

## **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 2.00 PM AT MANSFIELD 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

Councillor John Handley – Nottinghamshire County Council

Suma Harding – Independent Member – A

Councillor Pat Lally – Broxtowe Borough Council - A

Councillor Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council

Councillor Debbie Mason – Rushcliffe Borough Council– A

Councillor Carole McCulloch – Nottingham City Council – A

Councillor Bruce Laughton – Newark and Sherwood District Council

#### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Sue Bearman – Senior Solicitor

) 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 – Treasurer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2013, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Suma Harding and Councillors Campbell, Collins, Culley, Lally, Mason and McCulloch.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Bruce Laughton declared a private interest as his spouse works for Nottinghamshire Police, which did not preclude him from debating or voting on the items on this agenda.

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

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

- with regard to CCTV cameras, the Force had contacted all Councils in Nottinghamshire to seek further discussions about potential savings to be made in the long-term by the rationalisation and investment in equipment (a number of authorities had underlined to the Commissioner that this issue fell within their remit but they were keen to have an exploratory conversation);
- in relation to the reform of Probation, the Commissioner continued to work with Leicestershire and Derbyshire Commissioners around the possibility of submitting an indicative bid to be a private contractor of reform services, although he was not confident that this would be possible;
- he underlined that expenditure was broadly in line with budget targets with a slight underspend anticipated. He highlighted that the overtime budget was overspent;
- the recruitment of an additional 150 police officers was now well underway and advertisements for more officers and Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) would be placed in Spring 2014. The Commissioner underlined the need for further work to ensure that recruitment overall was able to reflect the Force's communities;
- the initial report from Deloitte on the Base Budget Review would be available by the end of this week and the Commissioner looked forward to sharing this with the Panel;
- the Commissioner was seeking to create new pots of funding for more preventative work with partners to help address the recent increase in crime. The Commissioner continued to hold regular meetings with the Chief Constable and the Divisional Commanders, particularly around performance in the Partnership Plus areas which he felt could be improved. He planned to visit all of those areas soon and to discuss ways of improvement with partners. He stated that approximately 50% of crime in the City was committed in the high impact wards;
- he highlighted the positive work undertaken by the Force in partnership with highways authorities (the City and County Councils) to address issues such as parking on pavements.

During discussions, the following points were raised:-

- it was queried whether it fell within the remit of the Commissioner to pursue CCTV improvements. In response, the Commissioner stated that the need for improvements had been highlighted during different meetings he had arranged with Council Leaders. A number of Councils had underlined to the Commissioner their desire to retain control of this issue, although the Commissioner and the Force were happy to be involved. The Chief Constable had commissioned a report to consider the current arrangements and this had resulted in broad headline findings which sought to deliver a more consistent and coherent approach whilst delivering savings. The Chief Constable accepted that this was not a policing matter but stressed the need for a permissive approach in order to work collaboratively. He planned to discuss the report further with Council Chief Executives to consider how best to progress this matter as it would require the informed commitment of local authorities.

Members highlighted the recent CCTV improvements in Ashfield which now operated a shared system with Newark and Sherwood. This approach had delivered savings for both Councils although the initial IT problems encountered and the cautious approach taken by the Police around integrating their systems with those of the local authorities underlined the benefits of collaboration in order to access more technologically advanced equipment. The Commissioner felt that it would be useful to have this issue discussed at a future meeting of the Nottinghamshire Leaders' Group. Members raised concerns that if the service became a centralised function overseen by the Police and based in police stations then there was potential for Councils to withdraw their funding of the service in the future. The Commissioner acknowledged these concerns and underlined the potential savings to be achieved by working together on such issues;

- Members highlighted the benefits of working in collaboration on other issues with the recent Ashfield District contribution of £30,000 into each of the Partnership Plus areas in Ashfield highlighted. The Commissioner welcomed this financial contribution and underlined the need to reconsider the approach in such areas in light of recent results. The Chief Constable welcomed the support of Ashfield District Council and underlined the need for a reinforced grip and control of issues in those areas. Members felt that, from their experience, the recent crime increases in those areas could be down to officers transferring from those areas and a lack of beat officers on their beats. The Chief Constable stated that there was continued potential to be as effective in reducing crime in the future as in the past three years and acknowledged that the Force had 'taken their eye off the ball' in July 2013. He underlined that similar increases in crime levels recently had been experienced in Derbyshire and Leicestershire;
- Members raised concerns about a new Probation Service house which the Police had not been notified about. Burglary rates had risen in the relevant area since the house had been operating. In response, the Commissioner and the Chief Constable felt that it was unlikely that this was a facility run by the Probation Service and was probably an approved premise. The Commissioner voiced his own concerns that young people were being put at risk in some

small, residential accommodation run by private sector providers. He felt that it was wrong that the Police were not notified about the opening of such accommodation and felt that a change in legislation might be needed to address the problem;

- Members expressed concern about the Police's refusal to provide officer support for anything other than 'nationally significant' events such as Armistice Day parades, meaning officer support for carnivals and other such local community events would not be available. In response, the Commissioner clarified that this was not due to financial restrictions (as suggested in the media) but was a result of the Highways Act 1992 which meant that the Police may have acted improperly in escorting local parades in the past. The issue needed further thought with regard to how police input (including training) could be given into the advance planning of such events by community groups and Highways Authorities. The Chief Constable added that as well as the legal issues there were also resource implications in providing officers at such events. Members queried whether the Force had held discussions with local authorities ahead of this approach being taken and underlined the need for discussions in the future to agree a sensible, cost-effective approach. The Commissioner underlined the need for a clear, consistent, public message about why the Police were no longer supporting such events (including lack of proper notice and legal implications) and underlining the offer of support in planning these events. The Chief Constable underlined that conversations did take place with the County Council and others and that they were in agreement about the issue. He agreed that there was a need to meet with Councils regarding planning for the future in order to agree a legal, effective and affordable way of dealing with community events. Members felt there was a need for flexibility so that a different approach could be taken with events that could be planned well in advance (such as Christmas events) compared to more ad hoc events such as open bus tours following sporting successes. The Commissioner agreed to bring an update on this issue in a future report to the Panel;
- Further to the issue of Black and Minority Ethnic representation within the Force's officers and staff, Members also requested breakdowns in terms of age, particularly with regards to Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs). The Commissioner agreed to share that information with Members in relation to warranted officers and PCSOs. He also highlighted that many of the new officers recruited were previously PCSOs or Special Constables, which would result in a knock-on effect further down the line. The Chief Constable added that transferees were able to take up duties within 3 weeks whereas 'raw' recruits may need six months, followed by a further six month period before they are properly effective. One anticipated impact of the A19 process around retirements was that the age profile of the Force would get younger. However, the reverse had occurred with less interest shown by younger people than expected. The Chief Constable added that recruitment events were planned for October 2013, targeting under-represented groups and that the Force was unique nationally in seeking to recruit officers at this time;

- Members highlighted the cost agreement which the Force had with a private school in Newark in terms of dealing with missing pupils etc. Members queried whether consideration had been given to rolling out such an approach to enable other private providers to contribute towards the cost of policing related to their establishments. The Commissioner agreed to look into this issue. He added that with regard to care homes, many of those in the County were small although the Police were unaware of the exact numbers. This underlined his concerns about the undisclosed use of regulated accommodation as previously discussed;
- Members highlighted a recent lack of Police officer presence at local community group meetings, such as tenant and resident groups;
- Members felt that cross-border crime, particularly along the A1 corridor, was sending out the wrong message about the County. Bassetlaw District Council had undertaken a scrutiny review which had highlighted the high number of lay-bys on the A1 in the area and the problems in encouraging drivers to park up in safe areas. The Commissioner was requested to consider the findings of that scrutiny report with a view to seeking improvements. Members also felt that the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) in the County needed to be widely promoted to discourage criminal activity. The Commissioner underlined the Force's investment in ANPR but he felt that this technology had not been used to full effect as yet. He recognised the need to encourage lorry drivers to park in safer places and confirmed that organised crime was behind some of the thefts, with high value loads being targeted. Partnership working had resulted in some companies agreeing to let any HGV park outside their units in industrial estates. Some haulage companies and lorry parks were now operating cashless systems so that drivers would not gain personally from parking in lay-bys. The Commissioner agreed to pursue this issue and promote the use of cashless systems. Members underlined the need to consider the wider implications so that increased numbers of HGVs were not driving through villages as a result of any change in approach;
- Members highlighted the lack of clarity about how much to hold the Commissioner to account for targets that were shared with partner agencies. The Commissioner acknowledged this and referred to correspondence from the Lord Chancellor that underlined the courts were not part of the Commissioner's remit. However, the Commissioner had included certain partnership performance indicators (which were not set by him) within his Police and Crime Plan as he was keen to improve services for victims in general. The Chief Constable had been working with partners to try and make the criminal justice process better for victims. The Chief Constable acknowledged that the Police input was only part of the issue and underlined that the Police and Crime Panel was the only forum able to look at this issue in public. He encouraged Members to address the following issues and query what the Police were doing in these matters (to prevent accountability from getting lost in such areas of partnership working):-
  - the efficiency and timeliness of justice for victims and offenders;
  - the justness of the criminal justice experience for victims (an area which the Deputy Commissioner was addressing);

- the effective management of offenders so that the public can feel this is happening;
- Members highlighted that the recently published Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) / HMI Prisons Joint Inspection of Police Custody Suites report stated that Nottinghamshire had not required the unplanned use of other suites or neighbouring forces' custody suites but prisoners had been taken from Nottinghamshire to Doncaster custody suites in December 2012. The Commissioner confirmed that prisoners had been taken to Doncaster on occasions and felt that the Inspectors must not have realised that. He added that discussions had taken place about utilising the Doncaster custody suites in the future if necessary;
- Members raised concerns about the safety of children using social media sites without appropriate privacy controls. They queried what work was being done to educate children and their parents about the dangers and whether the Police were prosecuting perpetrators. The Commissioner agreed that social media was a fast-moving environment and that work was being undertaken by the Force to get up to speed on the threats posed by such technology. The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the work being undertaken by the Public Protection Unit (PPU) and underlined that this was a Government priority and a safeguarding issue which was international in its scope. Such social media sites had potential to make vulnerable people more vulnerable. The Chief Constable invited Members to visit the PPU. He said electronic criminal activity included social media, intellectual property rights, on-line fraud and identity theft. Such issues could not be addressed on an individual force basis and the Home Secretary was considering the issue. The Chief Constable underlined that perpetrators were being prosecuted once certain thresholds of activity had been reached. The Commissioner agreed to provide an update on this issue to the next panel meeting;
- Further to paragraph 4.2 of the report, Members expressed concerns about those targets and performance indicators featured within the Police and Crime Plan for which figures were still not available;
- Members requested that a policy be formulated with all local authorities to deal with illegal traveller camps. The Commissioner had discussed with the Deputy Chief Constable the need to renew the protocol that exists between the Police and local authorities, in light of a recent Government publication that emphasised the benefits of more effective working in partnership. The Commissioner added that he would welcome a discussion with local authorities about this issue;
- Members asked to receive reports to the Panel when police stations were being closed to ensure that discussions took place with local authorities. The Commissioner underlined that he did not have a closure plan and that any possible closures would be considered on a case-by-case basis with due public consultation. He underlined that there was a move towards having less police stations and more community points and co-location with partner agencies.

## **RESOLVED 2013/026**

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

### **5. REGIONAL COLLABORATION UPDATE REPORT**

The Commissioner introduced the report which informed Members of the regional collaborative work being undertaken in 2013-14. Further to paragraph 4.10 of the report, HMIC were undertaking the review of the regional collaboration, acting in the role of consultants rather than inspectors. The Commissioner underlined that the savings generated by undertaking more work regionally enabled him to safeguard funding for neighbourhood policing. With regard to concerns expressed by Members previously that collaboration was an indirect means of introducing regional Police forces, the Commissioner understood that there were currently no Home Office plans for regional Forces but collaboration and co-operation was being encouraged. The Chief Constable highlighted that the current collaboration on Forensics was being widened from three Forces to five. He stated that discussions were underway with local authorities on potential collaboration around community safety issues.

During discussions, Members queried the budget implications of not all five Forces collaborating on certain issues and queried whether pump priming funding was required, for example to enable technological improvements so that all five Forces could use the same IT system. In response, the Commissioner stated that ideally all five Forces would be involved in all the collaborative approaches but not all had the same appetite for change and wanted the same pace of change. With regard to funding, the Home Office had a £50m collaboration fund for 2014/15 but there had been talk about this being available before 2014. If that occurred, the region would be in a good position to make a bid. He was clear that public/private partnerships were the way forward and would like to see the five Forces agree on that point. He hoped that this issue could be resolved at the next regional meeting and stated that he would update the Panel with plans for future development as appropriate.

## **RESOLVED 2013/027**

**That the report be noted.**

### **6. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UPDATE**

The Deputy Commissioner introduced the report, which was the first of an ongoing series of updates requested by the Panel. She highlighted a number of issues within the report including the research project commissioned to look at the lack of support available to medium risk repeat victims, the research being undertaken in both the City and the County to highlight any gaps in provision and the funding from the Partnership Fund to address known gaps. She stated that the changes to the Public Protection Unit were resulting in a more consistent service for victims and underlined that the increase in Domestic Violence reporting was a good thing as it indicated increased confidence that the Police will

deal with the issue. She outlined the work being undertaken in schools around early prevention and intervention which would help children understand what healthy relationships were. She also highlighted the work being undertaken with victims and to hold perpetrators to account.

During discussions, the following issues were raised:-

- Members felt that it was inappropriate to describe an increase of 42 incidents as “a small rise”, which the Deputy Commissioner accepted;
- Members commended the ‘Great Project’ work that was being undertaken in schools and queried whether there were plans to develop this further. In response the Deputy Commissioner said that this project had won national awards but further work was needed to seek funding and to encourage schools to participate. £500,000 would be required to provide the project in every school in Nottinghamshire and discussions were underway with partner agencies about this. Members highlighted that the DARE programme continued to be funded by some schools themselves. Members added that the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub was looking at improving ways of promptly informing Head Teachers about any domestic violence incidents experienced or witnessed by pupils;
- in response to a query from Members about whether work with perpetrators was being targeted at specific communities, the Deputy Commissioner recognised that different communities had different needs. She highlighted the Respect Project (which was being implemented by Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum in conjunction with the Youth Offending Team) and a planned meeting of local faith groups on the issue of domestic violence. She stated that there were a number of specialist Asian workers within local domestic violence agencies. She added that the biggest gap currently was around working with Eastern European communities and this required further consideration. Members queried whether European funding may be available for work with these communities, with 2014-2020 bids currently being looked at;
- Members thanked the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner for the work they had done so far in raising the media profile of domestic violence and fulfilling this manifesto pledge;
- in response to a query from Members about male victims, The Deputy Commissioner clarified that there were also male victims of domestic violence and that there was a specialist male worker in post to deal with high risk men. The reviews being undertaken in the City and the County would help to highlight any gaps in services, one of which was known to be around working with perpetrators to make a difference. Members understood that currently male victims of sexual violence had to go to Derby to access services. The Deputy Commissioner clarified that male rape victims could go to their local SARC and that most domestic violence services were encouraged to assist male callers before referring them on. Members suggested involving Health agencies within the research around service provision;



- The Commissioner highlighted the further work needed around the wider issue of working with voluntary sector partners.

**RESOLVED 2013/028**

**That the report be noted.**

**7. WORK PROGRAMME**

Mr Dennis confirmed that the items scheduled within the work programme for October 2013 (including the further Regional Collaboration update requested at this meeting) would be available for that meeting. However, he highlighted that the Commissioner's six monthly review of the Police and Crime Plan would not be completed by that point and therefore suggested deferring that item to the following meeting.

**RESOLVED 2013/029**

**That the updated work programme, as amended at the meeting, be agreed.**

**8. REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP – UPDATE**

**RESOLVED 2013/025**

**That the latest position and the planned recruitment process be noted.**

The meeting closed at 4.13 pm

CHAIRMAN  
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