

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 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  
Councillor Andrew Brown – Nottinghamshire County Council  
Councillor Cheryl Butler – Ashfield District Council -A  
Councillor Eunice Campbell – Nottingham City Council -A  
Councillor David Challinor – Bassetlaw District Council  
Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council  
Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Nottinghamshire County Council  
Councillor John Handley – Nottinghamshire County Council -A  
Suma Harding – Independent Member  
Councillor Tony Harper – Broxtowe Borough Council -A  
Councillor Nicola Heaton – Nottingham City Council  
Councillor Neghat Khan – Nottingham City Council  
Councillor Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council -A  
Councillor Tony Roberts – Newark and Sherwood District Council - A  
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)  
Chris Cutland – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC)  
Kevin Dennis – Chief Executive, Office of PCC (OPCC)  
Simon Torr – Deputy Chief Constable

The Chair opened the meeting and apologised for the problems experienced with the public address system.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2016, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

Councillor Woodings informed the Panel that in addition to providing staffing support the Force did make a financial contribution to the running of the City's Youth Offending Team. The Commissioner agreed that this was the case, with £50k in the budget for the current financial year, and he would confirm this in writing.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Butler, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Harper, Councillor Longdon and Councillor Roberts.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None

## **4. WORK PROGRAMME**

Keith Ford introduced the report and informed the Panel that an item had been added to the June meeting to give the opportunity for the newly elected PCC to outline their priorities for their forthcoming term of office. Keith invited Councillor Khan to feedback to the Panel about her and Councillor Harper's attendance at two recent engagement events.

Councillor Khan informed the Panel that the first event attended was the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Steering Group Conference on the 19<sup>th</sup> March at which appreciation was expressed for the decrease in the use of stop and search. A speech by Keith Vaz MP was also well received. The second event attended was the Notts Youth Commission Conference held on the 21<sup>st</sup> March which dealt with six topics including 'Stop and Search' as well as 'The Link Between Crime and Poverty', 'Drugs, Alcohol & Sexual Harassment', 'Relationship with the Police', 'Education & Crime Prevention', and 'Re-offending & Rehabilitation.' Councillor Khan explained that the attendees differed between the two conferences, at the BME event those attending were older and had lived through some bad experiences whereas at the youth event the attendees were younger and had had fewer unsatisfactory dealings with the Police. Councillor Khan explained that at both conferences the view was expressed that bridges needed to be built owing to the lack of trust, but that it was recognised that the Police were moving in the right direction with the example of the introduction of body worn cameras being a positive initiative that would protect both the community and the Police.

The Chairman expressed the Panel's appreciation for the invitations to such events and emphasised their importance in being able to hear the public's views on the services provided.

The Chairman informed the Panel that this would be the last meeting that Councillor Khan would be attending and stated that the Panel would be losing a very valuable member.

The Chairman invited Panel members to submit any comments/amendments to the Work Programme to herself or Keith so that new items could be programmed in.

## **RESOLVED 2016/005**

- 1) That the work programme be noted.**

**2) That the feedback from Panel members who attended recent PCC consultation and engagement events be noted.**

**5. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT**

The Commissioner thanked the Panel for its scrutiny and support over the last three and a half years and though there had been differences discussions had always taken place in an adult manner. He shared with the Panel his perception that this Panel was regarded as one of the best in the country.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that his Deputy, Chris Cutland, would be retiring next week and expressed his gratitude for all of her hard work over the years. The Chairman joined the Commissioner in thanking Chris on behalf of the Panel and especially congratulated her on her considerable achievements in the field of domestic violence.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that Simon Torr had been promoted to the post of Deputy Chief Constable and the Chairman joined the Commissioner in congratulating him on his promotion.

The Chairman made the Commissioner aware that the Panel had been copied into a question to himself from a member of the public regarding the budget and that the topic raised and progress made would be kept under review.

The Chairman expressed the Panel's disappointment that some of the information contained in the report was not up to date.

The Commissioner introduced the report and stated that up to date figures had only been available from Monday and that they showed overall crime had decreased slightly for 2015/16. The Commissioner said that the Home Office was due to publish their figures next week which covered the period to the end of 2015 and that those figures confirmed the same trend. The Commissioner stated that the Force had been praised for the accuracy of its figures.

The Commissioner spoke about the new enforcement powers available to the police in the field of anti-social behaviour and informed the Panel that a conference had been arranged for 25<sup>th</sup> April for partners to discuss the implications. The Commissioner confirmed that a leaflet explaining these powers to the public would be published soon.

The Commissioner referred to Appendix A to the report which highlighted the work being undertaken with the BME community and pointed out the success the Force had had in reducing the incidence of stop and search to the lowest in the country. The Commissioner expressed his belief that there was no point in stopping people if there was no end result.

The Commissioner wanted to address two areas in particular in the report and firstly spoke about the failure to respond within the prescribed timescale to Grade 2 incidents and explained that work was in progress to address the issues, part of the reason was the on-going re-organisation with particular problems being experienced with the team working out of Mansfield. Secondly, the Commissioner referred to sickness levels and the new improved recording system. The Commissioner felt that the reality was that the figures were more accurate rather than sickness actually increasing.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel congratulated the Force on the recent positive HMIC report especially in the use of stop and search and lower Taser use which the Panel considered to be examples of a well-run Force. The Panel felt that much progress had been made and hoped that this would be recognised.
- The Panel were concerned that the sickness absence figures for police officers and staff were rated as Amber when submitted to the Strategic Resources & Performance meeting but are now rated as Red in the report to the Panel. The Commissioner thought that this could be explained by the introduction of the new system and the disparity with the old system.
- The Panel asked what measures were being put in place to reduce the levels of sickness. Simon Torr replied that it was important to bear in mind in which areas sickness was occurring and explained that very little of it was on the front line of public protection where there had been very few injuries and assaults were not increasing. Simon explained that those with existing health problems were working in departments where the roles were stressful especially in a time of austerity where staff were worried about their futures. Simon informed the Panel that measures implemented included the provision of counselling, clinics/surgeries on attendance management, increased enforcement by management with the vast majority of those reaching trigger levels being interviewed, and managers being trained to recognise those staff with potential problems. Simon explained that all staff, including himself, now had to book in and out of work meaning that the information obtained was much more accurate than in the past and this had led to staff with poor attendance records being dismissed.
- The Panel expressed concern at the increase in hate crime, and while it was appreciated that the reporting of such crime was being encouraged, asked what was being done to reduce its incidence. The Commissioner replied that he did not anticipate the levels of this crime decreasing in the foreseeable future as partners continued to push this agenda. The Commissioner confirmed that levels of Islamophobia were being monitored and though there had been a slight rise following the attacks in Paris, the rise had not been significant. The Commissioner reassured the Panel that the Force did give a high priority to this area of work and gave details of a recent case that resulted in a long jail sentence. Simon Torr informed the Panel that community and national meetings revealed increasing levels of hate crime of between 2 -15%. Simon explained that he thought there was still some way to go before all relevant incidents were reported but that he was encouraged by the type of incidents that were being reported, for example verbal attacks, which gave him confidence that things were moving in the right direction. Simon felt that that the current year's figures had been skewed by a one-off incident that resulted to damage to a cemetery and was recorded as 35 separate crimes, though it subsequently became clear the damage was caused by rampaging youths rather than by those who might be described as committing a hate crime. Simon reassured the Panel that the Force did take instances of hate crime very seriously. The Panel felt that a meaningful comparison could be made with the early work undertaken in the area of domestic violence and thought it would be useful if the topic was covered in a future Panel meeting to address what the position was and to receive hard data and information on strategy to ascertain how high the levels of hate crime might climb.

- The Panel asked the Commissioner about over-time payments and that despite reassurances in the past, there still appeared to be an overspend in this area. The Commissioner replied that the final accounts had now been done for the last financial year and that now the emphasis would be on the current financial year, and he would be holding discussions with the Chief Constable and other members of the Force about forthcoming performance.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner that in view of the better than expected CSR settlement whether any previously planned savings measures could be pursued to offset the budget deficit. The Commissioner replied that a new Director of Finance was now in post and that it was hoped a temporary Head of Finance would take up their post in the near future. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he and the Chief Constable were clear the effect the high turnover of staff had had and regretted the consequent loss of historic knowledge in this area but the new appointments and the adoption of new systems should allow improved financial control in the future.
- The Panel questioned the Commissioner about the substantial amount of 'Other' expenditure incurred under the heading of 'Corporate Services' referred to on page 43 of the report. The Commissioner agreed to supply the information in writing following the meeting.

#### **RESOLVED 2016/006**

**That the Panel notes the contents of the revised update report.**

#### **6. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN (2015-16) - THEME 3 PROGRESS TO DATE - TO FOCUS ON PRIORITY CRIME TYPES AND THOSE LOCAL AREAS THAT ARE MOST AFFECTED BY CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Commissioner introduced the report and spoke about the strain public finances were under and that despite the better than expected CSR settlement he informed the Panel that he expected a 2% annual reduction to the Force's budget to be the norm. The Commissioner shared with the Panel that he thought the pressure on Local Authorities' budgets would be even greater and that it was essential that partners worked to draw services together. The Commissioner explained that he had personally been working with Local Authorities on numerous projects and gave the Panel examples including the Police Contact Point in conjunction with Rushcliffe Borough Council, the 'Aurora' partnership working arrangement with the City Council, and the 'New Cross' initiative with various partners, details of which were contained in the appendix to the report. The Commissioner told the Panel that he felt it vital services were scrutinised and budgets pooled where possible and stated that 25% of crime in the City was committed in only 5 wards and explained to the Panel that partners needed to work in a new and dynamic way where priorities were reviewed and preventative work undertaken. The Commissioner informed the Panel that Kevin Dennis had taken the lead in examining the Partnership Plus areas and found that the model was very much a top down one with very little engagement with the community. The Commissioner felt that more projects similar to the Community Safety Hubs in Ashfield and Mansfield were the way forward and where, when services were brought to local people the demand on local services could be reduced.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that Nottinghamshire County Council was also investing in locality working and it is now being seen what can be achieved.

Simon Torr also spoke about working with partners and gave the examples of the opening of the new central police station in cooperation with the City Council, the Mansfield hub was another positive development, the Ashfield hub was also due to open soon, in Bassetlaw a protection order was in place and the ASB contracts were being used. Simon informed the Panel that the incidence of ASB across the County was reducing, especially now the link with alcohol was better understood. Simon told the Panel that other developments had also been useful with the option now to put the White Hart in Newark into immediate review. Simon informed the Panel that he thought the above developments demonstrated the understanding the Force had of the issues involved and felt that the new hubs would help these improvements to continue.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel commented positively on the examples of how partnership working could improve results, save money and keep the community better informed.
- The Panel asked about the work being undertaken with the Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) and asked why the performance measure was rated as 'Amber' and what measures were being put in place to improve the situation. The Commissioner admitted that when the Partnerships began not enough attention was paid to the set of concerns that were being raised including speeding and behaviour on the roads. The Commissioner informed the Panel that since working more closely with local authorities the performance management figures indicated that progress was being made. Simon Torr replied that part of the problem was that CSPs only reported by exception, not on a regular basis and that he wanted issues regarding road safety to be treated the same as any other type of crime. Simon gave the example of the problem of cars being parked on the zig zag lines outside of schools and said that these violations needed to be reported if the Force was going to be able to deal with them. The Panel asked for confirmation as to what type of incidents the Force would respond to and queried whether the Force had the resources to respond in such circumstances. Simon stated that a response was more likely if there was a threat to the safety of a child rather than when a parking offence occurred.
- The Panel commented on Operation Graduate and noted that though students suffered from high crime rates and the performance measure was graded as 'Amber' much good work was being undertaken. The Commissioner confirmed to the Panel that both universities and their student unions had been helpful and that he had joined a tour of premises and found many doors and windows left open. Simon confirmed the Commissioner's experience and informed the Panel that the students were not as focused on security as they might be. Simon shared with the Panel the problems faced when a third of the population changes every year but that measures in place included focussing on problem landlords, encouraging landlords in general to increase security and the setting up of student patrols. Simon informed the Panel the Force's approach was changing from just concentrating on the problem during term time only, as well as supporting students who lived farther out from the City centre. The Panel recognised the importance of the student population to Nottingham's economy.

**RESOLVED 2016/007**

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

**7. COMPLAINTS UPDATE**

Keith Ford introduced the report and informed the Panel that four complaints had been received since September 2015 but that only one of those complaints fell within the remit of the Panel and that that complaint had now been informally resolved.

**RESOLVED 2016/008**

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

The meeting closed at 3.14pm

CHAIRMAN