

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2017 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 **A**
Rizwan Araf – Independent Member
Councillor Cheryl Butler – Ashfield District Council **A**
Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council
Councillor Keith Girling – Newark and Sherwood District Council
Councillor Kevin Greaves – Bassetlaw District Council **A**
Suma Harding – Independent Member
Councillor Tony Harper – Broxtowe Borough Council
Councillor Toby Neal – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan – Nottinghamshire County Council
Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member
Councillor Linda Woodings – Nottingham City Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Paddy Tipping - Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Rachel Barber – Deputy Chief Constable
Kevin Dennis - Chief Executive, Office of the PCC (OPCC)
Charlotte Radford - Chief Finance Officer, OPCC)

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September, 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 was received from Councillor Cheryl Butler and Councillor Kevin Greaves.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

Keith Ford introduced the report and drew the Panel's attention to the new item listed for the February meeting entitled 'Assets and Strategy.' The Commissioner confirmed a report on the subject would be brought to the meeting, though it would be an update on progress rather than a final position.

The Chair fed back to the Panel details of the 6th National Conference for Chairs, Members and Support Officers of Police and Crime Panels held on the 6th November at Warwick Conference Centre and attended by the Chair and Pete Barker. The Chair informed the Panel that the bulk of the morning was taken up with an interesting plenary session that included discussion on the amount of police time spent dealing with people with mental health issues and whether the police were the right body to deal with these issues considering that the people involved were ill rather than criminals. Each delegate attended one workshop in the afternoon and the Chair shared her experience of attending the workshop on Performance Monitoring of Police and Crime Plans where Wiltshire usefully explained their approach. The Chair also shared with the Panel the fact that the Chair of the Wiltshire PCP met annually with a representative of the HMIC on an informal basis and said that she would reflect on the possibility of holding a similar meeting herself.

Keith spoke about the Regional Collaboration Workshop due to take place the following day. Councillor Ellis is no longer able to attend. A representative from the Northamptonshire OPPC would be attending but Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire would not be represented. Paddy Tipping will be the only Commissioner attending and delegates have been made aware that Paddy will not be there to answer questions on behalf of all of the other Commissioners. Keith informed the Panel that Jonathan Scanlan from the Home Office was no longer able to attend but that he remained very interested in the concept. The Panel praised the Commissioner for agreeing to attend the Workshop and stated it was indicative of the positive way in which he worked with the Panel and the good relationship that existed between himself and the Panel. The Panel expressed its disappointment that other Commissioners were not following Paddy's lead and Keith confirmed that he had made similar points at both a regional and national level. The Vice Chair echoed the positive comments previously made and informed the Panel that in discussions with members from other Panels she knew that they did not all have the quality of relationship with their Commissioner that this Panel enjoyed.

Keith confirmed the dates and times of the two upcoming budget workshops:

- **Friday 26th January – 10am-12 noon – with the PCC**
- **Friday 2nd February – 10am-12 noon – with the Notts County Council S151 Officer**

RESOLVED 2017/027

That the work programme be noted.

5. PCC PERFORMANCE UPDATE REPORT – TO SEPTEMBER 2017

The Commissioner introduced the report and confirmed that he had written to all of the elected members on the Panel in mid-October explaining that because of the change in the practices around recording crime, the rate of crime had increased, though the British Crime Survey showed that crime continued to reduce. The Commissioner undertook to forward the information to the Independent members of the Panel. In terms of mental health, the Commissioner explained that although two people had been detained in the past year this was because on both occasions the people were so violent that it would not have been appropriate for them to have been treated by the NHS. The Commissioner informed the Panel that no young people had been detained in these circumstances for over two years. He also explained that at times accompanying officers had lengthy waits at A&E and that discussions were ongoing to try and resolve this issue. In terms of recruitment the Commissioner informed the Panel that the aim was to recruit 200 more officers this financial year and to recruit 158 next financial year with the aim of increasing BME representation to better reflect the 11% from BME communities in the wider population. The Commissioner also informed the Panel that approximately 10% of the Force identified as LGBT which he felt was remarkable considering the past. The Commissioner spoke about the incidence of hate crime and how there are spikes following national and international events but that levels fall back to lower levels afterwards. The Commissioner referred the Panel to the report by Mazars, attached as an appendix to the main report, which contained the details of the internal audit undertaken following March's HMIC report. The Commissioner was confident that progress was being made and the indication is that the HMIC is positive about the steps being taken.

During discussions, Members raised the following issues:-

- Councillor Woodings pointed out that the figures in paragraph 5.7 on page 22 were incorrect. The -3.8% figure should refer to the risk of personal crime not the risk of household crime, where the correct figure was -1.4% Councillor Woodings asked if a basket of figures could be provided in future rather than just isolated figures. Councillor Woodings also referred to the ratings of the following measures, all of which had declined:
 - Police can be relied on when needed
 - Police would treat you fairly
 - Police understand public concerns
 - Overall confidence in local police
 - Rating of local police
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The Commissioner replied that approximately 600 people are interviewed for the survey and agreed to look into how things could be improved, though the government had withdrawn funding in this area.

- Councillor Woodings also asked whether, given the spikes in hate crime, the policy of zero tolerance was still in place.

The Commissioner confirmed that hate crime is taken very seriously by the Force and gave the examples of two attacks on mosques where the perpetrators were arrested and taken to court.

- Councillor Woodings asked the Commissioner about misogyny and whether there were figures available for offences committed.

The Commissioner confirmed that figures were available and undertook to write to Councillor Woodings. The number of offences is increasing from a low base but women have told the Commissioner that they feel the issue is being taken seriously which is increasing the confidence people have in the Police.

- The Panel spoke about the recording of crime and asked the Commissioner whether the high compliance rates of the Force compared to others had the effect of making Nottinghamshire's crime problem appear worse.

In response, the Commissioner confirmed that at 96% compliance the Notts Force was one of the highest, if not the highest, in the country but agreed that the cost of this is reflected in higher crime figures.

- Members questioned the Commissioner about the response rates to '101' calls, mentioning the FOI request from the MP, Gloria Del Piero, which found that 36,000 calls had gone unanswered and asked the Commissioner about the timeline for when improvements to the service will come into effect. The Panel also asked about the high rate of calls received compared with other Forces and what happened to these 'dropped' calls, querying whether people re-dialled using '999' instead, resulting in a lessening of confidence in the system.

The Commissioner replied that while 60% of calls are answered on time this was not good enough. Some callers did re-dial using '999' but most people rang back, thus increasing the number of calls. He confirmed that there are more operatives in the control room than has been budgeted for and there is some good work going on to improve the situation. The Commissioner hoped that in two years' time he would be able to bring forward plans for a new control room, possibly one shared with other bodies. The ambulance service and the Police force in Notts both received one of the highest number of '999' calls but no-one knew why. The Commissioner informed the Panel of the work being undertaken nationally about control room demand and figures showed that only 20% of calls related to real crimes, a statistic that came as a surprise to everyone.

DCC Barber spoke of the importance of shifting demand and the crucial role local policing plays in taking the pressure off of the control room. Improvements will take time and there is recognition that things are not right but resources and demand are both issues and a report will be brought to a future meeting of the Panel.

- The Panel asked the Commissioner about the actual number of applicants from the BME community that had been appointed following the recent campaign.

In response the Commissioner replied that existing staff are coached and mentored and that some work was being carried out nationally to find out where in the process people were dropping out. The Commissioner confirmed he would come back to Suma Harding with the exact figure for the numbers recently recruited from the BME community, though the exact figures would not be available until year end.

- Members raised the subject of modern slavery, noting the work being carried out by Nottingham Trent University and asking the Commissioner whether it would be possible for the report authors to give a presentation at a future meeting of the Panel.

The Commissioner told the Panel about a recent, successful operation involving a car wash but admitted that the scale of the modern slavery problem was not understood, though dedicated staff do work in the area. In terms of a presentation the Commissioner felt that John Robinson, the Chief Executive of Gedling BC, who leads the partnership working in this area, might be a better choice.

- The Panel asked the Commissioner how many of the 1,840 officers employed in the Notts Force were actually deployable in the County given the Force's commitments to such bodies as EMSOU, CoP and the National Crime Agency.

The Commissioner replied that the number of officers employed has increased slightly since the time of writing and also that the figure does not include officers from other Forces who come into the County to provide assistance when required, for example through EMSOU and EMOpSS. The Commissioner agreed to include details of the availability of police officer resource in a future update report. DCC Barber spoke of the national shortage of detectives adding that it would be April/May before the impact of the latest recruitment round would be felt and that early in the new year Andrea Baxter and Ian Roberts would be taking up their posts as superintendents, the latter becoming the highest ranked officer in the Force from the BME community. DCC Barber informed the Panel about the support and mentoring work being undertaken with officers from the BME community, including the fast track process where officers achieve the rank of inspector in two years, with two officers due to take up posts at this level at Christmas. DCC Barber spoke of the positive feedback received from BME officers and the importance of making the most of the talent available in the Force.

- The Vice Chair referred to E-Cins, which had now been implemented, and asked when the results of the audit would be available.

Kevin Dennis, the Chief Executive of the OPCC, replied that the commissioned evaluation is being finalised and that the results would be shared with Panel members once complete.

- The Panel brought up the subject of a new control room and queried whether a new one already existed.

The Commissioner confirmed a new one had been built using a PFI contract, that it would probably be available at a bargain price as the government were keen to move it on and that he had tried to persuade the Lincolnshire and Leicestershire Forces to share the use of the building, though not as a control room. Councillor Harper stated that it would be highly unlikely that Derbyshire would be interested in collaborating on this particular project as their own control room was only built 5 years ago.

- The Panel asked about the £1.7m figure associated with the replacement of the Bridewell and asked whether it would be possible for Panel members to receive a briefing on the new building as well as visit the existing Bridewell.

The Commissioner replied that the £1.7m related to fees for the replacement Bridewell. He stated that when it was originally built the Bridewell was state of the art but that now it could not cater for today's requirements. Members who were interested in the proposed briefing and wished to attend a tour of the Bridewell were asked to contact Keith Ford.

- Members noted that the local media contained details of another HMIC inspection and wondered, given the regularity of such reports, whether there should be a standing item on the subject on all future meeting agendas. The Panel also asked the Commissioner about the inspection regime regarding not only the Police but the Fire and Rescue service as well.

The Commissioner replied that in principle a standing item could be included but that the inspection regime was due to change. He informed the Panel that he would bring a report to the meeting in February detailing the latest position.

RESOLVED 2017/028

That the contents of the report be noted.

7. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN (2016-18) – THEME 7 – SPENDING YOUR MONEY WISELY

The Commissioner introduced the report and confirmed that the title of the report on the agenda was incorrect, Theme 7 is about spending money wisely and not reducing the threat from organised crime. The Commissioner spoke of the flat cash settlement which meant a funding cut in real terms with police numbers at their lowest for 40 years and a further reduction of 6,000 officers nationwide to come. He informed the Panel of the constructive discussions that had taken place with the Home Office with the possibility that greater flexibility would be given to Commissioners around the level of precept, with the final decision to be announced in a fortnight. The Police Minister will look at the funding formula following the announcement of the settlement. The Commissioner stated that everyone knew that the formula was broken but politically it could be a challenge as any reform would create winners and losers. The Commissioner also spoke of the increasing difficulty in achieving further cost savings.

During discussions, the following issues were raised:-

- Members highlighted how other MPs joined forces to lobby for funding in a way that did not happen in this local area and as a result we were losing out on funding. The Commissioner agreed that the Force was underfunded to the sum of £10.6m as a result of the funding formula but assured the Panel that much lobbying was going on though it was difficult to judge how much of that lobbying should be carried out in public.
- Members referred to the recent comment by the Home Secretary regarding Forces requesting extra funding while holding substantial cash reserves and asked the Commissioner whether there were actually Forces who had significant

funds that they should be using. The Commissioner replied that as of 31st March 2017 total reserves nationally added up to £1.6bn against a Police budget of £10bn and that reserves continue to decrease with the expectation that reserves will be at 50% of their current levels by 2020.

- Members asked the Commissioner for an update on the work streams that would be taken forward despite the decision not to progress with the full proposals of the Tri Force Collaboration. The Commissioner replied that a workshop on the subject was being held the following day where long established arrangements around back office facilities, forensics and EMOpSS, among others, would be discussed. The Commissioner informed the Panel that collaborative work continued with a variety of forces including Northants, Cheshire, and Lincolnshire and that he was due to meet Derbyshire in an effort to encourage a collaborative approach with them. The Commissioner felt that there was scope to do more but that momentum had been lost following the better than expected settlement when a 40% budget cut had been anticipated. The Commissioner spoke of the work undertaken by the Police Reform and Transformation Board explaining that he thought its budget of £175m was too low and the number of its grass roots projects, at 100, too high.
- Members asked the Commissioner about the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire devolution deal and the joint metro strategy. The Commissioner replied that this was a topic for local authorities and not high on the police agenda at present. The Commissioner thought that the period of austerity would continue until 2032 at least and that there would have to be a debate about the configuration of public services. The Commissioner thought there would be many difficult issues to resolve and though he would be delighted to be involved felt that the decisions would be made at a higher level than his own.

RESOLVED 2017/029

That the contents of the report be noted.

8. POLICING PLANNED EVENTS – AN UPDATE

The Commissioner introduced the report and reminded the Panel that it had requested a report on the subject. He confirmed that every remembrance parade went ahead as planned, many of which were attended by officers, PCSOs and cadets, some of whom laid wreaths.

During discussions, the following issues were raised:-

- Whilst appreciating that Remembrance Sunday was a stress point, Members asked whether the guidelines applied to all planned events. The Commissioner and the Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that the guidance applied to all such events with the Commissioner referring to the particular problems being encountered at football and other sports grounds, especially regarding costs. The Deputy Chief Constable stated that it was now clear what the Police can and cannot do, whereas in the past it was possible that powers were exercised which were not the Police's. The Deputy Chief Constable added that community events remained an issue where the representatives from the Force would try to attend as part of the community but would not provide support

such as marshalling. The Commissioner agreed to give some further thought as to which bodies were notified of the Force's approach to planned events.

- Members made a wider point about the importance of keeping Police work in the public eye and of keeping victims informed of progress made. The Commissioner agreed to send Councillor Girling a copy of the film footage showing motorbikes being crushed so this could be shared at a Safer Neighbourhood meeting. The Commissioner also agreed to share the contact details of the police operational team with Panel members.

RESOLVED 2017/030

That the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 3.27pm

CHAIRMAN