

# **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

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## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017 AT 2.00 PM AT POLICE HQ, SHERWOOD LODGE**

### **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 Cheryl Butler – Ashfield District Council  
Councillor Dave Challinor – Bassetlaw District Council -A  
Councillor Azad Choudhry – Nottingham City Council -A  
Councillor Michael Edwards – Nottingham City Council  
Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council  
Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle, Nottinghamshire County Council -A  
Councillor Keith Girling – Newark and Sherwood District Council  
Councillor John Handley - Nottinghamshire County Council -A  
Suma Harding – Independent Member  
Councillor Tony Harper – Broxtowe Borough Council  
Councillor Nicola Heaton – Nottingham City Council -A  
Councillor Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council -A  
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan – Nottinghamshire County Council  
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)  
Craig Guildford - Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire  
Sallie Blair - Office of PCC (OPCC)  
Kevin Dennis - Chief Executive, OPCC  
Mark Kimberley - Head of Finance, Notts Police  
Charlotte Radford - Chief Finance Officer, OPCC

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable for the briefings earlier in the day which contained many important topics for the forthcoming months and also asked that the

Panel's thanks be passed on to the staff for their demonstration of dog control, firearms and the work of the control room.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2017, 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 Councillor David Challinor, Councillor Azad Choudhry, Councillor John Handley, Councillor Nicola Heaton and Councillor Keith Longdon.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The independent members of the Panel - Rizwan Araf, Christine Goldstraw, Suma Harding and Bob Vaughan-Newton all declared a Disclosable Pecuniary interest in Item 4 on the agenda, 'Review of Membership – Independent Co-opted Members.' The Panel agreed to take this item last on the agenda when the independent members would leave the meeting.

## **4. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman drew the Panel's attention to the fact that some of the dates contained in the report were incorrect and informed the Panel that a schedule of the correct dates would be circulated with the minutes of the meeting (see appendix).

Keith Ford introduced the report and informed the Panel that because of the announcement of the General Election for the 8<sup>th</sup> June the Panel meeting originally scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> June would be re-arranged. Keith informed the Panel that this would also affect the need for the July Panel meeting and undertook to examine the proposed dates and issue a revised timetable (see appendix).

During discussions the Panel raised the following point:

- The Panel asked Keith to discuss with the Commissioner's office the challenge of how changing performance indicators could be compared over time. The Commissioner confirmed that the issue was being discussed in his office at the moment and that the Panel's requirements would be taken into consideration.

## **RESOLVED 2017/005**

- a) That the contents of the report be noted.**
- b) That a report concerning the challenge of comparing changing performance indicators over time be brought to a future meeting of the Panel.**

## **5. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT – TO JANUARY 2017**

The Commissioner introduced the report and informed the Panel that the latest performance figures published before Easter showed a 13.7% increase in recorded crime, but that this could be attributed to a large extent to the change in recording practices. The Commissioner reassured the Panel that the situation in Nottinghamshire remained stable and that when incidents were examined and the British Crime Survey consulted, the position was good and that although other Forces' results have not been published the Commissioner shared with the Panel that informally it was known that the recorded increase in crime in Nottinghamshire was average. The Commissioner shared with the Panel that he was confident that when the HMIC examined the Force's recording practices they would find them satisfactory.

The Commissioner spoke about recruitment and informed the Panel that in the short term the aim was to employ 200 PCSOs with recruitment and training ongoing as a result of the inevitable movement. The Commissioner spoke of the numbers of PCSOs employed by other Forces informing the Panel that, bar Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire employed the most PCSOs in the East Midlands, having double the number of Derbyshire. In terms of Police Officer numbers the Commissioner informed the Panel that resources should allow the Force to increase the number of officers by a minimum of 80 over the next two years. The Commissioner spoke of the relevance of the funding formula and informed the Panel that he had been involved in the discussions about the proposed changes and that the original aim of consulting on the changes had been affected by the calling of the General Election. The Commissioner told the Panel that officials still wanted to implement the changes from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 but that he was not as confident as he was that this would be achieved. The Commissioner confirmed to the Panel that he thought the Force would gain slightly from the changes.

The Commissioner spoke to the Panel about the PEEL Effectiveness report (2016) which had been published on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the report contained much on the subject of mental health as well as joined up IT systems where the Force has been engaged in work on the development of a national IT system, having received funding to move work forward and having submitted a bid for more monies. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the report referred to an erosion of neighbourhood policing and informed the Panel that although such teams continued to exist they were smaller than in the past. The Commissioner told the Panel that he had met many influential decision makers and that the feedback had been that the teams had not been as involved within community meetings as historically and the Commissioner confirmed his intention to remedy this.

The Commissioner spoke about the Policing and Crime Act 2017 that had received Royal Assent on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and which placed a statutory duty on the police, fire and rescue, and emergency ambulance services to collaborate. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he had written to the Chair of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority requesting that he become a member of the Authority and explained that although there were other models available under the Act this was the preferred model for Nottinghamshire.

The Commissioner referred to the Nottinghamshire Victim CARE (Cope and Recovery Empowerment) case study which was appended to the Update report. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the social enterprise, Catch 22, working with

Restorative Solutions, had won the contract to deliver Nottinghamshire Victim CARE. The Commissioner invited the Panel to visit Catch 22, who are based in the City centre, and who are working with partners to create support hubs throughout the County.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel asked the Commissioner whether the rise in recorded crime had occurred in specific geographical areas. The Commissioner replied that crime was increasing in the County rather than the City with the perpetrators living in the City but targeting the County. The Commissioner also spoke of the widespread problem with shoplifting and informed the Panel that despite the lead officer, Sue Fish, retiring it was an area that the Force continued to pursue strongly. The Panel agreed that the major retailers could be doing more to combat the problem. The Chief Constable informed the Panel that with the changes made to crime recording it would take time for a new norm to be established but reassured the Panel that it was important not to jump to conclusions just because definitions had changed and gave examples to the Panel that pushing and shoving on a Friday night was now classed as a crime and harassment via Facebook could now be recorded as a violent crime.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner about the figures for repeat domestic violence victims as because of software problems these figures had not been available for some time. The Commissioner replied that the figures were available and assured the Panel, as the presentations earlier in the day had made clear, this is a key issue for the Force with repeat victims treated as a priority.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner about victim satisfaction in relation to the magistrates' court who confirmed that this information is not collected at present but that he was engaged in discussions with magistrates on a range of issues and would speak to them on this subject to see if anything could be done.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner when the response to the HMIC report would be ready and the Commissioner replied that work was ongoing, with the response and covering letter both now in draft form. The Commissioner undertook to send a copy of the final response to Keith Ford for circulation to Panel members.
- The Panel expressed its frustration at its lack of involvement in the process and the Commissioner shared with the Panel his view that the more people who contacted the HMIC regarding the process the better. The Panel criticised the time lag where the report is published 12-14 months after the original investigation but a response is required very quickly. The Commissioner highlighted the HMIC's current approach within Nottinghamshire and his concerns about that.
- Some Members of the Panel pointed out that even though the report was now quite dated its findings had been accepted by the Commissioner who was asked by the Panel whether there were still areas for improvement that needed to be addressed as listed on page 7 of the template. The Commissioner replied that some issues did still need addressing but that he

had a clear understanding of where changes needed to be made and assured the Panel that the Notts Force was a good Force with a high level of inspectors employed compared to other Forces.

- The Panel asked the Commissioner how optimistic he was about the outcome of the revised funding formula process. Some Panel Members shared their feeling that the experience of making savings in local government had been painful. Some Members referred to their time spent earlier in the day in the control room where staff were disappointed that they could not deliver the service they wanted to because of budgetary constraints and asked the Commissioner why the public did not seem to be aware of the effects of budget cuts. The Commissioner replied that he felt the calling of the General Election may delay the implementation of the revised funding formula, that hopefully Nottinghamshire would gain under the new formula, and that he did not expect there to be much focus on the level of Police funding in the run up to the Election as crime was still decreasing and because of the 'can do' attitude and image of the Police force as a whole. The Chief Constable informed the Panel that only 17% of demand on the Force's time was crime related, the remainder being either vulnerability or mental health related issues.
- The Panel stated that it understood the environment of austerity in which the Force currently operated but with a £1m underspend at a time when recorded crime was increasing asked the Commissioner whether more monitoring or supervision was required, the Panel also asked the Commissioner to comment on the fact that in the Control Room the mental health nurse was not employed full-time. The Commissioner replied that the nurse in the control room was employed at peak times, which were the afternoon and evenings, and as an example of his commitment in this area reminded the Panel of the nurses employed in the triage cars in the City and north of the County and the nurse employed at the Bridewell, all funded by himself and partners.
- The Panel commented on the positive impression made on them by the morning visit to the control room but asked the Commissioner whether there was a plan aimed at reducing the volume of incoming calls and whether there was any assistance the Panel could provide. The Commissioner replied that national research showed that it was clear that one of the main demands from the public is for the police to attend when they were needed. The Commissioner spoke of the work undertaken by the community safety hubs who work together throughout the County to problem solve before '999' is rang. The Commissioner spoke of the need to improve both the service offer and the quality of the information submitted and how national templates would be useful in this area. The Commissioner also informed the Panel about the ongoing work designed to allow crime to be reported on-line and the need to confirm the process before rolling out further. The Commissioner spoke of the plethora of numbers the public could use to report crime and spoke of the need for one number nationally and informed the Panel that preliminary discussions have started but that it is a substantial piece of work. The Commissioner also spoke of the need to prevent crime in the first place and referred to the work being undertaken in schools and on early intervention. The Chief Constable informed the Panel that the volume of calls had been high for a period of time and this could partly be explained by the Force's

partnership working and its determination to listen and work with callers to try to solve problems rather than just provide callers with another number to ring.

- Some Panel members queried whether resources could be deployed differently given that 83% of demand on the Police's time was not related to crime with some members speaking of crimes happening in their electoral divisions which were not occurring 18 months previously. The Commissioner reiterated the partnership approach adopted by the Force and spoke of the work the Force inevitably becomes involved with that is not classed as crime, including that concerning missing persons, where extra resources have been called upon both regionally and nationally. The Commissioner informed the Panel of the high number of people that went missing from the QMC, with the Force in discussions with the QMC to see what can be done. The Commissioner also spoke of the people that went missing from care homes where the police again would become involved and the problem of shoplifting, where retailers needed to become more proactive in prevention. The Commissioner also told the Panel about the recent holding of a seminar for bikers on how to make bikes safer as an example of the preventative work being undertaken by the Force.
- Some Panel members warned against using the Police as a political football which would please criminals and adversely affect Force morale. The Commissioner agreed.

#### **RESOLVED 2017/006**

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

#### **6. FINANCE PERFORMANCE & INSIGHT REPORT FOR 2016/17 AS AT JANUARY 2017**

The Commissioner introduced the report and thanked Mark Kimberley, Head of Finance for Notts Police, for all his work. The Commissioner reported that though the final outturn was not available quite yet, he was confident that expenditure would be close to budget. The Commissioner explained that the £1m underspend had been due to the turnover of staff and officers and that it had not been possible to recruit quickly enough to replace them. The Commissioner explained that some in-year adjustments had also resulted in savings that would be added to reserves which were some of the lowest in the Country and which the Commissioner was anxious to replenish.

#### **RESOLVED 2017/007**

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

#### **7. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – PRIORITY THEME 3 – ‘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 informed the Panel that while it was right for the Chief Constable to focus resources on areas with the highest needs

everyone had a right to feel protected by the Police. The Commissioner spoke of the initiatives being undertaken in rural areas including the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. The Commissioner informed the Panel that some of the cameras were now out of date with the management of their use needing to be improved. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he hoped to bring forward proposals soon for the procurement of more cameras and the improved management of them.

The Commissioner also spoke of the only red rated activity contained in the report which related to the proposed joint protocol with both Nottingham universities, including the designation of a police officer within the sexual violence team to respond to the specific needs of the students. The Commissioner informed the Panel that a senior officer was now liaising with both universities and he was confident the target could now be achieved. The Commissioner acknowledged the importance of students to Nottingham which justified the allocating of resources to this area.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel asked whether the Commissioner had approached district councils for Section 106 monies that could be spent on ANPR cameras. The Commissioner confirmed that Newark & Sherwood District Council and Bassetlaw District Council had already provided funding for some cameras and there were plans to install more.
- The Panel expressed its view that the problems at the universities may be partly caused by the change in drinking culture and felt that the role played by business should be acknowledged. The Commissioner reminded the Panel of the funding provided to the Street Pastors and informed the Panel that the two universities also ran a system during the week to support students who experienced difficulties. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the City and County were successful in a bid in the first round pilot stage to become a Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA) with the aim of developing good practice around alcohol consumption. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the intention was to make a bid to participate in the second round of the pilot where an action plan would be developed following consultation with the retail sector, consideration of the effects of drinking at home and the role of alcohol in domestic violence.
- The Panel questioned the Commissioner about tagging, asking him how the pilot was progressing and what the plans were for the future. The Commissioner replied that because of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) his reply needed to be guarded. The Commissioner confirmed that the plan was for the scheme to be rolled out nationally but at the moment the results for the pilots could not justify this. The Commissioner informed the Panel that there was a new Recorder in Nottingham with an interest in this area of work and the use of tags may be expanded, for example in domestic violence cases or by running more local pilots. The Chief Constable informed the Panel that he hoped there would be further opportunities to expand the use of tags following the General Election and that his aim was for Nottinghamshire to participate fully.

## **RESOLVED 2017/008**

**That the contents of the report and the progress made be noted.**

### **8. REGIONAL COLLABORATION:**

#### **(a) PRESENTATION**

Kevin Dennis, the Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, made a presentation to the Panel on the subject of Regional Collaboration that covered the following areas:

- Current scope of regional collaboration
- Governance arrangements
- Performance and assurance mechanisms
- Achieved and planned financial savings
- Areas for further development

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel asked the Commissioner if the success of collaboration depended on other Forces participating. The Commissioner replied that if savings were to be made investment needed to take place upfront with pay back periods being 2-3 years rather than 5, which the Force was working hard towards achieving. The Commissioner informed the Panel that collaboration was now taking place over payroll/settlement of invoices with other Forces, including Cheshire. The Commissioner stated that the greater the number of Forces cooperating, the easier the process becomes, the lower the costs involved and the quicker savings can be achieved.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner how much money had been saved through collaboration and how much was being spent on collaboration. The Commissioner replied that the savings equated to the percentage of the sum contributed with many advantages of collaboration being of a qualitative nature. The Commissioner shared his view with the Panel that the Force benefited from collaboration by more than its fair share with the ability to call on extra resources when needed. In terms of the level of expenditure on collaboration, Mark Kimberley, the Head of Finance of Notts Police, confirmed that globally the figure was approximately 16-17% of the budget which consisted predominantly of officer time.

#### **(b) PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL COLLABORATION WORKSHOP EVENT**

Keith Ford introduced the report which requested Panel approval to hold a Regional Collaboration Workshop. The Commissioner confirmed that he was happy to be involved with any Workshop but questioned the ability of all five Police and Crime Commissioners and all five Chief Constables to attend on a single date.



## **RESOLVED 2017/009**

- a) That the contents of the presentation be noted.
- b) That the holding of a Regional Collaboration Workshop be approved, subject to a further report being brought before the Panel in July 2017 clarifying further details, including costs, venue and date.

## **9. COMPLAINTS UPDATE**

Keith Ford introduced the report informing the Panel that it contained details of the complaints received in respect of the Police and Crime Commissioner since April 2016.

## **RESOLVED 2017/010**

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

## **10. REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP – INDEPENDENT CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item, Rizwan Araf, Christine Goldstraw, Suma Harding and Bob Vaughan-Newton left the meeting prior to the consideration of this item and did not return.

### **CHAIR**

In the absence of Christine Goldstraw, Councillor Debbie Mason took the Chair.

Keith Ford introduced the report and informed the Panel that he had canvassed all elected members' views prior to the meeting and the feedback he had received regarding the independent members' contributions was positive. Keith informed the Panel that the term of office of all 4 independent members expired at the same time and that the proposal in the report was to stagger the reappointments. Keith explained to the Panel however that because of difficulties experienced during the last recruitment process it was not proposed to stagger the actual appointments and that the decision on exactly who to appoint could be taken at a later date.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel felt that a rolling programme for recruitment was a good idea as it avoided the scenario where all 4 members were lost at the same time. The Panel expressed its opinion that new members did take time to understand the requirements of the role and the nuances of the process.
- The Panel commented positively on the diverse mix of skills and the calibre of the independent members.
- The Panel asked Keith if it were possible for the existing independent members to re-apply if they so wished as it was felt it would be counterproductive to allow a member to leave if they did not want to and the Panel also wanted them to stay. Keith informed the Panel that this was possible and a revised recommendation was consequently agreed.

**RESOLVED 2017/011**

- a) That each of the four current independent co-optees be offered a further two year term of office up to May 2019;**
- b) That the issue be considered again in April 2018 with a view to:-**
  - i) ceasing the membership of two of the four current independent co-optees from May 2019;**
  - ii) extending the membership of the other two independent co-optees to May 2020;**
  - iii) starting the process to recruit four independent co-optees, with two successful candidates taking up office from June 2019 and two more successful candidates taking up office from June 2020, and with the incumbents being given an opportunity to reapply as part of this process.**

The meeting closed at 4.22pm

CHAIRMAN