

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2019
AT 2.00pm 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 **A**
Councillor Michael Edwards (substitute for Councillor Woodings) – Nottingham City Council
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 **A**
Councillor Toby Neal – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan – Nottinghamshire County Council
Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member
Councillor Linda Woodings – Nottingham City Council **A**
Councillor Jason Zadrozny – Ashfield District Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

Pete Barker - Democratic Services Officer	}	Nottinghamshire County Council
Keith Palframan - Deputy Section 151 Officer	}	(Host Authority)
Nigel Stevenson - Section 151 Officer	}	

OTHERS PRESENT

Paddy Tipping - Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Craig Guildford – Chief Constable
Kevin Dennis - Chief Executive, Office of PCC (OPCC)
Mark Kimberley – Finance, Nottinghamshire Police
Charlotte Radford - Chief Finance Officer, OPCC

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2018, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record, and were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Executive Mayor Allsop.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The independent members, Christine Goldstraw OBE, Suma Harding and Bob Vaughan-Newton, each declared a pecuniary interest in Item 7, 'Independent Co Opted Member Recruitment.' The independent members undertook to leave the meeting prior to the report being discussed. The Panel agreed that the Vice Chair would chair the meeting for this item.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair thanked officers from the Commissioner's office and the County Council for their input into the recent budget workshops.

Mr Barker introduced the report, informing the Panel that it was the usual regular report with any amendments having been agreed following discussions with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

Mr Barker confirmed to the Panel that the report was asking for confirmation of the proposed dates for future meetings.

RESOLVED 2019/001

That the Panel meets on the following dates in the municipal year 2019/20:

Monday 3 June 2019 (Annual Meeting)	2.00pm
Monday 23 September 2019	2.00pm
Monday 25 November 2019	2.00pm
Monday 27 January 2020 (Budget Workshop with PCC)	2.00pm
Monday 3 February 2020 (Budget Workshop with NCC S51 Officer)	2.00pm
Thursday 6 February 2020	2.00pm
Monday 30 March 2020	2.00pm
Monday 1 June 2020 (Annual Meeting)	2.00pm

5. UPDATE TO POLICE AND CRIME DELIVERY PLAN

The Commissioner introduced the report and reminded Members that the plan was new one year ago and was refreshed annually in terms of delivery. The Commissioner informed members that Appendix A to the report detailed the new or amended activities for inclusion in the Plan across the 4 themes which would be reported upon in turn. The Commissioner stated that he shared others' concerns at the rise in weapon-enabled violence and the threat of 'hidden harm' that had not received sufficient attention in the past and included female genital mutilation (FGM) and modern slavery.

Following the Commissioner's introduction the following points were clarified:-

- The Commissioner confirmed he was committed to partnership working and informed the Panel that a case of modern slavery in Aspley had been identified by a City Council employee working in refuse collection. In terms of modern slavery the Commissioner explained to the Panel that Nottingham University was known internationally for its work in this field. The Chief Constable spoke about knife crime and informed the Panel that the number of weapons recovered was increasing, partly as a result of the work of the dedicated knife crime team.
- The Panel welcomed the emphasis on mental health contained in the report and its appendix and the Commissioner informed the Panel that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of the Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) had undertaken a thematic review with Forces nationally and had highly commended the Nottinghamshire Force on this aspect.

RESOLVED 2019/002

That the contents of the report be noted.

6. PRECEPT AND BUDGET REPORTS 2019/20

The Commissioner introduced the report and confirmed that the Panel had supplied him with a number of questions beforehand around the themes of Reserves, the Capital Programme, the Vehicle PFI contract and budget savings and that he had provided written responses to Members in advance of the meeting (The Commissioner's answers are appended to these minutes).

The Commissioner explained that the emphasis on Police funding was moving away from a direct grant towards raising funding from the local taxpayer. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the scope to increase the precept depended on Forces achieving a number of objectives including the use of reserves, increased use of digital technology and changes to procurement and back office operations. The Commissioner informed the Panel that as a result of these objectives being exceeded nationally, the government had announced further precept freedoms for 2019/20 allowing the council tax for Band B properties to increase by up to £24. The Commissioner informed the Panel that if the proposed precept increase of £23.94 were agreed then this would allow a further 40 officers to be recruited, with 33 being deployed in neighbourhood areas and 7 used to create a dedicated robbery team. In terms of the Capital Programme, the Commissioner explained that the proposed budget would be used to fund the new Bridewell as well as continuing the work on moving towards shared accommodation with the Fire and Rescue service.

Members complimented officers on the clarity and quality of the budget information provided to them.

Following the Commissioner's introduction the following points were clarified:-

- The Panel questioned the Commissioner about the management of the Capital Programme who agreed to supply the Panel with a list of buildings that had been disposed of. The Commissioner explained that receipts would be used to offset the cost of new projects with reserves used to minimise borrowing.

- Members expressed their concern at the impact an increased precept would have on Nottinghamshire residents. The Commissioner stated that he was mindful that residents were being asked to pay more and expressed his determination to use the money for front line policing.
- Members welcomed the Commissioner's commitment to Neighbourhood policing and asked the Commissioner how confident was he that the proposals could be delivered. The Commissioner replied that if the proposed increase in the precept was agreed then the extra resources for neighbourhood policing were guaranteed.
- Members questioned the Commissioner about collaboration and the assumption that no savings would be made from collaboration or innovation projects. The Commissioner replied that the Force was a keen collaborator but that this was not always easy, giving the example of being pressed to share a back office with 4 other forces which had resulted in an increase in costs in the short term.
- Members spoke of the role of intelligence and the Chief Constable explained that some resources had been diverted from this area by partners but that he was in favour of investing in researchers and reassured members that surveillance was still being undertaken and pointed to the seizure rates of guns and drugs as proof that the quality of operations was not being affected adversely.
- Some Members spoke of their constituents having to pay a disproportionate amount of the proposed precept increase compared to the level of resources that would be deployed in their areas. The Commissioner explained that the increase would also pay for pressures created by inflation, wages and pensions and for resources such as the burglary team, work in schools and cadets. The Commissioner further stated that resources would be deployed as circumstances dictated and gave the example of a recent event in Southwell where officers came into the area in the numbers required.
- Members expressed their concern at the potential high cost of policing demonstrations. The Chief Constable informed members that deployment was always scrutinised and spoke of the intelligence that the Force receives that is not always made public. The Chief Constable spoke about the policing of the fracking sites in Nottinghamshire and informed the Panel that through working with the protesters and the contractors a cost effective solution had been found which compared very favourably with the costs other forces were facing in the same situation.
- Some Members expressed their concern at the size of the increase in the precept being requested and questioned whether the proposed budget had been scrutinized in sufficient detail. The Commissioner informed members that the course of action of increasing the precept was one that had been advocated by the Government. The Commissioner assured members that he was aware that every penny counted and stated that he was always happy to discuss with others about where savings could be made and confirmed he would meet members at any time to discuss savings proposals. (Following the meeting the Commissioner issued an invitation to all Panel members to meet him to discuss potential savings to the budget).

- Responding to some member's comments, the Commissioner informed the Panel that notification of the possible £24 increase had been received very late. The Commissioner confirmed that as a result a poll was taken, and though not scientific, did find that 90% of those polled responded positively to the budget proposals.
- The Chief Constable responded to comments about the Force's response to '101' calls and reminded members that the topic had been covered at a workshop where the positive changes and extra resources that had been put into this area were explained. The Chief Constable stated that the area was a difficult one but that he was determined that the Force would deliver.
- Officers confirmed to the Panel the procedural rules and the timetable for the budget process.

RESOLVED 2019/003

- 1. That the contents of the precept and budget reports be noted and the views of the Panel be formally reported to the Commissioner.**
- 2. That the increase of the precept by £23.94 to £219.33 in Band D Council Tax be approved.**

At this point of the meeting the independent members, Christine Goldstraw OBE, Suma Harding and Bob Vaughan-Newton, left the room and did not return.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Debbie Mason, took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

7. INDEPENDENT CO OPTED MEMBER RECRUITMENT

The Vice Chair explained the process that had been undertaken, informing the Panel that 15 applications had been received, 3 from current incumbents, and that 7 of the applicants had been shortlisted for interview. The Vice Chair informed the Panel that the 3 incumbents had been successful in their applications, in addition to Lesley Darby who would be a new appointment to the Panel. The Vice Chair informed the Panel that the new terms of office would commence in June 2019 and that a report would be brought to a future meeting of the Panel to approve the lengths of those terms of office.

RESOLVED 2019/004

- 1. That Members note the appointment of Lesley Darby, Christine Goldstraw, Suma Harding and Bob Vaughan-Newton as independent members of the Panel.**
- 2. That a report be brought to a future meeting of the Panel regarding the length of the terms of office of the independent members.**

The meeting closed at 3.58pm

CHAIRMAN