

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2013 AT 2.00 PM AT NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

Chairman - Councillor John Clarke – Gedling Borough Council

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

Rizwan Araf – Independent Member

Councillor Chris Baron – Ashfield District Council

Councillor David Challinor – Bassetlaw District Council

Councillor Eunice Campbell – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Jon Collins – Nottingham City Council - A

Councillor Georgina Culley – Nottingham City Council - A

Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Nottinghamshire County Council

Christine Goldstraw – Independent Member

Councillor John Handley – Nottinghamshire County Council

Suma Harding – Independent Member

Councillor Pat Lally – Broxtowe Borough Council - A

Councillor Bruce Laughton – Newark and Sherwood District Council - A

Councillor Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council

Councillor Debbie Mason – Rushcliffe Borough Council

Councillor Carole McCulloch – Nottingham City Council

Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member

OFFICERS PRESENT

Jayne Francis-Ward – Corporate Director) 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

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

Chief Constable Chris Eyre – Nottinghamshire Police

Charlotte Radford – Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2013, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record (subject to recording the apologies of Councillor McCulloch) and were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP – UPDATE

Keith Ford reported that an applicant who had not been shortlisted in the recent Independent member recruitment had raised a complaint about a lack of black male representation on both the Panel and public bodies in general. Mr Ford suggested that the Panel consider this issue further as part of its annual consideration of the balanced appointment objective at its annual meeting in June 2014.

5. WORK PROGRAMME AND OUTCOMES OF PANEL DEVELOPMENT SESSION

Keith Ford introduced the report and sought the Commissioner's views on those outcomes from the Panel's recent development session that had implications for the Commissioner's office. In response, the Commissioner clarified that he supported the proposals in principle and made the following points:-

- with reference to proposal 4a about a possible Regional PCP meeting, the Commissioner stated that he would be happy to be involved in any such meeting but underlined the need to take a constructive approach to obtain positive outcomes around issues such as regional collaboration;
- with regard to proposal 4f about the Panel's profile, the Commissioner was happy to make reference to his dealings with the panel within his regular newsletter and on his website;
- in relation to proposal 4h about performance reporting by exception, the Commissioner highlighted the additional paragraph within his latest update report which highlighted areas of concern but underlined that he was keen to produce a single report for the various bodies he reported to, in order to prevent duplication of effort;
- with regard to proposal 4i about the Commissioner attending Panel meetings without the Chief Constable on occasions, the Commissioner recognised that he needed to be the focus of the Panel's scrutiny and thought it was appropriate for him to attend without the Chief Constable when presenting his budget and Police and Crime Plan. However, he underlined his collaborative approach whereby every report which he brought to the Panel had already been discussed with and endorsed by the Force.

During discussions, Members agreed with the Commissioner's views on regional Panel meetings and felt that the focus of any such meeting should be about sharing best practice (particularly between Chairs and Vice-Chairs) rather than political debates. Members underlined that the Police Authority had previously met with its regional counterparts and that such meetings had proven useful.

Keith Ford reported that the next meeting of the Panel would be held at County Hall rather than at Broxtowe Borough Council.

RESOLVED 2013/038

- 1) That the Commissioner's response to proposals 4a, 4f, 4h and 4i be noted.**
- 2) That the proposed budget workshop be confirmed for 31 January 2014 – 9.30am – 12 noon at County Hall.**
- 3) That dates for potential workshops and task and finish activity about the 2015/16 budget and precept be agreed as part of the Panel's meeting cycle for 2014/15.**
- 4) That the work programme be noted.**

6. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN HALF YEARLY MONITORING REPORT 2013-14

The Commissioner introduced his first monitoring report on the Police and Crime Plan and highlighted the following main points:-

- the Commissioner had worked closely with the Chief Constable and the Force on the stage two transfer process and the recommended Maximum Transfer approach had been agreed in principle by the Home Office late last week;
- the Commissioner's pledges to recruit an extra 150 Police Officers and 100 Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) were on track. By the end of the financial year, the Force would have employed approximately 160 new Police Officers, although 69 others had left in the same year resulting in a net gain of 90 officers. The target of employing 60 PCSOs this year was also progressing well.

During discussions, the following issues were raised:-

- in response to Members' queries, the Commissioner confirmed that the recruitment of Police Officers from the existing PCSO group did have a knock-on effect for the PCSO target. So far, six existing PCSOs and a number of existing Special Constables and City Council Community Protection Officers had been appointed as Police Officers in the recent recruitment. With regard to the proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) appointees, the Commissioner clarified that there had been some limited success in that respect. Although the overall figures had not been

finalised as yet, progress was not currently at the desired rate although the number of BME applicants had been significantly higher than previously (11% of all applicants). In the recent Police cadet recruitment round, 18% of applicants were from BME backgrounds.

The College of Policing had visited Nottinghamshire last week as part of a major study into the under-representation of Black and Asian officers. Representatives from the Commissioner's Office had also been to the National Assessment Centre last week to discuss this issue. With regard to recruitment plans for next year, the Commissioner was unable to finalise numbers until the budget had been agreed but the benefits of having more Black and Asian officers was recognised. The Chief Constable highlighted the workshops which had been organised to better prepare BME applicants for each stage of the national selection programme. The Force had challenged a number of existing processes and had recommended changes to address this issue nationally;

- Members raised concerns about partnership working in High Impact areas in the City and Priority Plus areas in the County, with specific reference to the rise in burglaries and shop thefts in Ashfield (particularly Hucknall in terms of burglaries) and the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) to address cross-border crime. In response, the Commissioner highlighted a Force-led review of partnership working in the priority areas in the City and County and offered to share this with Panel Members. He hoped to be able to maintain the existing levels of funding in those areas and reiterated his gratitude to Ashfield District Council for the additional funding they had provided in the Ashfield priority plus areas. Members requested a report on the work in these areas to the next meeting and the Commissioner agreed to include this in a wider Prevention Strategy report.

The Commissioner and the Force recognised there was a problem with burglary in Hucknall currently and were able to shift resources to target such hot spot areas. With regard to retail crime, Deputy Chief Constable Sue Fish was leading on this issue nationally and discussions had been held with local and national stores. Further to discussions at the last Panel meeting, the work with the Co-operative Group was continuing. With regard to ANPR, the Chief Constable explained that significant investment had been made in strengthening mobile capability to enable a flexible approach to better deal with travelling criminals. The five forces regionally now also had a shared back office function for this, enabling a single regional database and more efficient deployment of ANPR cameras. Members felt it would be helpful to promote the use of this technology as a means of deterring criminals;

- in response to Members' queries, the Commissioner confirmed that none of the priority themes and activities had currently been assessed as 'Red (requiring action to mitigate risk to delivery)'. With regard to the lack of recent data around alcohol-related admissions to hospitals, the Commissioner stated that he had attended a meeting with the County Council earlier that day around plans to tender some work around

substance and alcohol misuse and he wanted to build in relevant performance measures within that (which would principally be monitored by the County Council). In response to members' concerns about the lack of data currently, the Commissioner agreed to write to Panel members about this issue;

- Members queried which of the priority themes and activities currently assessed as Amber were at the greatest risk of changing to Red. The Commissioner felt that the greatest areas of risk were around keeping control of the budget and reducing crime. Members stated that it would be helpful to know whether those themes rated as Amber were moving in the right direction;
- with regard to the Alcohol Strategy, Members highlighted the supportive work of Bassetlaw District Council (in its Licensing Authority role) which had placed conditions on licensees about the sale of 'super strength' drinks. The Commissioner referred to a similar approach by the City Council and his work in conjunction with them to persuade all supermarkets to adopt the approach;
- the Commissioner acknowledged his and the Chief Constable's concerns about the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda, particularly around the scale and speed of change. He fed back from a recent meeting at which concerns were raised directly with a Ministry of Justice representative. He highlighted the lack of clarity currently around how the Commissioner would link into the new community rehabilitation company and felt that the new approach ran counter to the Localism agenda. The Commissioner thanked Christine Goldstraw and the Probation Trust Board for all their work and efforts and asked for his thanks to be passed on to the Chief Probation Officer also. Ms Goldstraw underlined the commitment within the Probation Service to ensuring the service was in optimum condition ahead of its handover. Other Members raised concerns about the changes, including around the lack of piloting and the lack of additional resources to deal with a greatly increased range of offenders. Councillor Gilfoyle added that he had raised these concerns with the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and through correspondence with the Ministry of Justice. Members requested an update on this issue to the next Panel meeting. The Commissioner referred to an event which the Ministry of Justice was organising about the new service in Nottinghamshire and offered to arrange for Panel Members to receive an invite to this event. He also stated that he had written to the Lord Chancellor to express concerns about the rate of change but had not received a positive response (he agreed to share the Lord Chancellor's response with interested Panel Members).

RESOLVED 2013/039

- 1) That the progress made and the performance against the strategic priority themes and activities be noted.**

- 2) That the issues raised by the Panel be considered by the Commissioner as part of his refresh of the Police and Crime Plan for 2014-18.**

7. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

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

- crime levels remained a major concern for the Commissioner and he had received assurances from the Chief Constable about this. In response to concerns raised by Members arising from national media coverage about the accuracy of crime statistics, he underlined his confidence in the accuracy of the local crime statistics;
- with regard to the proposed budget workshop on 31 January, he expressed disappointment about the relevant timing of the event in relation to the subsequent Panel meeting on 3 February, which had been due to limited mutual availability of Members and officers. However, he felt it offered an opportunity for Members to raise any issues in advance of the formal consideration. He added that there would be a slight overspend this year (contrasting with underspends previously) partly as a result of preparatory work being done about the future shape of the Force. He anticipated a similar level of cuts (20%) in the next Comprehensive Spending Review period as in the current period. The vision of what the Police service would look like in four years' time was currently being developed and would be shared with the Panel in Spring 2014. He aimed to enhance and protect Neighbourhood Policing and recognised that closing Police facilities was not an easy matter, as recently illustrated with the proposal to close the Mansfield Woodhouse police station and re-open a community point. The Commissioner believed that the public wanted 'bobbies' rather than buildings and there were £2.4m savings planned from the Police's estate. He was keen to reduce back office costs and share resources wherever possible. He was looking to pursue savings through various proposals, including Parish Constables (rural Special Constables), new technology and preventative work.

During discussions, the following issues were raised:-

- Members requested to see the plan of possible closures. The Commissioner stated that there were no proposals for closures at this point but every premises within the Police estate was being considered, with a general move away from having large police stations to other premises shared with other partner agencies (as in West Bridgford). He felt that this made it easier for the public to access a range of services from the same place. Members felt that rumours were likely to spread in the absence of any clear plans and recommended the development of a property strategy as a matter of urgency. They felt that the public were more amenable to change if they were aware of what was planned and the reasons behind this. The Commissioner felt that some concerns raised were irrational and he underlined that the Mansfield Woodhouse Police Station had not been open to the public for some time. With regard to that proposed closure, Members queried whether local people's

views captured through the blog organised by The Chad would be fed back to the police. The Commissioner felt that this information would be useful and agreed to pursue this;

- Members queried the differing performance levels in the various Partnership Plus areas, as illustrated in the table in the report. In response, the Commissioner felt that these areas needed to share best practice in order to replicate the successes.

RESOLVED 2013/040

That the contents of the update report be noted.

8. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UPDATE

The Deputy Commissioner introduced the latest of these regular update reports and highlighted the following key points:-

- the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law) extended the successful pilot scheme which Nottinghamshire had been involved in. Within the Nottinghamshire pilot, Information had been shared with 10 of the 56 women who had made requests, underlining that disclosures were not always made. The introduction of Domestic Violence Protection Orders offered a further tool to make victims safer;
- there was ongoing debate about whether an increase in repeat victimisation should be seen as a positive illustration of people's confidence in reporting such crimes. Further information was being sought to enable analysis of the increases seen in areas such as City Central;
- a positive meeting had been held with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in November as part of their nationwide inspection of domestic violence services. The findings would be published in April 2014 with the draft report for Nottinghamshire shared in advance of that. The HMIC response at the meeting seemed positive but did focus on the differences in services between the City and the County;
- reviews of domestic violence services were being undertaken in both the City and the County currently. The University of Leicester had also been commissioned to do work around repeat victims.

During discussions, the following issues were raised:-

- Members raised concerns about a lack of services for male victims. In response, the Deputy Commissioner stated that services for men would be considered as part of the ongoing reviews;
- Members welcomed the extension of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme and queried whether the requests for information had been made by potential victims or via safeguarding agencies. The Deputy Commissioner

clarified that the requests needed to come directly from the women affected but that agencies were helping to promote awareness of people's rights in relation to the scheme;

- Members queried the increased numbers of repeat victims in Gedling and Rushcliffe. The Deputy Commissioner highlighted that one of the highest increases had been seen in Southwell and explained that often the reporting of incidents was due to victims being given options for getting out of their current situation. Members queried whether any analysis had been undertaken about the low numbers of reports in the North of the City (such as Bulwell). The Deputy Commissioner highlighted that there were more incidents reported in the North of the City than in the South and agreed to include comparative statistics for the City in the next update;
- Members queried the outcomes of the recent White Ribbon awareness-raising campaign. The Deputy Commissioner explained that approximately 5,000 men had signed up to this campaign (which had a target of 10,000 signatures) and she encouraged others to continue to sign up. She also stressed that domestic violence was one strand of the recently launched Alliance Against Violence campaign;
- Members highlighted other initiatives which had helped to promote awareness of domestic violence services, such as the distribution of free lip balms containing helpline telephone numbers in Aspley, publicity on bus stops across the City and work with schools. The Deputy Commissioner underlined the difficulties in assessing the success of such initiatives, with longer-term benefits not being immediately apparent;
- Members queried the links between this issue and the Alcohol Strategy. The Deputy Commissioner stated that work was being undertaken to ensure that the various related strands of the work of the Commissioner were linked together – for example, the meeting today with Nottinghamshire County Council about the alcohol and substance misuse tendering exercise had also considered domestic violence. Research had shown that alcohol was not a cause of domestic violence but it tended to be a factor and escalated the levels of abuse to physical violence;
- with regard to the negative coverage of the Force's recent publicity campaign aimed at reducing the levels of domestic violence historically seen during the festive period, the Commissioner underlined his support for the campaign and its success in raising awareness. The Chief Constable offered his apologies for any offence caused by the campaign but felt that the content, format and timing of the publicity was appropriate and justified by the expected levels of abuse experienced over this period. Members requested further details of the actual increase in incidents reported over this period in the next update report.

RESOLVED 2013/041

That the report be noted.

9. HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION ON EXPANDING THE ROLE AND POWERS OF POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICERS (PCSOs)

Keith Ford introduced the report which sought Panel Members' views on the proposed expansion of PCSO powers. The Commissioner stated that he wrote to the Home Office in the summer of 2013 requesting that PCSO powers be expanded and had received a positive response to that proposal.

RESOLVED 2013/042

That a draft response be produced and circulated to Panel Members for comments ahead of the consultation deadline of 20 December 2013.

The meeting closed at 3.35 pm

CHAIRMAN

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