

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 2.00 PM AT COUNTY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

Christine Goldstraw OBE – Independent Member (Chair)
Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council (Vice Chair)

Executive Mayor Andy Abrahams – Mansfield District Council
Councillor Leslie Ayoola – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Scott Carlton – Newark and Sherwood District Council - **A**
Lesley Dalby – Independent Member - **A**
Councillor Tony Eaton – Bassetlaw District Council - **A**
Suma Harding – Independent Member
Councillor Rob Inglis – Rushcliffe Borough Council
Councillor Richard MacRae – Broxtowe Borough Council - **A**
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan - Nottinghamshire County Council
Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member
Councillor Linda Woodings – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Daniel Williamson (substitute for Councillor Zadrozny) - Ashfield District Council
Councillor Jason Zadrozny – Ashfield District Council - **A**

OFFICERS PRESENT

| | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Keith Ford - Team Manager, Democratic Services | } | Nottinghamshire County Council |
| | } | (Host Authority) |
| Pete Barker - Democratic Services Officer | } | |
| Keith Palframan - Financial Services | } | |

OTHERS PRESENT

Paddy Tipping - 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)
Mark Kimberley - Head of Finance, Notts Police
Charlie Radford - Chief Finance Officer, OPCC

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2019

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25 November 2019, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed, and were signed by the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Carlton, Councillor Eaton, Councillor MacRae, Councillor Zadrozny and Lesley Dalby.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair thanked all those members and officers who attended and contributed to the recent budget workshops.

Mr Ford introduced the Work Programme report and informed members that the report detailed the dates of forthcoming meetings and stated that there was a potential clash in November with the national Police and Crime Panel Conference. (It was subsequently confirmed after the meeting that there is no clash).

Mr Ford drew members' attention to paragraphs 7 – 10 of the report which referred to the production of the first Annual Report which would highlight the activities undertaken by the Panel during 2019-20. Mr Ford reminded the Panel that a small group of those members who had expressed an interest would convene to discuss the matter with the aim of bringing a draft of the report to the June meeting of the Panel with the final version being approved at the September meeting.

Mr Ford confirmed to the Panel that the LGA's annual Police and Crime Panel Workshop would take place on 18th March 2020 and that all Panel members were invited to attend. Mr Ford informed the Panel that after the workshop the National Association of Police & Crime Panels would hold a meeting which would be attended by the Panel's representative, Suma Harding.

Mr Ford informed members that the next meeting of the Panel in March would feature a report on Domestic Violence and would be attended by representatives from various organisations working in the field.

RESOLVED 2020/001

- 1) That a sub-group consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Councillor Scott Carlton, Lesley Dalby, Councillor Rob Inglis, and Bob Vaughan-Newton be established to develop the Panel's Annual Report for 2019-20.
- 2) That the plans for the Domestic Violence update item on 30 March 2020 be noted.
- 3) That any Panel Members wishing to attend the LGA annual workshop contact the Panel's support officers, Keith Ford / Peter Barker.
- 4) That the following dates be agreed for the Panel meetings in the 2020-21 municipal year:-

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|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Monday 1 June 2020 (Annual Meeting) | 2.00pm |
| Monday 7 September 2020 | 2.00pm |
| Monday 23 November 2020 | 2.00pm |
| Friday 22 January 2021 (workshop) | 10.30am |
| Friday January 2021 (workshop) | 10.30am |
| Thursday 4 February 2021 | 2.00pm |
| Monday 29 March 2021 | 2.00pm |
| Monday 7 June 2021 (Annual Meeting) | 2.00pm |

5. PRECEPT AND BUDGET REPORTS 2020-21

Prior to the meeting the Panel submitted to the Commissioner a number of questions around the themes of consultation, Operation Uplift (whereby Police forces nationally are being provided with additional funding from Government to pay for additional police officers), savings and efficiencies, reserves, transport, the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and the Capital Programme. The questions and the responses received are appended to these minutes.

The Chair thanked the Commissioner and his officers for their input at the budget workshop and the timeliness of the written responses to the questions submitted by the Panel.

The Commissioner introduced the report and described the funding from Government this year as an 'interim year settlement', pending the planned spending review later this year. The Commissioner also highlighted the difficulties which the delay in the Government's announcement of the grant settlement for 2020-21 had caused.

The Commissioner referred to his letter (appended to these minutes) to the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and the Fire Service, which had been shared with Panel Members and which explained that 107 police officers would be recruited by 31 March 2020 as part of Operation Uplift. The Commissioner clarified the difference between headcount and Full Time Equivalents in terms of these calculations. The Commissioner stated that the additional £3m recruitment performance grant had not been included within the base budget at this point but was likely to be received this financial year and the Panel would be informed when this was received.

The Commissioner underlined that the rest of grant funding was essentially 'frozen' in cash terms and that the precept increase would equate to a rise of almost £8 per year for Council Tax Band B properties (the average property within Nottinghamshire).

With regard to consultation, the Commissioner explained that the Force was one of only two nationally to conduct ongoing surveys throughout the year. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the recent focus groups had attracted almost 50 attendees, who concluded strongly in favour of the increases following further discussions and explanations.

The Commissioner stated that the 'Surge' funding from Government to fight knife crime, which had helped achieve reductions in the City, would be provided again this financial year. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the exact amounts were not yet known and a working assumption of £0.7m was being used. The Commissioner stated that funding for the Violence Reduction Unit was likely to continue for the period of the forthcoming spending review.

The Commissioner underlined the fact that only £2.2m of the planned £3.3m savings and efficiencies for 2019-20 were likely to be achieved, with the most recent expenditure projections forecasting an overspend of £0.5m at financial year end. The Commissioner clarified that the general reserves were set at £7m which equated to approximately 3.5% of total funds and were within accepted best practice thresholds. The Commissioner stated that the capital programme was ambitious and made specific reference to the new Custody Suite and Joint Police and Fire Headquarters buildings which would likely cost £12m each next year, with the total remaining costs rising to £15m and £17m respectively.

During discussions, the Panel raised the following issues:-

- With regards to consultation, Members invited the Commissioner to comment on the fact that the proportion of residents supporting an increase within the limits of the referendum

threshold (i.e. up to £10 increase) had fallen from 45.4% to 24.7% over the last year. The Commissioner replied that this could be due to the 12% increase in 2019-20 and the fact that people had faced 10 years of austerity measures, although the Commissioner underlined that, once the issues were explained within focus groups and consultation events, participants are always persuaded that it is better to increase the precept. Members recognised that residents are carrying the burden of Government funding reductions and that communications need to be improved to ensure that residents are better informed about the changing nature of policing and the relevant costs. The Commissioner agreed with the Panel that the numbers of police officers after the Operation Uplift funding would still not be at the level of prior 2010 and it was recognised that it would take a couple of years for training to be completed and for new recruits to be fully established.

- Members welcomed the expansion of Operation Reacher across the City and the County and highlighted that the new team in Gedling was already achieving successes. Members recognised that, aside from the Uplift grant, funding generally remained under pressure. Members also acknowledged that as well as losing out on grant funding for the last ten years due to the inherent problems with the funding formula, Nottinghamshire continued to lose out as the 'Uplift' funding had been allocated based on that same formula. Members also highlighted that the Medium-Term Financial Strategy showed that £8.5m efficiency savings were needed over the next five years. The Commissioner agreed with the Panel's assessment and stated that the current funding formula saw Nottinghamshire lose out on over £10m on an annual basis and that he would continue to be involved in the discussions to revisit this. The Commissioner added that this would not be changed until after the spending review and that early indications are that Policing could be required to achieve savings of up to £600m over the next three years. The Commissioner stated his belief that this was a 'standstill budget', when the 'Uplift' money was considered separately.
- In light of discrepancies between the costs included in Reserves Strategy and other reports, Members asked for clarification of the total costs and deadline for completion of the Custody and Headquarters buildings. The Commissioner stated that the Chief Constable was negotiating hard with the contractors Wilmott Dixon to ensure that costs were kept to a minimum (although the final figures could not be confirmed at this stage) and the buildings were due to be commenced in the 2021-22 financial year. The Commissioner also clarified that the building designs would give due consideration to environmental sustainability and that a proportion of the Force's new fleet would be electric cars.
- In light of a lack of clarity about the use of the £3m recruitment performance grant for 'Uplift', Members sought explanation as to whether this was earmarked for particular issues. The Commissioner stated that this funding was included in existing plans with the £3m expected at the end of the first quarter of the next financial year (2020-21). The Commissioner highlighted that his letter to the Minister had underlined the Force's willingness to recruit further officers if other Forces struggled to do so in the timeframe.
- At the Commissioner's request the Chief Constable explained that the 107 new officers via 'Uplift' would be allocated across a range of teams including:-
 - the expansion of Operation Reacher as previously discussed;
 - increased capacity for the Knife Crime team;

- the Robbery team will be expanded to enable one team in the City and one in the County;
 - Adult Protection would be increased to bolster arrangements for the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub;
 - increased officers to address fraud and online crime;
 - a small increase to the Road Crime team.
- Members queried whether the other partner agencies within the Criminal Justice System were geared up to cope with the potential increase in prosecutions which could arise from the Force's increase in officers. The Commissioner acknowledged this concern and informed the Panel that this was the subject of debate nationally.
 - As well as the 'Uplift' additional resources, the Chief Constable also clarified that 10 additional response officers would be posted to Ashfield and Mansfield to largely deal with domestic incidents. The Chief Constable stated that although the split between the two Districts could not be confirmed at this stage, the arrangements were likely to be flexible to some extent.

RESOLVED 2020/002

- 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 £9.99 to £229.32 in Band D Council Tax be approved.**

6. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTION 2020 – PREPARATION AND TIMETABLE

Mr Dennis introduced the report which members had requested at the previous meeting. Mr Dennis informed the Panel that the timetable was the responsibility of the Police Area Returning Officer, therefore the dates contained in the report were only a guide, though the following do need to take place no later than stated: Publication of Notice of PCC election, 31st March; Receipt of Nominations, 8th April; and Election Day, 7th May. Mr Dennis informed the Panel that as the Bank Holiday now falls on Friday 8th May, the count will take place on Monday 11th May with the new term of office commencing on Thursday 14th May.

Mr Dennis informed the Panel that the person originally designated to conduct the election, Karen Bradford, the Chief Executive of Gedling District Council, was leaving to take up a new post, and that consequently Ms Bradford had recommended to the Cabinet Office that the election should be undertaken by Rushcliffe Borough Council who had managed the elections in 2012 and 2016.

Mr Dennis informed the Panel that to assist potential candidates a website had been set up which provided a central repository of information. Mr Dennis confirmed that all individuals expressing an interest in becoming a candidate will be invited to one to one briefings with the Chief Constable and the OPCC Executive or Chief Executive. Mr Dennis stated that many planning meetings had already taken place and that the Commissioner's office was ready to proceed once nominations had been received.

RESOLVED 2020/003

That the progress being made by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Force in planning for the election be noted.

7. UPDATE TO POLICE AND CRIME DELIVERY PLAN 2020-21

The Commissioner introduced the report and referred to the comparison table that had been circulated to Members and which detailed the differences between the current and proposed plans. The Commissioner informed the Panel that colleagues from the City had taken part in a workshop involved in drawing up the updated plan and stated that members may want to consider the plan outside of the meeting and submit any further questions in writing. The Panel confirmed that they would like more time to consider the updated plan and Mr Dennis informed the Panel that the plan needed to be published by 1st April.

RESOLVED 2020/004

That the Panel provide feedback and questions on the strategic activities contained in Appendix A of the report.

8. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT TO DECEMBER 2019

The Commissioner introduced the report and referred to paragraph 3.4 which explained that adult and child safeguarding referrals continued to increase both in Nottinghamshire and nationally, and which the Commissioner stated continued to pose a problem for the Force and its partners.

The Commissioner then brought members' attention to paragraph 3.8 which referred to the increase in drug trafficking and supply offences. The Commissioner informed the Panel that this increase could be explained by the greater police presence on the ground and a more interventionist approach as well as by the work being undertaken in the Ashfield area.

The Commissioner referred to the great strides that had been made in improving the response rates to '101' calls and also to the quality of '999' call handling, informing the Panel that a new computer system had been installed which had resulted in large financial savings.

The Commissioner spoke about the findings of the latest Police and Crime Survey and offered to share the results with the Panel if required.

The Commissioner then referred to the Case Study: Service Response to Stalking, informing the Panel that the report detailed the position in Nottinghamshire and highlighted the Third Sector partnership work.

During discussions, the Panel raised the following issues:-

- The Panel complimented the Commissioner on the format of the draft report and the clarity of the information presented within it.
- The Panel welcomed the reduction in knife crime in the City and cited the concerted effort that was taking place, with individuals on the edge of knife crime being targeted. The Commissioner replied that while knife crime was increasing in the East Midlands it was reducing both in the City and the Force's area overall. The Commissioner stated that this was as a result of vigorous enforcement and informed the Panel that although the number

of stop and searches had increased by 100%, the successful outcomes had remained the same, with 6 out of 10 of those stopped found to have something in their possession. The Commissioner praised the proactive and preventative work that was being undertaken with partners, especially with the City, and informed members that there would be a celebration of the work of the Violence Reduction Unit held in March to which all Panel members would be invited. The Commissioner stated that a report will be produced on the work done, highlighting what has worked and what has not.

RESOLVED 2020/005

That the contents of the report be noted and the template for the Performance and Insight Report, as detailed in Appendix A, be approved.

9. POLICE AND CRIME DELIVERY PLAN 2019-20 – THEME 1 – PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM HARM

Following the Commissioner's introduction to the report, in which he informed the Panel that all of the measures were rated green, the Panel raised the following issues:

- The Panel suggested that given the high incidence of green perhaps an additional colour was required, to better differentiate between those improvements that were in progress and those where the actions had now been completed. The Commissioner replied that he was always happy to discuss the Panel's requirements.
- The Panel questioned the Commissioner on the work to embed Schools and Early Intervention Officers in to schools. The Commissioner replied that this was an initiative brought to Nottinghamshire by the Chief Constable. The Chief Constable informed the Panel that the early intervention approach aimed to prevent individuals from becoming involved in criminal activities. The Chief Constable informed the Panel that such schemes were well supported, with funding from the Home Office having been increased. The Chief Constable stated that work around knife crime and hate crime prevention was being undertaken in primary schools in partnership with the D.A.R.E. initiative, and informed members that the Force liked to work with exclusion/inclusion teams and that this is a long-term project which the Force would continue to invest in.
- In response to a question regarding modern slavery, the Chief Constable confirmed that although incidents had reduced for 2 to 3 months, the number of referrals had now increased significantly.
- The Chief Constable informed the Panel that the Force had been the first one in the East Midlands to have obtained a Stalking Protection Order and that he expected work in this area to grow.

RESOLVED 2020/006

That the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 3.18pm

CHAIR