

# **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2013 AT 10.30AM AT ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

(A denotes absent)

Chairman - Councillor John Clarke – Gedling Borough Council

Vice-Chairman - Executive Mayor Tony Egginton – Mansfield District Council

Councillor Chris Baron – Ashfield District Council

Councillor David Challinor – Bassetlaw District Council

Councillor Eunice Campbell – Nottingham City Council - A

Councillor Jon Collins – Nottingham City Council - A

Councillor Georgina Culley – Nottingham City Council - A

Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Nottinghamshire County Council

Christine Goldstraw – Independent Member

Suma Harding – Independent Member

Councillor Pat Lally – Broxtowe Borough Council - A

Councillor Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council – A

Councillor Debbie Mason – Rushcliffe Borough Council

Councillor Carole McCulloch – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Bruce Laughton – Newark and Sherwood District Council

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Jayne Francis-Ward – Monitoring Officer ) Nottinghamshire

Keith Ford – Senior Democratic Services Officer ) County Council  
(Host Authority)

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Paddy Tipping – Police and Crime Commissioner

Chris Cutland – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Superintendent Paul Anderson – Nottinghamshire Police

Kevin Dennis – Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Chief Constable Chris Eyre – Nottinghamshire Police

Charlotte Radford – Treasurer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

## **1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

### **RESOLVED 2013/011**

**That Councillor John Clarke be appointed Chair of the Panel for the 2013/14 municipal year.**

## **2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

## **RESOLVED 2013/012**

**That Tony Egginton be appointed Vice-Chair of the Panel for the 2013/14 municipal year.**

### **3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2013, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Campbell, Collins, Culley, Longdon and Lally.

### **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Christine Goldstraw declared a private, non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 12 – Review of Balanced Appointment Objective, as one of the Independent Members who was recommended for reappointment, and left the meeting whilst that item was considered.

Suma Harding declared a private, non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 12 – Review of Balanced Appointment Objective, as one of the Independent Members who was recommended for reappointment, and left the meeting whilst that item was considered.

### **6. RULES OF PROCEDURE**

## **RESOLVED 2013/013**

**That the Panel's Rules of Procedure, as set out in the appendix to the report, be noted.**

### **7. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE**

The Commissioner introduced his update report and highlighted the following key points:-

- the recent increase in crime had now levelled out somewhat but was currently still showing a 5% increase in 2013/14 . The Commissioner, through his weekly meetings with the Chief Constable, had been given assurances that appropriate measures had been put in place to address this rise. A slight improvement had been seen in the May and June figures (which were not yet in the public domain);
- some progress had been made in increasing the percentage of Black and Minority Ethnic people recruited to Police Officer and Police and Community

Support Officer (PCSO) posts but further improvements were needed as part of the recruitment drive planned for Spring 2014;

- the recent Government announcement about the future spending plans had highlighted that the Force would clearly be faced with further budget reductions in 2015 and 2016. The planned independent base budget review would help to highlight any opportunities and priorities in this regard and the Commissioner was seeking a Panel member to join this process;
- with regard to the Community Safety Partnership Fund of £500,000, which had been discussed at the 15 April Panel meeting, approximately 85 organisations had made bids totalling £1.3m. The Commissioner was exploring whether Proceeds of Crime Act monies could be used to increase this funding pot in future;
- the Commissioner felt that further work was needed to ensure that restorative justice measures (Restorative Justice Disposals and Community Resolutions) were used appropriately and professionally;
- the Commissioner was keen to ensure that Nottinghamshire did not lose out as a result of the planned reforms to the Probation Service and the proposals to have a Public Probation Body and procurement units;
- the Commissioner thanked the Chair for his planned involvement in the joint Alcohol Strategy conference taking place on 1 July 2013.

During discussions, the following points were discussed:-

- the evaluation of the Partnership Fund bids would include checks to ensure that the bodies were legal, recognised entities followed by assessment against the agreed criteria (which were in line with the Policing and Crime Plan priorities);
- Members highlighted the potential impact of the cuts with regard to the closure of local police stations. The Commissioner recognised that the further Government cuts could potentially have an impact upon the Force's capital programme and local policing but the Commissioner was keen that the Force utilised available opportunities to do more for less, as with joint service bases and co-location with partner agencies. The Force was hoping to save £2m in estate costs and as a result the whole estate was being looked at. No decisions had been made as yet but any proposals would be discussed with the relevant partner agencies, including District and Borough Councils;
- Members welcomed the appointment of new PCSOs, working alongside Community Protection Officers, Special Police Officers and other volunteers. They felt that the presence of PCSOs and CPOs in public houses and shops was having a positive effect and contributing towards the public's perceptions of safety. They also suggested extending the 'walk through' approach to town centres such as Ashfield and Hucknall;

- Members underlined the need for regular Beat Manager or PCSO attendance at Safer Neighbourhood and parish council meetings, whilst recognising that not every meeting could be attended. The Commissioner highlighted the resource implications of such attendance and stated that discussions were ongoing to improve liaison with such organisations. The Commissioner felt there was a need for better input into such meetings, including utilising new technology where appropriate. Members highlighted that in some wards, reports were submitted to town council meetings if the officers were not able to attend in person. This helped to achieve a common understanding of community policing and to raise issues to feed into the local Strategic Assessments, alongside other issues including employment, housing, education etc. The Commissioner recognised the wider context to crime and acknowledged that, although he was not responsible for the latter issues, there were clear linkages between those and policing and crime. The Commissioner felt that the partnership arrangements in Nottinghamshire were as good as any in the country but that there was still room to improve. The Commissioner also highlighted his and the Chief Constable's links to national bodies and the Home Office that could help to influence the national agenda;
- the Chief Constable outlined the measures in place to address the recent increase in crime, including reciprocal sharing of best practice with other Forces and input from external advisors. Corporate Performance Reviews and Operational Performance Reviews were being held on a monthly basis and Force Performance Meetings were held twice a week. He underlined the active scrutiny which the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner were undertaking;
- Members felt that one effect of the base budget review may be to accelerate a creeping regionalisation of Police Forces. The Commissioner stated that the five Commissioners in the East Midlands region were committed to sharing costs and pooling resources where this could deliver savings across the Forces, although he himself had opposed plans to increase the Force's financial commitment at this stage. He highlighted the recent Philpott Murder inquiry and Members highlighted recent fraud prosecutions as good examples of successful collaboration. The Commissioner and the Chief Constable both felt that the increased regional working enabled more resources to be available to reinforce neighbourhood policing. The five Commissioners had asked Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to assess the regional work undertaken so far to judge how successful it had been and to highlight further opportunities. A report on this was due back in September 2013;
- the Commissioner clarified that the extra 150 officers that had been recruited this year were all new and extra provision but officers were leaving the Force at a much faster rate than expected (with the overall numbers being 300 down from a year ago). Further recruitment was planned in the Spring 2014 and by the end of the Commissioner's term of office there should be 150 more officers in broad terms than in 2012;
- in response to a Member's query about the main drivers for crime, the Commissioner clarified that he felt that too much focus had been placed on

drugs rather than alcohol in the past which was why he was now seeking to develop an Alcohol Strategy. He highlighted that the County Council was looking to retender substance misuse services from 1 April 2014 and he personally felt that that timescale was too quick to re-commission services. He felt that services should be commissioned over a three year period rather than a one year period. In response to a Member query, he clarified that the Police Authority had stopped funding the DARE programme in schools a number of years ago but he would like to see more work done with schools, with a number of other organisations also offering such services;

- Members felt that officers attending incidents and getting things right first time was the best way of making savings. The Commissioner highlighted that 50% of calls to the Police nationally were from people asking for updates on their cases. With regard to other Force's decisions to commission services from private bodies such as GS4 he felt that any initial savings made from such decisions were short-term and thereafter not able to achieve further savings. He was committed to keeping the core activity of the Force public but had held discussions with GS4 about very small pilot projects such as around improving the collection of unpaid fines. In response, Members highlighted that offenders were now receiving text reminders of unpaid fines from the Courts. The Force was also progressing other means of tailoring services to customer demand, such as the 'Track my Crime' online facility. Of the 1.3m calls received by the Force each year, 24% were due to the callers not being able to contact the most relevant partner agency out of hours;
- with regard to CCTV, Members highlighted a proposal for a select committee review of the value obtained from such facilities, in light of the part-funding from local authorities, and queried whether it would not be better to build this into the Commissioner's base budget review. The Commissioner felt that this was worth some further thought, including consideration of best practice within other Authorities. Members and the Chief Constable agreed upon the benefits offered by such technological input into the judicial system and into crime prevention. The Chief Constable and the Commissioner both felt that there could be leaner, more efficient ways of deploying CCTV but cautioned against undermining the existing approach in light of the benefits it delivered. The Commissioner was also aware of CCTV and policing issues in relation to taxis, having held recent discussions with taxi drivers. He underlined the need for further work with local authorities around licensing;
- with regard to the changes to the Probation Service and the planned procurement units, members asked how the Panel could assist the Commissioner and the Force in ensuring a smooth transfer of services to private bodies via the new procurement units. The Commissioner expressed his thanks for the input which Probation gave to the criminal justice system. He reported that the 3 Commissioners for Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire had written to the Ministry of justice to say that they were interested in bidding for these services. They were not clear that they could put a bid together but felt that this approach alone could at least trigger some further discussions with private providers such as GS4 to enable positive solutions to be found for the future. The Commissioner stated that he would

write to Panel Members by the 5 July 2013 to highlight the resources put in place about this;

- Members queried whether the benefits of social media were being fully utilised and in response the Commissioner underlined his commitment to such channels of communication, including Twitter;
- Members requested an in-depth update on Domestic Violence to alternate Panel meetings, commencing in September 2013;
- Members requested an update around the issue of attacks on police officers to a future meeting of the Panel;
- Members underlined the need for caution around coverage of the relatively small rise in crime and felt that overly negative coverage could lead to further increases if it resulted in policing being perceived as weak currently.

#### **RESOLVED 2013/014**

- 1) That the contents of the update report be noted.
- 2) That Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle be nominated as the Panel's representative on the independent base budget review panel.

#### **8. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Commissioner introduced his annual report which covered his first six months in office.

#### **RESOLVED 2013/015**

**That a letter be sent to the Commissioner underlining the Panel's broad support for the annual Report.**

#### **9. ESTATES RATIONALISATION (PHASES 1 AND 2) UPDATE**

The Commissioner introduced the report which had been previously requested by Members.

#### **RESOLVED 2013/016**

**That the report be noted.**

#### **10. UPDATE ON SPECIALS, VOLUNTEERS, POLICE CADETS AND APPRENTICES**

Superintendent Paul Anderson introduced the report and highlighted the following key points:-

- the numbers of Specials had recently fallen slightly which could be due to recruitment to the regular service being widened;
- the proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic Specials was in excess of the numbers in the Force and the key priority was to replicate such proportions within the Force;
- the County Council had given £32,000 funding to assist in recruitment;
- the vision was to have a volunteer force of 1000 volunteers;
- the partnership with Nottingham Trent University would involve each Criminology student working 200 hours per year for the Force. There would be a saving in subsequent training hours if any such students went on to join the Force in permanent positions;
- the Police Cadets process was still being finalised and the Force was seeking an initial cohort of 70-90 Cadets, ideally with 16-17% of these being from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

During discussions, the following issues were raised:-

- Members commended Superintendent Anderson for his role in the increase in numbers and the approach being taken;
- Members highlighted the potential benefits of using volunteers at community events to assist in reducing the costs of such events and therefore making them possible.

#### **RESOLVED 2013/017**

**That the progress to date and the proposed approach be noted.**

#### **CHAIR**

The Chair left the meeting at this point and the Vice-Chair chaired the meeting for the following item.

### **11.COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Jayne Francis-Ward introduced the report which sought to amend the existing procedure to clarify the definition of a complaint.

#### **RESOLVED 2013/018**

**That the definition of ‘complaint’ as set out in paragraph 6 of the report be added to the Complaints Procedure for clarity.**

#### **CHAIR**

The Chair rejoined the meeting and chaired the rest of the meeting.

## **12. REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP – BALANCED APPOINTMENT OBJECTIVE**

Having declared private, non-pecuniary interests, Christine Goldstraw and Suma Harding left the meeting prior to this item being considered.

Jayne Francis-Ward introduced the report which proposed changes to the Panel's membership to meet the balanced appointment objective.

### **RESOLVED 2013/018**

- 1) That approval be sought from the Secretary of State for a further co-option of a Conservative member to enable the Panel's membership to be politically balanced and, subject to that approval, a nomination be sought from the County Council's Conservative group.**
- 2) That Suma Harding and Christine Goldstraw, the existing independent members, be re-appointed for a period of two years.**
- 3) That Secretary of State approval be sought for the further co-option of two more independent members and, subject to that approval, an open recruitment exercise be undertaken targeting people with community and voluntary sector skills and experience.**

## **13. MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES**

Christine Goldstraw and Suma Harding rejoined the meeting.

### **RESOLVED 2013/019**

**That the latest position on expenses and allowances be noted.**

## **14. WORK PROGRAMME AND DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Members requested that a further item to consider the running costs of the Office of the Commissioner, including benchmarking against other Commissioner Offices nationally, be added to the work programme for Spring 2014.

### **RESOLVED 2013/020**

- 1) That the work programme be noted.**
- 2) That a further item be added to the work programme about the running costs of the Office of the Commissioner.**

- 3) That a development session be arranged for all Panel members on the morning of 16 September 2013, ahead of the Panel meeting that afternoon.**

The meeting closed at 12.23 pm

CHAIRMAN  
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