

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2021
AT 2.00pm AT COUNTY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

Christine Goldstraw OBE – Independent Member
Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council

Executive Mayor Andy Abrahams – Mansfield District Council - **A**
Councillor Scott Carlton – Newark and Sherwood District Council
Councillor Andre Camilleri - Nottinghamshire County Council
Lesley Dalby – Independent Member
Councillor Kevin Greaves – Bassetlaw District Council
Suma Harding – Independent Member - **A**
Councillor Rob Inglis – Rushcliffe Borough Council
Councillor Neghat Khan – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Richard MacRae – Broxtowe Borough Council
Councillor Helen-Ann Smith – Ashfield District Council
Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member
Linda Woodings – Nottingham City Council

OTHER COUNTY COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Mike Introna

OFFICERS PRESENT

Jo Toomey – Advanced Democratic Services Officer	}	Nottinghamshire County Council
	}	(Host Authority)
Pete Barker - Democratic Services Officer	}	

OTHERS PRESENT

Caroline Henry - Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Craig Guildford - Chief Constable, Notts Police
Rachel Barber - Deputy Chief Constable, Notts Police
Kevin Dennis - Chief Executive, Office of PCC (OPCC)
Sharon Caddell - Deputy Chief Executive, OPCC
Dan Howitt - Head of Strategy, Research, Information & Assurance, OPCC
Charlie Radford - Chief Finance Officer, OPCC

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September, 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 were received from Executive Mayor, Andy Abrahams (Mansfield District Council) and Suma Harding (Independent Member).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Independent Co Opted members present declared an interest in Item 7, 'Independent Co Opted Members, and undertook to leave the meeting when the debate and voting took place on this item.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

Ms Toomey introduced the report and highlighted the following:

- The Chair, Councilor Khan and Ms Toomey attended the National Police (Fire) and Crime Panel Conference which took place on 2 November at Warwick Conference Centre.
- The Conference was very interesting and included an open plenary session on the Home Office Review of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), an update on the Strategic Review of Policing and a series of workshops in the afternoon.
- Dr Rick Muir spoke to delegates about the Strategic Review of Policing stating that his report would be published either later this year or early in the new year.
- The report on the review of PCCs was scheduled for publication in November 2021 but at the time of the Panel meeting this had not happened.

Following Ms Toomey's introduction the Panel considered the report and in discussions the following points were raised:

- Members spoke of their recent visit to the new custody suite, praising the planning and consultation that had taken place, the project's green credentials and the fact that it had come in under budget.
- The Commissioner was asked to submit a report to a future meeting of the Panel on 'Crimestoppers' and how the initiative works in Nottinghamshire.
- The staffing and revenue budgets are matters for the Commissioner who regularly submits reports to the Panel on the subject. This area will be covered as the Panel goes through the agenda, along with how the savings from not employing a Deputy PCC are used and the subject of the Newark Police Station.

RESOLVED 2021/022

That a report on how the ‘Crimestoppers’ initiative works in Nottinghamshire be brought to a future meeting of the Panel.

5. NOTTINGHAM POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2021-2025

The Commissioner introduced the report and stated:

- That it was 9 years since the first PCC elections had taken place.
- The consultation draft and presentation have been shared with members and a larger document is available on the Commissioner’s website.
- Scrutiny and suggestions are welcome with the consultation period closing at the end of December 2021.
- The Commissioner wants to be visible and encourages community engagement.
- The Plan aims to identify the biggest risks and to track developments in crime.
- Consultation with residents has identified a difference in what communities are concerned with and the crimes that are actually taking place.
- Engagement events have been held and the feedback from organisations has been incorporated into the Plan. Some of the concerns raised have been exacerbated by Covid, for example mental health problems.
- The Commissioner has 3 priorities: ‘Prevent, Respond, Support’
- Prevent is possibly the most important with the potential to save lives and money.
- In terms of Respond – different areas are affected differently.
- There are plans to establish an Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Workforce
- Though popular, a rural crime team will not tackle all that is required. The whole response to the problem of rural crime needs to be improved.
- In terms of Support – Nottinghamshire is fortunate to have high quality third sector organisations
- The Commissioner does want to improve victims’ experience
- The Crimestoppers initiative is designed to support and enable communities to help themselves
- The Commissioner has lobbied for a 3 year financial settlement – short term funding does make planning very difficult.

- In conclusion, the Police & Crime Plan is ambitious and will help the Commissioner to reduce the number of victims and to provide a stronger network of services by the end of her first term.

During discussions the following points were raised:

- The Panel praised the work being undertaken around violence against women and girls, especially the work taking place in schools and the support being provided by Equation.
- The Chief Constable responded to a question about the culture in the Notts Force given the recent case of Wayne Couzens by informing the Panel that the Force has a code of ethics for both staff and police, with thorough investigations, which in the past have led to individuals losing their jobs. There are a raft of training courses available to all staff in the organisation and the Force's track record bears any scrutiny.
- The Commissioner stated that the Force was well regarded because of its approach to misogyny and its definition as a hate crime.
- The Panel spoke positively of the triage work being done, with many of those suffering from poor mental health no longer being held in police cells. The Commissioner stated that the police do want to look after vulnerable people but also want to avoid picking up other people's problems. The Commissioner's conversations with the Home Office on this topic are ongoing.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner about rural crime, questioning the quality of the offer. The Commissioner confirmed that she wanted to improve the service by doing things differently but that establishing a small, specialist team was not the answer. There is a desire to improve the quality of the recording to better understand the picture in rural areas. The Chief Constable stated that deployment decisions are made on the basis of threat, harm and risk and that the approach needed to be consistent across the County.
- The Panel observed that the work of the PCCs had been undermined over the last 9 years by the amount of funding made available by government and praised the Notts Force for its wide ranging work with partners, something that is not mirrored nationally.
- Speaking of new monies, Mr Dennis referred to the Youth Endowment Fund where Nottinghamshire had secured £1.46m over 2 ½ years to work with those in custody and try to ensure that they do not re-enter the criminal justice system by providing wrap around care, mentoring etc
- The Chief Constable confirmed that the use of resources was an operational matter and were deployed where the need was greatest.
- When campaigning, the Commissioner did undertake to review the Police estate but not to provide a new station in Worksop. Subsequently, there has been investment in the Worksop area, including £432k in the Safer Streets initiative and the employment of more officers in the area as a result of Operation Uplift.
- The budgeted establishment of officers for 2019/20 was 2,500. At the end of the present financial year that figure will be 2,381. Any further increases in officer numbers will depend on the amount of grant forthcoming from government.

- The Commissioner was asked about the series of engagement events held recently and confirmed that 12.5k had watched the live streams with more attending in person or responding to surveys. The approach has changed from holding specific events, where attendances have been low, to having a presence at previously scheduled events, which are also live streamed. The Commissioner will continue to experiment in this area with the aim of maximising public engagement.
- The public's perception of crime is based on a robust annual survey which has been conducted since 2017. The survey receives 4,300 responses a year and one of the questions is 'What would you like to see the Police do more to tackle?' The public's identification of drugs as a problem has dropped markedly over the last 2 years, possibly as a result of the success of Operation Reacher, and now the chief concern is that of speeding/reckless driving.
- The Commissioner has been working with Councillor Smith to install more CCTV in Ashfield, this will include a button that will allow members of the public to contact the camera operator. The Commissioner will bid for extra funds for CCTV whenever the opportunity arises.
- At a time of decreasing budgets the use of volunteers is a positive.
- The membership of the Criminal Justice Assurance Board is drawn from the force's normal partners and key actors. The Board aims to identify pinch points and makes sure data is visible locally. The emphasis is on prevention, to reduce the number of children going through the justice system.
- Even though there are only 12 KPIs detailed in the Police and Crime Plan these are underpinned by a more robust framework. The final Plan will be brought to the Panel meeting in February and will contain targets and comparative analysis.
- The public requires tangible evidence to give people confidence that it is worthwhile reporting crimes. There is often little feedback when crimes are reported and on-line reporting is not user-friendly.
- The Panel referred to Operation Reacher as an example of good communications which could be adopted as a model for other parts of the organisation.
- The Chief Constable confirmed that the force does want the public to report crimes and the Commissioner agreed to take on board the comments made by the Panel, agreeing that it was important to retain the trust of communities and convince people it was worthwhile to report crimes.

RESOLVED 2021/023

That the contents of the report be noted.

6. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

The Commissioner introduced the report and highlighted the following:

- The Youth Charter has been put together by young people and details what they want.

- As the Deputy Chief Executive Sharon Caddell has been appointed to support the work of the Commissioner.
- The Police and Fire Services will both relocate to the new HQ in 2022 allowing efficiencies to be achieved.
- There are 16 different projects progressing as a result of the 'Make Notts Safe' fund.
- Successful bids for Home Office monies include £50k each to be spent in the Worksop South and Sutton in Ashfield areas and a further £300k to improve safety and the feeling of safety in the night-time economy.
- Newark Police Station will not now be relocated – the Commissioner is keen for a visible police presence to be retained in the town and is working with the Chief Constable on a way forward.

During discussions the following points were raised:

- Operation Windblown was launched as soon as reports of women being spiked by needles were received. This is a dedicated initiative involving triage, the QMC and nightclubs. All cases are investigated and arrests have been made. Lessons have been learned from elsewhere and the Commissioner has spoken to her equivalent in Devon & Cornwall and as a result test kits have been purchased so that suspected victims can be tested immediately.
- The Chief Constable confirmed that there is no relationship between the increase in sickness and the increase in assaults on officers, though there is an increased emphasis in recording assaults in an attempt to reduce the tolerance of such incidents. Unfortunately officers are presenting with more serious illnesses as the NHS opens again.
- It is policy to notify Local Authorities of any successful bids for 'Make Notts Safe' funding before any announcements are made on social media.
- As negotiations are ongoing the Commissioner could not go into detail regarding future plans for Newark Police Station. Circumstances have changed since the decision was made to close the station. The public consultation indicated that the vast majority of the public were in favour of keeping the station open. The Panel will receive a report once a decision has been made.

RESOLVED 2021/024

That the contents of the report be noted.

7. INDEPENDENT CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The Independent Co-Opted members of the Panel left the meeting at this point and the Chair was taken by Councillor Ellis.

Councillor Ellis introduced the report and reminded members of the options that were contained in the report.

During discussions the Panel spoke of the high level of engagement and diverse backgrounds of the co-opted members and noted the uncertainty around the future of Panels pending the results of the review.

RESOLVED 2021/025

That the terms of the 4 independent, co-opted members be extended for a further 2 years following the expiry of their current terms on 31 May 2022.

The meeting closed at 4.07pm

CHAIR