

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7 JUNE 2021 AT 2.00pm AT COUNTY HALL**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

(A denotes absent)

Christine Goldstraw OBE – Independent Member (re-elected as Chairman at this meeting)  
Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council (re-elected as Vice Chairman at this meeting)

Executive Mayor Andy Abrahams – Mansfield District Council  
Councillor Scott Carlton – Newark and Sherwood District Council  
Councillor Andre Camilleri - Nottinghamshire County Council  
Lesley Dalby – Independent Member – **A**  
Councillor Kevin Greaves – Bassetlaw District Council  
Suma Harding – Independent Member  
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

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Keith Ford – Team Manager, Democratic Services	}	Nottinghamshire County Council
	}	(Host Authority)
Jo Toomey – Advanced Democratic Services Officer	}	
Pete Barker - Democratic Services Officer	}	

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Caroline Henry - Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)  
Rachel Barber – Deputy Chief Constable, Notts Police  
Alex Castle-Clarke – Head of Strategy & Assurance, Office of PCC  
Charlie Radford – Chief Finance Officer, Office of PCC

## **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

### **RESOLVED 2021/009**

**That Christine Goldstraw OBE be appointed Chairman of the Panel for the 2021/22 municipal year.**

## **2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED 2021/010**

**That Councillor David Ellis be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the 2021/22 municipal year.**

## **3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 29 MARCH 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held virtually on 29 March 2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record, and were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

## **4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology was received from Lesley Dalby, Independent Member.

## **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

The Chair welcomed the new Commissioner and new members of the Panel to their first meeting.

## **6. REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP - BALANCED APPOINTMENT OBJECTIVE**

Jo Toomey introduced the report and informed the Panel that its membership must reflect the political balance of the individual Councils as well as the wider balance across Nottinghamshire. Ms Toomey stated that following the recent local government election and any by-election results, political proportionality had been recalculated and recommended that the balanced appointment objective could best be met by increasing the membership of the Panel by one member. The recommendation set out in the report was to appoint an additional Conservative Member who would come from Nottinghamshire County Council. Ms Toomey reminded members that any increase in the size of the Panel needed to be approved unanimously and also required Home Office approval.

**RESOLVED 2021/011**

- 1) That the Panel agree to increase the elected member representation on the Panel to 11 to enable the balanced appointment objective to be best achieved.**
- 2) That a further Conservative co-optee from Nottinghamshire County Council be sought to achieve political balance.**
- 3) That the changes in Council representation on the Panel, as detailed in paragraph 9 of the report, be noted.**
- 4) That Home Office approval to the increased size of the Panel be sought.**

## **7. RESULTS OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTION**

Ms Toomey introduced the report and informed the Panel that the report was for noting only and detailed the results of the first and second counts of the recent Police and Crime Commissioner election.

The Chair paid tribute to the work of the previous Commissioner, Paddy Tipping, and stated that the new Commissioner, Caroline Henry, had been left a good legacy. The Chair informed the Panel that she had written to Mr Tipping thanking him for his valuable contribution over many years and stated that all members had seen the reply from Mr Tipping where he thanked the Panel for its support.

### **RESOLVED 2021/012**

**That the result of the election for the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner be noted.**

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

The Chair congratulated the Commissioner on being elected to the post and informed the Panel that she and the Vice Chair had already met the Commissioner for a useful and frank discussion. The Commissioner paid tribute to her predecessor, Paddy Tipping, and his deputy, Emma Foody, and thanked them for all the time and energy they spent in keeping the residents of Nottinghamshire safe.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that in the four weeks since she had been elected progress had been made and how she intended to publish her detailed Police and Crime Plan following consultation with residents. The Commissioner paid tribute to both officers and support staff who on a daily basis were faced with danger.

The Commissioner spoke of the role of the police in fighting crime, including combatting knife and violent crime, and stated that she wanted to work with partners to build on this work as well as focussing on crime prevention. The Commissioner informed the Panel that she intended to increase the number of frontline officers, develop dedicated strategies regarding rural crime and gender based violence, and review the Force's estate.

The Commissioner stated that it was not fair in the current financial climate to just request extra funding and informed the Panel that she would not be filling the Deputy Commissioner post, thereby saving £78k per annum. The Commissioner informed members that she would also be launching a review of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that it continued to provide value for money.

During discussions the following points were raised:

- The Commissioner acknowledged that as it was part-way through the financial year, the savings from not filling the Deputy Commissioner's post would not equate to the full figure of £78k but that she did not intend to fill the post until mandated to do so.
- The Commissioner confirmed that she was committed to working with colleagues to make sure that the Nottinghamshire Safe Grants would go to the areas of most need and the

Chief Finance Officer confirmed that additional funding had been secured from the Ministry of Justice to finance these grants. The Commissioner informed the Panel that more details of the grants, including timelines and the process for applying, would be made available at the next meeting of the Panel.

- The Commissioner informed the Panel that she had taken part in a discussion that morning about the relationship between the police and the courts and emphasised the importance of the court system delivering. The Commissioner accepted an invitation from Suma Harding to meet the Chair of the Bench to discuss further the relationship between the courts and the police. The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that the Nightingale Court was now operating with the backlog of cases being reduced as a result, but informed the Panel that it was anticipated that as society opened up again crime would increase, though there were other methods of disposal available to deal with offences.
- Responding to a question about the Youth Commission the Commissioner stated that she was delighted that one was in place and that at the meeting the previous week there were ideas put forward that could be assimilated into the Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner informed the Panel of her intention to expand the crime prevention work being undertaken in schools and spoke of the difficulty in communicating effectively with young people.
- The Commissioner was asked about the problem of drugs and whether she had considered forming a dedicated team. The Commissioner replied that she had not given any thought to establishing a specific drug squad and the Deputy Chief Constable informed the Panel that the Reacher initiative does deal with the drugs issue through covert work and that working at a higher level with partners at the City and County aimed to ensure the issue was addressed. The Deputy Chief Constable stated that the force tried to intervene early, using intelligence from the community to deal with those pulling the strings and was aware of the threat posed by county lines. The Deputy Chief Constable informed members that Operation Reacher was working well in fighting the drug problem but that she would discuss this further with the Commissioner.
- The Panel shared some feedback from officers regarding Operation Reacher including a shortage of vehicles, the Commissioner replied that she was listening and confirmed that extra funding was now available from the Safer Streets initiative.
- The Commissioner was questioned about the criminal justice system (CJS), especially in relation to girls and women. She stated that Ministry of Justice funding had been obtained, that Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) helped cases progress through the system and that Juno, which was one of the services commissioned by the Commissioner to support survivors of domestic abuse, was carrying out valuable work. She stated that there was no 'magic wand' and that the CJS could not continue as it was presently. The Chair stated that she understood an update report would be brought to the September meeting of the Panel and the Commissioner undertook to chase this up.
- Responding to questions regarding rural crime the Commissioner spoke of the problem of hare coursing and the work being done by the dedicated rural crime teams and that reports of hunting would be dealt with when received. The Deputy Chief Constable said that all areas now had Reacher teams and that the approach to drugs in rural areas was the same as the approach in the urban areas.
- In terms of schools, the Commissioner spoke of the dedicated teams working in all schools and agreed with the Panel on the importance of early intervention.
- The Commissioner informed the Panel that the Force could take the lead in working with Trading Standards, including with test purchases of tobacco.
- The Commissioner stated that she thought partnership working was essential in preventing crime and tackling problems such as ASB and on-line fraud. The Deputy Chief Constable informed members that the police could not do everything and that

communities needed to be empowered, though some tolerated behaviour that would be reported by others.

- The Panel stated that the wearing of body worn cameras was speeding up the handling of DV cases in the courts and asked for all officers to wear the equipment. The Deputy Chief Constable replied that the protocol was for the cameras to be used all of the time and that all frontline officers had now been issued with the equipment but stated that sometimes when there is more than one officer attending an incident not all of the officers turn on their cameras.
- Replying to a question about making efficiency savings and the effect on the frontline, the Commissioner stated that she was committed to making sure that every penny was spent wisely and that the emphasis was on the frontline.
- The Panel brought up the subject of Newark Police Station and the Commissioner informed the Panel that a public consultation was imminent to find out exactly what residents and businesses in Newark want and that a decision would be made in August.
- The Chair ruled that a number of detailed questions regarding the Ashfield area might be better dealt with by submitting them in writing to the Commissioner. The Deputy Chief Constable informed the Panel that all allegations of racism made against the Force had been investigated and that all such allegations are treated seriously by the Force.
- On the subject of people trafficking / modern slavery the Deputy Chief Constable informed the Panel that the Modern Slavery Team had been working hard over the last 18 months both locally with EMSOU and nationally and though there was still work to be done the Force was in a good position.

#### **RESOLVED 2021/013**

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

### **9. WORK PROGRAMME**

Ms Toomey introduced the report and informed the Panel that members could request changes and adapt the Work Programme as they saw fit. Ms Toomey informed members that a further recommendation had been omitted from the report in error and that the Panel's approval was being sought to renew the £400 annual subscription to the Regional Police and Crime Panel Network, a figure that had not increased from the previous year.

#### **RESOLVED 2021/014**

- 1. That the contents of the report be noted.**
- 2. That the 2021/22 annual subscription to the Regional Police and Crime Panel Network be renewed at a cost of £400**

### **10. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S CLOSING REPORT**

The Commissioner and the Deputy Chief Constable responded to questions from the Panel:

- The Commissioner stated that the recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services report of policing in the pandemic had looked at 19 Forces, including Nottinghamshire's, and that the findings had been generally positive despite

some inconsistencies and that the Nottinghamshire Force had been praised. The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that some challenges remained but that the force was in a good place regarding the 5 recommendations made in the report.

- Responding to a query about the relationship between the severity and volume of crime, the Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that this was a challenge but that in terms of resources the force was in a good position, especially with regard to the uplift in officer numbers. The force also continued to talk to communities and work with partners.
- Ms Radford confirmed that work on the Essential Services Network (ESN), the national programme to replace the existing Airwave service, was both over time and over budget and that a meeting was scheduled however no end to the project was in sight.
- Ms Radford spoke of the ongoing challenges with budget monitoring and informed the Panel that problems were not just confined to the payroll but that there had been problems with the ledger too. Ms Radford informed members that the department was now on a much better trajectory with colleagues learning how the new system worked and that from 1 April 2022 the Force would no longer be involved with shared services in that area, which should further improve the situation.
- The Commissioner acknowledged the Panel's concerns around domestic abuse and confirmed that this would remain a priority for the police and that she was committed to supporting victims.
- The Commissioner informed the Panel that she would develop her Police and Crime Plan through consultation to find out people's priorities.
- The Panel congratulated the Force for recruiting a PC at the age of 53 and the Deputy Chief Constable informed the Panel that the diversity of the new recruits was good to see. The Commissioner added that the Nottinghamshire Force was one of the most representative in the country.
- The Commissioner confirmed that she would organise a visit to the new HQ for members when the building was complete.
- The Commissioner agreed that children needed to receive the right messages at the right time and informed the Panel that she was shocked at how young some offenders were.
- The Commissioner informed the Panel that she had spoken to the Home Secretary about online crime and there was agreement that the providers had the resources and capability to do more and that the Home Office was looking into how this could be achieved.
- The Commissioner agreed that Operation Reacher was a success, criminals did not like it, and that it was important to keep resourcing it well.
- The Commissioner confirmed that the use of drones was significantly cheaper than using helicopters, that the national approach had been expensive and had not worked and that there was the possibility of increasing the number of drones used, though that expansion could be limited by air space restrictions. The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that the force had 3 drones, with 1 being used for training, which were deployed where they were needed.

## **RESOLVED 2021/015**

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

The meeting closed at 4pm

CHAIRMAN