

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 AT 2.00 PM AT COUNTY HALL**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

(A denotes absent)

Chairman - Christine Goldstraw OBE – Independent Member -A  
Vice-Chairman Councillor Debbie Mason – Rushcliffe Borough Council

Executive Mayor Kate Allsop – Mansfield District Council  
Rizwan Araf – Independent Member  
Councillor Cheryl Butler – Ashfield District Council  
Councillor Azad Choudhry – Nottingham City Council -A  
Councillor Michael Edwards – Nottingham City Council  
Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council  
Councillor Keith Girling – Newark and Sherwood District Council -A  
Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle, Nottinghamshire County Council  
Councillor John Handley - Nottinghamshire County Council -A  
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  
Councillor Maddy Richardson –Bassetlaw District Council, substitute for Councillor Dave Challinor  
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)  
Sallie Blair - Office of PCC (OPCC)  
Sue Fish – Acting Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire Police  
Mark Holland – Chief Superintendent, Nottinghamshire Police  
Charlotte Radford – Acting Chief Executive, OPCC

## **1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 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 Christine Goldstraw, Councillor Dave Challinor, Councillor Azad Choudhry, Councillor Keith Girling and Councillor John Handley.

In the absence of the Chairman the meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Debbie Mason.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

## **4. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF CONSTABLE**

The Vice Chairman introduced the report and thanked Panel members for their professionalism and questioning as part of the selection process and confirmed that much had been learned about Mr Guildford as a result and that she looked forward to working with him.

The Commissioner thanked Sue Fish for her hard work and reminded the Panel that Sue had originally planned to retire but agreed to stay on after Chris Eyre had announced his retirement. The Commissioner thanked Sue for delaying her retirement and explained that he was anxious that he did not want to lose two senior officers at the same time and that Sue could be proud of what she had achieved before now planning to retire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. The Commissioner informed the Panel that Craig Guilford would take up the post of Nottinghamshire's Chief Constable from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 and confirmed to the Panel that Mr Guildford's starting date had not been brought forward as stated elsewhere and that Mr Guildford had already stated some preparatory work, would be moving to Nottinghamshire in the near future and planned to meet partners in mid-January. The Commissioner informed the Panel that Mr Guildford wanted a say in the setting of the Force's budget and was currently putting together a plan for the first 100 days in office.

The Panel also thanked Sue and commended her on the good work undertaken at the 'Reclaim the Night' march. The Vice-Chairman wished Sue Fish good luck in the future and thanked her for her openness and the help she had given to the Panel which had allowed it to do its job.

Keith Ford informed the Panel that the report confirming the Panel's decision regarding the appointment of Mr Guildford was now on the County Council's website and that the minutes from the Confirmation Hearing would be circulated with the papers for the next meeting of the Panel due to take place on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

**RESOLVED 2016/033**

**That the outcomes of the Confirmation Hearing process be noted.**

**5. WORK PROGRAMME**

Keith Ford introduced the report and drew the Panel's attention to the details of the informal workshops contained in the appendix to the report. Keith updated the Panel on complaints received and informed the Panel that the latest complaints received had been passed to the IPCC though explained that he did not think any outcomes would be available for the next meeting of the Panel on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

**RESOLVED 2016/034**

**That the contents of the report be noted.**

**6. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER UPDATE**

The Commissioner introduced the report and spoke to the Panel about some of the highlights of the report. The Commissioner referred to the slight decrease in satisfaction with the Police and spoke of the difficult choices the Police had to make, expressing his concern at the high levels of dissatisfaction regarding car-related crime. The Commissioner spoke of the number of those from the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community represented in the Force. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he hoped the Force would be in a position in the New Year to recruit more officers and told the Panel that he was keen to ensure that the Force better represented the community that it served, though the Notts Force did have a reputation for taking positive measures in this area. The Commissioner also informed the Panel that he had written to the Home Office regarding the changes to the way in which crime is recorded and informed the Panel that he regarded the changes as counter-productive.

The Commissioner spoke about early guilty pleas and the process of digitisation in courts. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he was involved in the latter project but though the CPS and the courts had received funding the Police had been allocated no extra funds and that the problem from the Police's perspective was made more difficult by the fact that there were 43 different Forces whereas the CPS and the courts were effectively one body. The Commissioner confirmed to the Panel that he wanted to be involved with the project as he regarded it as a real opportunity but that the cost of involvement of approximately £70m meant that a debate was required regarding the budgetary implications.

The Commissioner referred the Panel to the section of his report regarding rural crime and informed the Panel that he had given Chris Eyre and subsequently Sue Fish a hard time in this area as he was given a hard time himself. The Commissioner shared with the Panel that he was aware of the strong views that existed about maintaining a visible Force in rural areas, but that officers needed to be deployed in areas where risk and harm were at their highest and this tended to be in urban areas where the most disadvantaged resided.

The Commissioner spoke about the budget and the fact that the Panel had expressed some strong views on the subject in the past. The Commissioner informed the Panel that in the current financial year he was expecting the Force to come in under budget by approximately £1/2m. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the recent Home

Office announcement meant that effectively nothing had changed since the 2015 Autumn statement with budgets only being allocated annually making planning problematical and though budgets remained the same in cash terms, even with by increasing the precept to its maximum the effects of inflation meant that this amounted to a cut in real terms which would present its own challenges. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he anticipated having to make savings of £5m next financial year which though challenging, would be more manageable than in previous years where savings of £12m had been required.

Commissioner reminded the Panel about the sources of the Force's funding with 70% of the total coming from government grant and 30% raised locally which meant the Force was in the top range nationally for receiving a grant and meant that any reduction on the grant affected Notts disproportionately. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the debate on the new funding formula was progressing that it might be possible to consult on the proposals in March 2017 with the intention of introducing the new system from 1 April 2018.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that he had been involved in the discussions and told the Panel that although the situation would not be perfect in 2018 it would be an improvement on the current situation which disadvantages Notts by the sum of £10 1/2m annually. The Commissioner told the Panel that nationally, overall funding would remain the same so there would be winners and losers with the introduction of the new formula and that a transitional phase would be needed. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the intention was to introduce the new formula in the next two years but expressed his doubts that this could be achieved. The Commissioner confirmed he would keep the Panel informed of progress and that when the proposals were out for consultation the Panel would be able to submit its comments along with other partner organisations.

Chief Superintendent Holland then addressed the meeting and spoke of the changes in the recording of crime statistics. Chief Superintendent Holland explained to the Panel that although the rules themselves had not changed since 2002, the HMIC had requested that Forces more strictly adhered to those rules with the effect that whereas in the past common sense had been applied now the use of discretion had been removed altogether. Chief Superintendent Holland explained that the Force had revisited their own statistics in the light of the new guidance and found that from April 2016 2,200 incidents could be reclassified as crimes but that only 26 of these warranted further investigation and that as a result only 1 person was charged, indicating that the common sense approach previously adopted by the Force was correct. Chief Superintendent Holland spoke in more detail of the problems now faced and gave the examples to the Panel of where shouting/fighting had been reported but that by the time the officers arrived on the scene there were no perpetrators or victims present but the incident still needed to be recorded and also the problems created by those with mental health problems who would report serious crimes they had only imagined and which the Force was now obliged to record with the impossibility of such 'crimes' ever being solved. Chief Superintendent Holland informed the Panel that under the new guidance the Force was aiming to achieve 90% compliance to put the Force in the top 3 or 4 nationally and that this would probably result in approximately an 8% increase in recorded crime.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel raised its concerns about the problem of ensuring local resources were now correctly targeted in the light of the new recording practices and whether a new baseline was required and queried when this would need to

start. Chief Superintendent Holland replied that the reviews of incidents included the recording of such incidents in the month they had occurred, there had been no front loading in the recording process and that from 1 April 2017 the new baseline would be established. Chief Superintendent Holland informed the Panel that more detailed information was available if required.

- The Panel asked the Commissioner about the Proceeds of Crime and queried why the Force was being measured against a target over which it appeared to have very little control. The Commissioner replied that the Panel was correct in thinking that POCA orders were a matter for the courts but that conceptually it made sense to take money from convicted criminals if possible and that the figures could be used to compare Forces, though the information was rudimentary. Detective Superintendent Holland spoke to the Panel from an operational perspective and informed the Panel that all officers were trained in POCA orders which could be imposed over a wide range of crimes from shoplifting to major drug offences and though some case could take years to get to court the proceeds could be as much as £1m. The Panel asked whether it was possible to be provided with more meaningful information regarding the work in this area and the Commissioner replied that though the Force was keen to continue in the use of the orders and maximise the proceeds obtained, it was not possible to provide the Panel with more meaningful information.
- The Panel asked what action had been taken retrospectively following the reclassification of some incidents to crimes, given that many of those crimes appeared to be of a serious nature. The Chief Constable replied that the Force had investigated the most serious crimes first but after having examined all of the crimes it had only been necessary to charge one person. The Chief Constable explained that there were a variety of reasons behind why some people mistakenly thought that incidents had taken place.
- The Panel referred to the recent stakeholder event where mention was made of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) use of the unfamiliar 'Seriousness Indicator' in relation to crimes committed. The Commissioner informed the Panel that there was increasing debate regarding the 'Cambridge Harm Factor' in academic circles which uses this term. The Commissioner offered to supply Panel members with the relevant slides from the stakeholder event if this would aid understanding.
- The Panel asked about the net position regarding officers and PCSOs, why PCSOs were leaving and did the Force rely on officers to inform them when they wished to leave. The Commissioner explained that the position was monitored closely with the most recent figures becoming available tomorrow and that in 4 years the Force had lost 100 officers bringing the present total to 1922. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the Force was losing officers at a faster rate than anticipated and while it was relatively easy to predict when officers intended to retire, as most retired as soon as they were eligible, there was a new phenomenon where officers left the Force after only a few years' service. The Commissioner told the Panel that there were now 190 PCSOs employed as opposed to 268 when he was first in post and that the aim was to recruit until the figure was up to 200 with PCSOs leaving for a variety of reasons including some joining other Forces as officers.

- The Panel referred to the BME representation within the Force and asked the Commissioner about the male/female ratio. The Commissioner replied that he would need to check the figures to be absolutely sure but thought that the split was approximately 60/40, male to female. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the Force was aiming to increase relevant representation for both officers and staff and that positive action had been taken to recruit to all posts not just the officer posts.
- The Panel spoke about procurement and asked the Commissioner how he ensured the Force was obtaining value for money especially bearing in mind the large sums involved in some of the contracts referred to in Appendix B of the report. The Commissioner replied that he thought this was a problem that needed addressing at a national level and informed the Panel that he thought it should be possible to make savings of £300m by improving procurement and standardising the equipment used by Forces across the country. The Commissioner informed the Panel that timing could be an issue with the expiration dates of contracts differing but spoke of the need for Forces to work together.

Chief Superintendent Holland left the meeting at this point (2.59pm)

- The Panel questioned the Commissioner about the red rated, worsening figures for both the reduction in the number of repeat victims of domestic violence and the increase in the positive outcome rate for victim based crime, details of which were included in Table 4.7 of the report, and asked the Commissioner about the future trends in these areas. The Commissioner replied that he would provide the information in writing, including the details of trends in graph form, and confirmed to the Vice Chair that he would send this information to all Panel members.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner about his initial thoughts regarding the criticisms made by the HMIC regarding the time it took to appoint a new Chief Constable. The Panel expressed its disappointment given that the rationale had been explained beforehand and that the HMIC report did contain a number of inaccuracies. The Commissioner explained that he had taken part in a lively discussion with the HMIC the previous Wednesday where he had emphasised three points in particular, firstly that their report had been factually incorrect regarding the start date for the new Chief Constable, secondly that the appointment was one for himself and not the Force and lastly, that though the report rates the Notts Force as 'good' this was not reflected in the relevant press release. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he expected a response from the HMIC.
- Councillor Edwards spoke of his feeling that circumstances were changing for the worse with some incidents not being reported, the effects of poverty and insecure work on the crime statistics and how things compared badly to the situation 10 – 15 years ago where the majority of children were in mainstream schools and those excluded could be helped and asked the Commissioner how he intended to address the issues. The Commissioner spoke of the Vision 2025 document that emphasised partners working together and informed the Panel that although there was much in the document that was beyond his

remit he felt that if partners were to work closer together then performance would be improved, and shared with the Panel that whereas he thought the Force's relationships with local authorities were good the links were weak with a fragmented NHS. The Commissioner spoke of the difficulties encountered when large organisations, including the Notts Healthcare Trust and EMAS, were commissioned for work by smaller organisations with no relevant expertise and that he thought that the devolution debate would re-emerge. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he thought that with Mr Guildford in post a renewed emphasis on the police working with schools and the Commissioner agreed with Councillor Edwards that schools were different now with a narrower focus and that he thought that although there were some good alternative education providers in existence the education system would continue to fragment.

At this point in the meeting Councillor Harper handed a petition to the Vice Chair, who passed it to the Commissioner, regarding the problem of bike thefts in the Beeston area. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he was aware of the issue and confirmed that he would respond to the petitioners regarding their concerns.

#### **RESOLVED 2016/035**

**That the contents of the report be noted.**

#### **7. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – THEME 6 – PREVENTION, EARLY INTERVENTION AND REDUCTION IN REOFFENDING – MONITORING REPORT**

The Commissioner introduced the report and informed the Panel that Notts was taking part in a national scheme regarding the use of GPS tags but that he was unable at this stage to provide any more information publicly. The Commissioner spoke to the Panel about knife crime and told the Panel that the summit on 14<sup>th</sup> December had not taken place but that Nottingham was in a similar situation to most major cities in the UK. The Commissioner informed the Panel of the very successful triage scheme which meant that very few people with mental health problems were detained in a cell and he informed the Panel that the scheme would continue with funding from his office and the NHS. The Commissioner updated the Panel about the various community safety hubs in the county and informed the Panel that the Mansfield hub was running successfully, 2 more hubs would shortly be opening in Ashfield, the hub in West Bridgford was exceptional and that 2 further hubs were due to open in Gedling in May 2017. The Commissioner informed the Panel that bids could be made until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to the Community Safety Fund, where £250k was available to small voluntary organisations involved in preventing and reducing crime.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel expressed its disappointment at the withdrawal of funding from the use of GPS tags given the effectiveness of their use and the Commissioner reiterated that for the last 12 months Nottinghamshire had been part of a pilot

scheme but that the Ministry of Justice was reluctant to say anything in public. Sue Fish explained that the project was an exciting opportunity and confirmed that those involved had been advised not to go into detail in public.

- The Panel acknowledged the good work that had been undertaken regarding knife crime but asked the Commissioner why the measure was rated as green when the incidence of knife crime was increasing. The Commissioner explained that clearly more work needed to be done in the area but that Nottinghamshire was the only Force in the country with its own dedicated knife crime team and that the stop and search figures suggested that the Force was targeting the right people. Sue Fish agreed with the Commissioner about the meaning of the stop and search figures and explained to the Panel that this was not a problem that the Force could arrest its way out of. The Panel asked whether there was a problem with the sale of knives and stated that it had been a long time since NCC's Trading Standards had run a campaign. The Commissioner replied that test purchases had taken place but wondered if more 'advertising' was needed and confirmed to the Panel that he thought a further conversation was needed. The Panel asked whether more work needed to be carried out in schools as research had shown that knife victims felt that it was important for them to carry a knife when the reality was that this made it more likely that a person would become a victim of knife crime. Sue Fish confirmed to the Panel that good progress had been made in schools, including with children of primary school age, but that the fragmentation of the education system did pose a serious challenge. The Panel asked about the 60% success rate regarding stop and search for knives and Sue Fish reiterated that these figures proved that the Force was targeting the right people and the Commissioner confirmed that despite having the lowest stop and search rates in the country the Force's success rate was double that of any other force. The Panel asked the Commissioner about the Anti-Violence summit that had originally been scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> December and the Commissioner confirmed that although it had been postponed twice useful discussions were ongoing with many partners, including the NHS, and the Commissioner informed the Panel that he hoped the summit could be rearranged in the New Year.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner about cyber-crime stating that it seemed to be a growing problem but that the Force did not appear to have a dedicated resource to tackle the problem and asked the Commissioner if this situation was likely to change following the appointment of the new Chief Constable. The Commissioner replied that he thought it would and explained to the Panel that though it was possible to locate the victim it was difficult to locate the perpetrator, who could be based almost anywhere. The Commissioner explained to the Panel that he thought a local presence was needed and there was a regional presence with EMSOU, but that a debate was ongoing about whether the issue needed tackling nationally and the Commissioner thought that it would be another 7/8 months before the results of that debate were known.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner for clarification of the meaning of the sentence at the foot of page 62 of the report and the Commissioner undertook to confirm the meaning outside of the meeting but believed that the sentence referred to the different systems used in the City and the County.



**RESOLVED 2016/036**

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

The meeting closed at 3.38pm

CHAIRMAN