

1

1

- Page 11 – 1st bullet point – replace ‘it is now very quiet’ with ‘it is now very tired looking’.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Toby Neal (Councillor Michael Edwards attended as a substitute).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP – BALANCED APPOINTMENT OBJECTIVE

Keith Ford introduced the report. Following discussions, Members agreed that it was too early to review the impact of the previous meeting’s decision to reduce the number of elected members on the Panel and that further consideration of this issue should be given at a future meeting.

RESOLVED 2017/021

That the decision to reduce the number of elected members on the Panel to ten be reviewed at a future Panel meeting, at a point when the impact of the reduction can be fully assessed.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Keith Ford introduced the report and confirmed the date of the Performance Framework workshop as Monday 30 October 2017.

Councillors Tony Harper and Francis Purdue-Horan fed back from the Local Government Association Police and Crime Panel Workshop of 12th July, which had focussed largely on the implications of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) taking responsibility for Fire Services. With regard to that issue, the PCC summarised the national context and the statutory duty for the Police to collaborate with Fire and Ambulance services. He highlighted that the Essex PCC was due to take on responsibility for Fire and Rescue services from 1 October 2017.

The PCC was currently a non-voting member of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority (pending a change in the legislation to enable PCCs to be voting members of combined Fire and Rescue Authorities). Opportunities for collaboration were being pursued, including the possibility of more joined-up working with local authorities around emergency planning. It was highlighted that the Meadows Neighbourhood Policing Team was relocating to the new London Road Fire Station. The Deputy Chief Constable was working with the Assistant Chief Officer to pursue the collaboration agenda and the two Chief Officer teams were also working closely together to draw up structured plans, including shared buildings, emergency planning and communications, by the New Year. In response to a query from Members as to whether the focus on collaboration was moving away from regional Police collaboration to ‘blue light’ collaboration, the PCC felt that these were not mutually exclusive and that both agendas could still be progressed, in line with expectations within the Policing Vision 2025 (the PCC offered to share this document

with Members). Members expressed concerns about the potential for regional collaboration to make real improvements to services and achieve savings.

With reference to the proposed Regional Collaboration workshop, Kevin Dennis stated that this issue was being discussed at the Regional PCC meeting on 19 September and he agreed to feedback the outcomes of those discussions. The Chair underlined the aims of the workshop in terms of sharing knowledge and understanding across the region. Members felt that it would be unfortunate if other PCCs were not willing to attend.

RESOLVED 2017/022

- 1) That the work programme be noted.**
- 2) That the confirmed Performance Framework workshop date of 30 October 2017 – 10 am - 12pm be noted.**
- 3) That the Chief Executive of the OPCC feedback on discussions at the Regional PCC meeting of 19 September about views on the proposed Regional Collaboration workshop so that these can be shared with the workshop organisers as appropriate.**

6. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2016-17 – ANNUAL REPORT

The PCC introduced the report, highlighting the main issues and thanking the former Chief Constables, Chris Eyre and Sue Fish, for their input into the progress made by the Force. The PCC referred to the national funding issues and the slight increase in incidents logged by Nottinghamshire Police, largely as a result of changes in accounting rules and a high compliance rate with those rules. He also mentioned that the British Crime Survey showed that crime continued to reduce.

The PCC referred to the £34 million national investment in armed policing, although the increase in funding in Nottinghamshire was relatively small compared to the significant investment in the Metropolitan Police. He highlighted how the nature of crime was changing with more online offences being committed, with resources needing to be targeted accordingly.

The report reflected the work undertaken in Nottinghamshire to address serious sexual violence, both contemporary and historical, and work was underway to quantify the resources involved compared to other crimes such as burglaries. The PCC highlighted the progress being made with the investigation into historical sex abuse in children's homes and felt that there was good co-operation between the PCC, the Force, the City and County Council and the Victims' Group. He underlined the need for any mistakes to be acknowledged, whilst he recognised that practice had improved greatly in the last 30-40 years with Nottinghamshire now seen as an area of good practice.

The PCC reiterated his commitment to regional collaboration and the potential savings this could achieve. He underlined that changes in PCCs in the region and the more favourable than expected funding settlement had seen the pace of progress slow down and Forces drift apart again.

The PCC also highlighted the benefits of the joint working with the NHS around issues such as the mental health triage cars and the reduction in children and adults being detained in police cells for their own safety. He also underlined the positive work with Black and Asian Communities which had resulted in the Stop and Search rate being lower than the national average whilst the rate of positive outcomes from such searches was more than double the national average.

During discussions, Members raised the following issues:-

- Members highlighted that the Force was losing Police Officers at a faster rate than it was recruiting. It was queried whether the change in the crime priorities through THRIVE (whereby the focus was now on more medium level crimes than low-level volume crimes) and the changes in crime accounting had led to a change in people's perception of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the City, as evidenced by the recent ASB Community Trigger meeting arranged by Nottingham City Council. Members highlighted the increase in acquisitive crime, aggressive begging and shop thefts and felt that this could also be linked to the changes in focus of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) team rather than changes in crime accounting. The important role of the Street Engagement Teams in helping people who were addicted to Class A drugs, and who were likely to fund their drug use through acquisitive crime and begging, was also raised. The City Council was keen to improve partnership working with the Police, hence their investment in 88 Police and Community Safety Officers.

In response, the PCC clarified that the existing number of Police Officers was 1840 and he underlined his commitment to recruit a further 200 officers in order to have closer to 2000 officers ultimately (subject to the grant settlement and revised funding formula). He felt that it was right to focus resources on people most at risk although he accepted that the change in priorities had led to an increase in incidents and burglaries in two City wards (Radford and the Park). He felt that the Police were addressing aggressive begging and that research into aggressive behaviour had been produced, highlighting that most arrests around that issue were made by mainstream Police Officers. With regard to the PCSOs he clarified that the City Council had funded 80% of these posts. He underlined that the new system of IOM had only just been implemented and he did not think this was causing the problems. He underlined the importance of open dialogue in joint meetings and he did not feel that the City Council's adverts aimed at aggressive begging had been helpful.

ACC Cooper added that the new IOM model helped the Force to take an integrated approach to managing threat, harm and risk. It was clarified that the ASB incident rate was reducing but a lot of the incidents recorded were as a result of the accounting changes. The reported victim rate for ASB had reduced significantly and a paper was due to be considered by the Crime and Disorder Partnership on the 18 September about joint tasking. With regard to the increase in burglaries in the two City wards, the Force did deploy greater increases when genuine increases became apparent. Trends were considered on a long-term strategic basis (looking at three year trends and hotspots) as well as on a short-term daily, weekly and monthly basis.

- Members welcomed the fact that the Force was now in a position to recruit again but queried the impact of the Government's recent decision to award a higher pay

increase for Police Officers than the standard public sector 1% pay increase. The PCC clarified that the Force had budgeted for a 1% increase and therefore the increase to 2% would double the budget requirement for the pay award to £2.4 million.

- Members commended the Force for their high compliance rates in terms of crime recording, in contrast to the performance of some of the Forces in the region. It was felt that this gave a superb baseline to work from and offered the Panel some reassurance that crimes were being recorded correctly. Members welcomed the work to address Child Sexual Exploitation and queried whether there were any plans to utilise the help of 'paedophile hunters'. The reduction in ASB was disputed and it was queried whether this was being masked by the 92% increase in public order offences. The reasons for the under-performance with the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) targets were also queried.

In response, the PCC acknowledged that the Force could improve performance with POCA, with discussions planned with Derbyshire, as a Force which has a better record on that issue. The PCC underlined that the compliance rate was greater than 95%. He accepted that there had been a shift away from ASB due to changes in recording practices. DCC Barber added that the Force would take a holistic view of an area and therefore if incidents were now being logged as public order offences rather than ASB then this should not greatly change the approach the Police were taking in an area.

With regard to 'paedophile hunters', DCC Barber stated that there was a fine balance between such practice and vigilantism and the Force would prefer to have more resources to enable this sort of online investigative work to be undertaken by the Police. There had been a few reported cases in Nottinghamshire but the Force was not planning on collaborating with these people, although a similar approach to online investigations would be taken through the Force's own undercover online approach.

- Members queried the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) finding that the risk of crime felt by Nottinghamshire household residents had fallen from 6.8% in March 2016 to 3.7% in March 2017. With reference to the ASB Community Trigger meeting arranged by Nottingham City Council, this had highlighted a feeling that some of the procedures from previous years had fallen out of practice and Members queried whether this was the case and a refresh of practice was needed. It was also queried whether a distinctive divide between the incidence rate in the City Centre and elsewhere was evident.

In response, the PCC clarified that the CSEW was independently run and a better judge of trends than the local surveys undertaken. The OPCC planned to run quarterly local surveys going forward, instead of annually as previously. With regard to begging, the PCC clarified that a 'necessity to arrest' test needed to be met before arrests were made, otherwise the Custody Sergeant would be obliged to release a person. There was some variation between the approach taken by the Police and the British Transport Police in that respect.

- With regard to early guilty plea rates being below the national average, Members highlighted that defendants were advised to plead 'not guilty' until the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) brought the files to Court, thereby only offering a guilty

plea at the last possible opportunity. Therefore, if files could be brought earlier then the early guilty plea rate would increase.

In response, the PCC stated that some officers rarely complete a submission to Court. Work was underway to ensure better file preparation. DCC Barber accepted that there were issues with file quality and submission rates, with some common mistakes. Best practice from elsewhere would be shared although it would take a while to see improvements from the ongoing work in the Courts.

- Members also suggested that the submission of body worn camera evidence earlier in the process could also increase the early guilty plea rate.

DCC Barber agreed and said that this was linked to the digitalisation of back office functions and this evidence had been factored into plans for improvements. The PCC added that discussions were ongoing with the CPS about the storage of the video cameras and some grant funding had been made available to the Courts and the CPS around this issue (but not to the Police).

- Members welcomed the funding for a domestic violence advisor in Mansfield and Ashfield but queried the length of the funding period and the exit strategy.

The PCC said that a meeting with the City and County Councils was planned about the resource implications of such roles. The PCC recognised that some victims of domestic violence were male and he was particularly keen to focus upon the impact on children in all cases.

- Members referred to the work of the voluntary organisation The Women's Quilt and queried whether the PCC was satisfied with the rates of reduction of risk, with a third of survivors having their risk of harm reduced.

The PCC underlined his commitment to continue to increase funding for services such as the Independent Domestic Violence Advisers but highlighted the difficulty in persuading other partners such as the NHS to provide funding. He felt that voluntary groups such as The Women's Quilt would assist in helping to see risk reduced.

- Members referred to Appendix C of the Annual Report and felt that this diagram illustrated the relatively high percentage of reduction in Police Officers in Nottinghamshire, compared to nationally, and the consequent impact on the Force.

The PCC agreed and stated that the funding formula had always disadvantaged Nottinghamshire. He had met with the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service last week and the funding formula would be reconsidered once the grant settlement for 2018-19 had been finalised. The PCC also stated that a lot of the demand for the Police was not crime-related – for example, the cost of searching for missing persons nationally was £620 million and this included people who had gone missing from hospitals and care homes. The PCC offered to share a study undertaken by West Midlands Police that illustrated Police involvement was only appropriate in 6 out of 50 cases of people going missing from care homes. The Chair suggested that it would be helpful to look at this issue when considering the budget and precept.

- Members queried the outcomes of the work undertaken with Nottingham Trent University about modern day slavery and asked whether an evaluation of this work could be shared with the Panel. They queried whether the £500 per year contribution towards police dogs retirement fund was sufficient to cover veterinary costs.

The PCC said that the amount of funding was under review currently.

RESOLVED 2017/023

- 1) That the progress made be noted.**
- 2) That the issues raised by the Members in their consideration be collated and fed back to the PCC as the Panel's formal response to the annual report.**

7. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

The Commissioner introduced the report and highlighted the progress with the ECINS project (detailed in Appendix A), the development of the Bridewell in Nottingham and the review of the custody suite in Newark (detailed in Appendix B).

During discussions, the following issues were raised:-

- Members raised concerns about the 38.4% increase in crime in rural areas, with reference to the potential closure of Newark & Sherwood custody suite and consequent resource implications, including officer travelling times in transit. In response, the PCC underlined that the consultation process around this proposal was ongoing and underlined that the vast majority of people taken to that custody suite were from areas closer geographically to Mansfield than Newark. DCC Barber stated that the travelling times for officers would be considered as part of the decision-making about this issue and also underlined that work was ongoing in recognition of the challenges of policing in more rural issues.
- Members queried whether it would be possible to do anything to resolve the issues with the Riverside transport Private Finance Initiative contract. The PCC clarified that the only way out of such a PFI contract was through breach of contract or by buying the contract out.
- With regard to the Bridewell refurbishment, Members suggested that the City Council needed to be kept up to date with the proposals. Clarification of the cost of the project brief and concept design was requested. Further information was also requested about why the current building was deemed not fit for purpose. The PCC clarified that the Chief Constable had held discussions with the City Council's Chief Executive and Property Services Department. Problems with the building included it being expensive and not easy to maintain or extend, and the limited number of floors which could be used. Members requested a brief report to a future meeting but the PCC suggested a private briefing for Members would be more appropriate, in light of some of the commercial sensitivities and ongoing discussions.

- Members queried the barriers in other organisations implementing the ECINS system. Kevin Dennis, who was the lead on the Management Team for the system, explained that a centralised, properly informed implementation had been favoured over a 'big bang' introduction, winning over the hearts and minds of workers to the benefits of the system. The resources available to organise the development of the system were also better suited to a gradual step by step implementation.
- Members highlighted the frequent use of virements as detailed in Appendix C and asked the PCC whether he was satisfied that the baseline budget was appropriate. The PCC said that he had raised this issue with the Chief Constable last week and the budget would be better realigned for next financial year.
- Members queried whether the Statement of Accounts had now been approved. The PCC said that a meeting of his Audit and Scrutiny Committee would take place in two weeks' time to finalise the process, with the Accounts due to be published later this week as part of the agenda pack. The statement had been delayed due to issues of presentation and layout but in general terms the auditor was content.

RESOLVED 2017/024

That the contents of the report be noted.

8. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FUTURE OPTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DEALING WITH POLICE COMPLAINTS

The PCC introduced the report and explained that his preferred option at this stage was Option1 - Oversight and Complaint Reviews. He had been keen to explore the potential for regional collaboration around this issue. He agreed to keep the Panel updated on this issue and his final decision. Members underlined from their own experience the professional, independent approach taken by Police Complaints departments.

During discussions, Members raised concerns about the approach being taken to policing parades and events such as Armed Forces Day, the recent Battle of Britain Day and forthcoming Remembrance Day services. The PCC clarified that there would be approximately forty parades in Nottinghamshire for Remembrance Day, most of which would see the Police represented in some way to lay wreathes etc. The Police would have a direct input into the organisation of three of these events, with the others arranged directly by the organisers. It was clarified that the Police do not have the power to close roads and that this rests with the Highways Authority. DCC Barber underlined that the Police would be happy to support training for organisers and Members raised the possibility of sharing costs in that respect. The PCC gave a commitment that no parades would be cancelled due to a lack of Police presence.

The Chair stated that this issue had arisen at the Panel in previous years and suggested that it would be helpful to have a report to the next meeting to clarify the approach for future years. The PCC agreed to bring a report outlining what occurred this year and the proposals for the future.

RESOLVED 2017/025

- 1) That the changes to the potential role in handling complaints, as set out in the Police and Crime Act 2017, be noted.
- 2) That the Panel receives future information as part of the PCC update report once the options and the full implications of the Act had been reviewed.
- 3) That a report on the policing of parades and events be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.

9. **POLICE AND CRIME PANELS – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATION**

RESOLVED 2017/026

That Members share their views on the proposals with Keith Ford so that a composite response could be submitted on behalf of the Panel.

The meeting closed at 4.05 pm

CHAIRMAN