Court and Crown Court and the continuing high proportion of ineffective trials. The Commissioner underlined that although the courts were not part of his remit he was keen to encourage good working relationships. He felt that further changes to the court system would be progressed over the next few years including the possible development of virtual courts. Members underlined that Police Officers were responsible for file preparation. In response, the Chief Constable highlighted that files could be failed on the basis that information, which was not relevant to progressing a case, had not been included or information which the Crown Prosecution Service felt was irrelevant had been included. A lot of resources had been put into improving quality and significant improvements had been seen in terms of files for the Magistrates' Courts. Similar investment was now being made in improving the quality of Crown Court case files. The Chief Constable added that the resource pressures faced by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) were also having an impact. When presenting their files to the CPS these needed to be examined with a view to advising the Force on which areas to focus upon in evidence-gathering. He felt that further simplification of what was required by the CPS would lead to better outcomes for victims and would address concerns raised previously by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. Chief Superintendent Ian Waterfield was leading discussions with the CPS on this issue nationally. The Force was now using Blackberry devices to capture evidence immediately. The first Criminal Prosecution Court in the County had been held in Mansfield to deal with traffic offences and, whereas any

challenges to such offences in the past would have required an adjournment and a referral back to the Police, a Police Prosecutor was now present in Court to address any queries on the day. The Chief Constable was keen to see any innovations arising from DS Waterfield's work piloted in Nottinghamshire. In response to negative media coverage of this issue, he felt that all Police Officers were committed to gathering the relevant evidence needed to enable successful prosecutions;

- Members welcomed the increase in Police Officer applicants from Black and Minority Ethnic communities and queried how many had been appointed so far. The Commissioner clarified that a relatively small number of such applicants had been appointed presently but he felt that the positive action being undertaken to help coach and mentor such applicants would make a difference. He highlighted the high proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic people amongst the Criminology undergraduates at Nottingham Trent University and amongst the recently recruited Police Cadets. The Commissioner was determined that the next round of PCSO recruitment would lead to a higher proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic applicants being recruited and felt that there was a buzz in the community around this commitment;
- Members queried whether the recent rise in acquisitive crimes was felt to be a result of austerity measures introduced by the Government. The Commissioner felt that a reduction in Police Officers could make an area more vulnerable and that people could be driven to crime by austerity. He had recently commissioned some research to look at the cause of repeat offending by shoplifters;
- Members queried how early intervention and education programmes, such as the DARE programme, were now being progressed in schools. The Commissioner said that he had held meetings with the City and County Councils to look at the funding of domestic violence initiatives in schools but he believed that the focus of any early intervention work should be widened to include other issues including substance misuse. He referred to the DARE programme, the Galleries of Justice and the Amy Winehouse Foundation as possible providers of resources or funding, whilst underlining that Councils had a role to play in progressing such programmes to ensure it was a compelling offer for both community and self-governed schools;
- in response to Members' queries about Domestic Violence, the Commissioner clarified that there had been 71 additional repeat victims in 2013/14 but felt that this was possibly good news in that it illustrated that more victims felt confident to report first-time and repeat incidents now. These figures could be broken down further to provide district by district details. The Chief Constable added that fewer higher-category repeat incidents were now being seen. He recognised the need to tailor services to specific local communities, rather than to national performance indicators, as appropriate;
- Members queried whether the rise in hate crime was purely down to the recent reclassification of such crimes. The Commissioner highlighted that because

the actual numbers of hate crimes were so low, any increase could result in a relatively high percentage increase. However, the Commissioner and the Force were giving further consideration to this issue in light of the massive under-reporting of such crimes and this issue was also gaining national attention. Organisations such as Scope and MIND were working with people to encourage reporting;

- Members felt that the performance figures on repeat victims overall potentially presented the issue in an unduly negative light and did not capture the positive aspects of increased reporting. The Commissioner felt that it was difficult to establish baseline figures for reporting although discussions were ongoing with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the City and County partner organisations to try and establish the current position. He agreed to give this overall issue further consideration. The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the research arising from the previous Police Authority Domestic Violence scrutiny report which focussed on those victims who had experienced more than 5 incidents. Leicester University's Criminology Department had also been commissioned to look at what works in preventing repeat victimisation. Work was also being undertaken to clarify the level and number of incidents victims have not reported prior to the first point of reporting.

RESOLVED 2013/032

That the contents of the update report be noted.

6. REGIONAL COLLABORATION FURTHER UPDATE

The Commissioner introduced the report and underlined that by doing more work regionally he was able to resource Neighbourhood Policing. HMIC had been commissioned to look at the level of regional collaboration and the Commissioner had seen the draft findings. He agreed to share the report, once finalised, with Panel Members. He stated that the report underlined that, although the East Midlands had got off to a good start with collaboration, further progress now needed to be made to maximise potential benefits. He highlighted the advantages of a single IT system in the region but recognised that there were practical complications around that. He underlined that collaboration was not a precursor to a regional force and said that the Secretary of State had clarified that there would be no moves towards regional forces before the next general election. He added that differing opinions around the required rate of change was the key factor behind collaboration not progressing further in the region at this stage.

During discussions, the following issues were raised:-

- Members welcomed collaborative working and its benefits and understood the advantages of a regional IT infrastructure, for example, in addressing cross-border crime. The Commissioner explained that the other Commissioners in the region had agreed in principle to a Statement of Intent about the need to collaborate unless there was good reason not to. However, practical difficulties had meant that this principle was not always being followed in practice. Members felt that all Forces and Commissioners needed to acknowledge the

greater levels of protection and financial benefits that collaboration could bring to a region. The Commissioner stated that the HMIC report highlighted that not all Forces would gain from each collaborative project and that, in order to gain optimum benefits, they needed to avoid setting up replacement local units for issues that it had been agreed would be delivered in collaboration. The Commissioner stated that he had not supported a proposal to increase contributions in 2013/14 and instead had encouraged reviewing practices in order to achieve savings of £2.4m over the next three years. The Commissioner and Chief Constable shared an ongoing commitment to collaboration and this was one of the issues they discussed at their weekly meetings;

- Members underlined the need to further develop effective collaboration in order to prevent any future moves towards regional forces. The Commissioner agreed and highlighted the example of Warwickshire and West Mercia, which were collaborating to such an extent that they were effectively becoming a single force with separate Commissioners and Chief Constables. He underlined his belief that collaboration was a means of protecting neighbourhood policing and front line services;
- Members expressed concerns about other areas' reluctance to collaborate and highlighted that local authorities were now working collaboratively with other Councils on a regular basis. Such Councils did not feel that they had lost ownership or control of issues that they were collaborating on. Members highlighted that there were differing experiences around joint working between Councils and felt that Councils still had a long way to progress in this regard (for example around the issue of sharing Human Resources support). In response to concerns about the possible negative impact of collaboration, Members highlighted similar concerns (at the time when the Force was moving to a single Business Command Unit for three Divisions) which ultimately were not realised;
- the benefits of the Police sharing premises with Rushcliffe Borough Council in West Bridgford were highlighted, particularly in terms of the Police being more accessible to the public as a result. The Commissioner added that discussions were ongoing with local authorities and other agencies such as the Fire and Rescue Service about possible collaboration. He highlighted the issue of CCTV cameras which had been discussed at the last Panel meeting and the work underway with the City Council to establish shared premises (co-locating with relevant Council officers including Environmental Health officers);
- the Commissioner clarified that IT was separate to the existing procurement collaboration. The Procurement Team was based in Nottinghamshire and had been set some very challenging targets to achieve even greater economies of scale.

RESOLVED 2013/033

That the report be noted.

7. BASE BUDGET REVIEW

The Commissioner introduced the report, which highlighted the findings of the recent review by Deloitte. This had confirmed the Commissioner's opinion that the Force was on the right track in terms of budget management and it had identified potential opportunities to make further savings, including around the control room, neighbourhood policing and Human Resources. The Commissioner planned to work through the recommendations and thanked Councillor Gilfoyle for his input as the Panel's representative on the review. The Commissioner highlighted the difficulties in developing a model to accurately calculate the cost of Policing. The Force was developing a future operating model which needed to be flexible in order to meet the demands of the public and government and the Commissioner's priorities.

Members were heartened by the review's finding that the Force's Leadership had a good grip on the issue. Members recognised that some investment would be needed to achieve some of the savings and queried how far the appetite for change spread across the Force. The Commissioner acknowledged there was a cost to change and felt that, although the attitude towards change was mixed further down the organisation, the overall appetite within the Force was greater than a few years ago. Officers and staff were getting accustomed to working in a cycle of constant change and many of the specialist Police staff recruited in recent years were appointed as they had the skills to manage change.

RESOLVED 2013/034

That the report be noted.

8. ALCOHOL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Commissioner introduced the report which outlined the main points within the Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan launched on 25 October 2013. The Commissioner had worked with relevant partner agencies in developing these documents, including the various Councils. He planned to bring the various agencies back together in December for further discussions. In broad terms, the main premise of the Strategy was that a reduction in alcohol intake would reduce crime, bring families together and make people healthier.

During discussions, the following issues were raised:-

- Members welcomed these documents, particularly the links into other relevant areas such as health (including mental health) and domestic violence. They underlined that the Police alone could not address this issue and the need for collaborative working with partner agencies was recognised. The Commissioner highlighted licensing as one area requiring closer joint working and referred to Newcastle as an area that had taken a strong stance in having a presumption against granting any new licences and in controlling prices. With regard to mental health, the Commissioner stated that the Force now had access to a Community Mental Health Nurse to accompany Police patrols if

needed. He also underlined the potential knock-on effects for the Police of any issues with the Ambulance Service;

- in response to a Member query about progress with the proposed Night Time Levy, the Commissioner clarified that he had met with all Leaders and Chief Executives across Nottinghamshire and none had favoured pursuing the issue at that point. This was one of the reasons why the Commissioner had felt the need to produce this Strategy as an alternative approach. Members underlined that the City Council was still looking at consulting on this issue, which would be considered at the next meeting of its Licensing Committee. Newcastle City Council had been the first to introduce a Night Time Levy. Members supported the principle of organisations which created additional workload for public agencies having to contribute towards that. It was highlighted that Nottingham City Council had also recently started consulting on a proposed Citywide street drinking ban and aimed to build on its existing voluntary 'super strength' alcohol campaign via the development of its Licensing Strategy. Members recognised the comprehensive nature of the Strategy and Action Plan but underlined the need to focus on 3-4 key strands. The Commissioner welcomed the City Council's proposals and agreed with the need to focus on key strands. Members felt that there should ideally be, through legislation, a presumption against any street drinking anywhere, with potential exemptions only available for street parties and similar events;
- Members felt that a number of related issues needed to be addressed including under-age drinking, street drinking, supermarket prices, 24 hour licensing and litter and other alcohol-related debris in the streets. In response, the Commissioner underlined the need for Community Wardens to work more closely with the Police. He felt that with regard to licensing hours, some licensees felt compelled to operate longer hours if their competitors were following such opening times. The Chief Constable highlighted that the Night Time Economy now had an impact on the Force every night of the week (particularly Thursday-Sunday) whereas previously resources were concentrated on Friday and Saturday nights. He felt that the 24 hour licensing was meant to encourage café culture whereas it had in his opinion actually encouraged 'industrial drinking'. He had accompanied Community Protection Officers on patrols and had seen first-hand the zero-tolerance approach taken to alcohol related anti-social behaviour, including street drinking;
- Members felt that the street pastor initiatives had proven helpful in helping to prevent violence and disorder. The Chief Constable highlighted the Force's involvement in helping to introduce these schemes and the Commissioner stated that he had funded such schemes this year;
- Members suggested the Commissioner look at the mental health scrutiny work undertaken by Bassetlaw District Council;
- with regard to the need for more work by Local Authority Trading Standards teams around test purchases and enforcement tactics, Members felt that this needed to take an intelligence-led approach in order to target resources at hotspot areas, as had been the case in West Bridgford. The Commissioner

recognised the relatively safe drinking environment in that area and agreed that resources only needed to be put into areas as necessary.

RESOLVED 2013/035

That Panel Members' comments be noted.

9. ONLINE CHILD SAFETY

The Deputy Commissioner introduced the report and explained that schools, where they chose to do so, were addressing this issue as part of their personal health programmes. The Police were inputting into these where requested. The Deputy Commissioner suggested that consideration could be given to incorporating this issue within the current GREAT project which focussed on domestic violence. She shared Members' concerns that parents were often not up to date with the latest social media and technological developments, whereas children and child abuse perpetrators often were.

RESOLVED 2013/036

That the report be noted.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

It was agreed that a Budget Workshop should be arranged for Members ahead of the 3 February Panel meeting.

Members requested that the Domestic Violence update to the 16 December meeting include any analysis of the Clare's Law pilot in Nottinghamshire.

RESOLVED 2013/037

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.58 pm

CHAIRMAN
M_30Oct2013