

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2012 AT 10 AM AT COUNTY HALL, WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTINGHAM

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

Chairman - Councillor John Clarke – Gedling Borough Council

Vice-Chairman - Executive Mayor Tony Egginton – Mansfield District Council

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 Eddie Fearon – Rushcliffe Borough Council

Councillor Eric Kerry – Nottinghamshire County Council

Councillor John Knight – Ashfield District Council

Councillor Pat Lally – Broxtowe Borough Council - A

Councillor Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council

Councillor Alex Norris – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Tony Roberts MBE – Newark and Sherwood District Council

Christine Goldstraw – Independent Member (appointed via agenda item 4b)

Suma Harding – Independent Member (appointed via agenda item 4b)

OFFICERS PRESENT

Jayne Francis-Ward – Monitoring Officer) Nottinghamshire

Keith Ford – Senior Democratic Services Officer } County Council

Chris Holmes – Team Manager, Democratic Services) (Host Authority)

OTHERS PRESENT

Paddy Tipping – Police and Crime Commissioner

Kevin Dennis – Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2012

The minutes of the last meeting, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An Apology for absence was received from Councillor Pat Lally.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. MEMBERSHIP

(a) Update on Local Authority Membership

The Chairman reported that verbal confirmation of the Secretary of State's approval of the three Councillor co-options had been received by the Host Authority earlier that morning. Jayne Francis-Ward underlined that the Panel was now politically balanced.

RESOLVED 2012/009

That the current position on Councillor co-options to the Panel, as reported to the meeting, be noted.

(b) Independent Co-optees – recruitment process

The Chairman fed back from the interviews held by the independent member appointment sub-group, underlining the difficult task faced by the sub-group in light of the high calibre of the applicants.

RESOLVED 2012/010

That Christine Goldstraw (Probation Trust Board) and Suma Harding (Magistrate) be appointed as independent members on the Panel for an initial temporary term of six months.

5. INTRODUCTION TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Chairman welcomed Paddy Tipping, the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner, to the meeting.

The Commissioner outlined his priorities and initial proposals for achieving these and highlighted the following main points:-

- as part of his work he would need to hold ongoing discussions with various different groups, one of which was the Panel. He was keen to work closely with the Panel, as well as making individual contact with the Chief Executives and Leaders of each of the Councils involved;
- he highlighted the improvements and differences which Chris Eyre, the Chief Constable had already made and sought the Panel's permission for Mr Eyre to accompany him to future Panel meetings, in order to provide further detailed information when needed. The Commissioner underlined that the Panel's role was to scrutinise the Commissioner rather than the Chief Constable;
- the Police and Crime Plan, which was due to be submitted to the Panel meeting on 15 January 2013, was in draft form at the moment and it was hoped that the final draft could be completed before Christmas. The Plan built

on some of the work of the Police Authority and the pledges which the Commissioner had made in his election campaign;

- the Chancellor's Autumn Statement was due on 5 December 2012 but the provisional grant settlement would not be known until 19 December 2012. The Commissioner underlined the work which the Police Authority had done around the Medium Term Financial Plan and thanked Councillor Jon Collins for his work on this as Chair of the Authority;
- the Commissioner would be meeting the Home Secretary later that day to discuss issues around the fairness of funding, particularly the floors, ceilings and damping mechanism which had significant impacts upon Nottinghamshire. The funding gap in the current financial year was £11m, which could stretch to £13.5m next year;
- he had asked the Chief Constable to prepare an options paper on the mounted section before the end of the current financial year. This would include the cost of reintroduction of this section, the operational value, opportunities for sponsorship and the potential for sharing such a resource with other Forces. The Commissioner underlined that he had made no promises on this issue;
- the Commissioner hoped to be able to talk further in the New Year about the possibility of recruiting new officers to the Force;
- with regard to domestic violence, he underlined his proposal to appoint Chris Cutland to the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner to lead on this and other issues, including safeguarding and consultation and engagement. He stated that this post would be for the equivalent of three days a week and that he was confident that the work was achievable on that basis. He emphasised his commitment to reflect the Force's budget reductions by also making reductions in the costs of his own Office (compared to the previous costs of the Police Authority);
- the Commissioner aimed to address the feeling of alienation between Black and Asian communities and the Police, particularly young Black Afro-Caribbean people. He would shortly be announcing a contract open to people from Black and Ethnic Minority communities to produce a report, to include the following key issues:-
 - how the Police talk to Black and Minority Ethnic communities;
 - the under-representation of Black and Minority Ethnic communities (particularly people from an African / Afro-Caribbean background) within the Force. He aimed to build on the work started by Councillor Collins, as Chair of the Police Authority, on this issue;
 - the disproportionality of stop and search activity for Afro-Caribbean and Asian youngsters compared to their white counterparts. He underlined

that the amount of stop and search activity undertaken in Nottinghamshire was relatively low compared to other Forces;

- the establishment of a scrutiny panel to look at the wider issue of relationships between Black and Asian young people and the Police.

During discussions, Members raised the following issues:-

- Members generally welcomed the Commissioner's proposals, with particular reference made to the issue of under-representation of black and minority ethnic people within the Force;
- with regard to the public having raised queries about the decision to appoint a Deputy and how this would be funded, the Commissioner underlined that he had made this proposed appointment very clear within his election campaign and the related hustings events. He added that he aimed to save approximately £100,000 on the Police Authority's operating costs. He also planned to move his Office out of County Hall to make savings on accommodation and telephone costs;
- with regard to the planned discussions with the Home Secretary about funding issues, the Commissioner would be querying the possibility that the Metropolitan Police Force was taken out of the equation when it came to funding calculations, in light of the exceptional circumstances involved in policing London. He emphasised that both Councillor John Clarke and Councillor Jon Collins had invested a great deal of time in trying to progress this issue during their time as Chair of the Police Authority. The Commissioner also planned to discuss this issue with the new Chief Inspector of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC);
- Members highlighted the difficulty which the public may face in understanding the role of the Police and Crime Panel and underlined the need for the Panel to add value by focusing on strategic issues, rather than finer operational details, and by being both constructive and critical;
- Members underlined the need for the Commissioner to build up relationships with the local media, particularly in light of the recent change in ownership of The Nottingham Post. The Commissioner recognised the mutual benefits which he and the local media could gain from each other in terms of reporting activity and highlighted his previous working relationship with the local radio station in Mansfield and the local press (including The Chad in Mansfield and The Hucknall and Bulwell Dispatch). He highlighted the readership figures for The Nottingham Post in comparison to the population of Nottinghamshire as a whole and the need to use all available forms of media, including new social media;
- Members underlined the potential for language and terminology used around issues of under-representation and disproportionality to add to the disengagement and alienation which people could feel – for example, terms such as Black British children were more inclusive and engaging than 'Black

and Ethnic Minority children'. The Commissioner agreed with this point and stated that he would welcome any help and input into the difficult and sensitive areas around language;

- Members highlighted the need for the Commissioner to work with Commissioners from neighbouring Force areas in order to effectively address cross-boundary crime. The Commissioner recognised this need and reported that he had recently met with the Commissioners from Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire;
- Members supported the Commissioner's request for the Chief Constable to attend Panel meetings as part of his wider support team at these meetings.

RESOLVED 2012/011

That the issues raised by the Commissioner and Members be noted.

6. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Jayne Francis-Ward introduced the report, underlining the need for informal resolution of any complaints that did not require referral to the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

RESOLVED 2012/012

- 1) **That the draft complaints procedure be adopted.**
- 2) **That the complaints procedure be reviewed after its first six months of operating.**

7. WORK PROGRAMME

Jayne Francis- Ward introduced the report on the work programme, highlighting that at this stage the contents were centred largely around the Panel's statutory responsibilities.

During discussions, Members raised the following issues:-

- the need for regular reports on Police performance to each meeting in order to ensure proper accountability was raised. Members recognised that the level of detail involved in such reports would need to be different to those reports previously submitted to the Police Authority, in light of the Panel's different focus (scrutinising performance against the Police and Crime Plan). Members felt that any such reports needed to be short and focussed, with reporting by exception rather than across all Key Performance Indicators. Members also highlighted that the wider performance data was available to Councillors through other routes. The Commissioner suggested that an overview of performance could be covered as part of his standard report to the Panel on his wider activity;

- a mechanism for tracking actions arising out of Panel meetings was requested.

RESOLVED 2012/013

- 1) That the work programme be noted.
- 2) That a Panel meeting be arranged for mid-April, ahead of the Annual Meeting in June 2013.
- 3) That the issues raised during Members' discussions (performance reporting and action tracking) be progressed.
- 4) That discussions take place with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to develop the work programme further.

The meeting closed at 10.47 am.

CHAIRMAN
M_3 Dec2012