

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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 – **Apologies**  
Councillor Scott Carlton – Nottinghamshire County Council  
Lesley Dalby – Independent Member  
Councillor Michael Edwards – Nottingham City Council (substitute for Councillor Woodings)  
Councillor Kevin Greaves – Bassetlaw District Council  
Suma Harding – Independent Member  
Councillor Rob Inglis – Rushcliffe Borough Council  
Councillor Neghat Khan – Nottingham City Council  
Councillor John Lee – Newark and Sherwood District Council  
Councillor Richard MacRae – Broxtowe Borough Council  
Councillor Helen-Ann Smith – Ashfield District Council  
Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member  
Linda Woodings – Nottingham City Council – **Apologies**

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councillor Stuart Richardson – Mansfield District Council

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Jo Toomey – Advanced Democratic Services Officer	}	Nottinghamshire County Council
	}	(Host Authority)
Laura Webb – Assistant Democratic Services Officer	}	
	}	

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Caroline Henry - Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)  
Sharron Caddell – Chief Executive Officer (OPCC)  
Dan Howitt – Strategy and Performance Officer (OPCC)  
Mark Kimberley – Interim Chief Financial Officer (OPCC)  
Jon Robinson – Communications Manager (OPCC)  
Craig Guildford – Chief Constable, Notts Police  
Rachel Barber – Deputy Chief Constable, Notts Police  
Steve Cooper – Assistant Chief Constable, Notts Police

## **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED 2022/017**

- 1) That Christine Goldstraw OBE be appointed Chairman of the Panel for the 2022/23 municipal year.**
- 2) That Councillor David Ellis be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the 2022/23 municipal year.**

## **2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2022 having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record, and were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

## **3. MINUTES OF CONFIRMATION HEARING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2022**

The minutes of the confirmation hearing held on 20 April 2022 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 the Executive Mayor Andy Abrahams.

An apology was also received from Councillor Woodings, who was replaced by Councillor Edwards for this meeting only.

## **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

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

Jo Toomey introduced the report on how the Panel could best meet the balanced appointment objective. She explained that the Panel's membership must reflect both the political balance of the individual Councils as well as the wider balance across Nottinghamshire. The report recommended that the balanced appointment objective could best be met by retaining 11 elected members, consisting of one Councillor from each of the district and borough councils, and 2 each from Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council.

The report also highlighted changes in membership, with Councillor Scott Carlton replacing Councillor Andre Camilleri as the second Nottinghamshire County Council representative. The Panel extended its thanks to Councillor Camilleri for his service in 2021/22.

At the time the agenda was published, two authorities had yet to confirm their representatives; it was therefore confirmed verbally that Councillor Rob Inglis would continue as the representative for Rushcliffe Borough Council and that Councillor John Lee would replace Councillor Scott Carlton as the representative for Newark and Sherwood District Council.

## **RESOLVED 2022/18**

- 1) That the Panel retain the elected member representation on the Panel at 11 to enable the balanced appointment objective to be best achieved.**
- 2) That the changes in Council representation on the Panel, as detailed in paragraph 8 of the report and verbally received during the meeting, be noted.**

## **7. 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. Additionally, the Panel's approval was being sought to renew the £420 annual subscription to the Regional Police and Crime Panel Network, a figure that had increased by £20 from the previous year. Ms Toomey also informed the Panel about the upcoming annual conference for Police, (Fire) and Crime Panels and asked members who wished to attend to inform the Panel's support officers. Ms Toomey also highlighted the new guidance for Police, (Fire) and Crime Panels published by the Home Office on 23 May 2022 and encouraged all members to review the guidance.

## **RESOLVED 2022/019**

- 1. That the contents of the report be noted.**
- 2. That the 2022/23 annual subscription to the Regional Police and Crime Panel Network be renewed at a cost of £420**
- 3. That any Panel member wishing to attend the Annual Conference of Police (Fire) and Crime Panels should inform the Panel support officers**

## **8. Complaints Annual Report 2021-22**

Jo Toomey presented the complaints annual report which provided an update on the complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner in 2021/22. The Panel was informed that since the Police and Crime Commissioner had been elected a total of 14 complaints had been received, 2 of which were outside of the scope of the complaints scheme because they related to operational police matters and the working practices of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The remaining 12 complaints that had been received related to the Commissioner's court appearance in May 2022. Officers had sought advice from the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) which confirmed that as these offences were subject to criminal proceedings, they should not be pursued by the Panel's complaints procedure and were also not required to be referred to the IOPC as a serious complaint or conduct matter.

## **RESOLVED 2022/020**

- 1) That the complaints received in 2021-22 and their outcomes be noted.**

## **9. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT**

The Commissioner acknowledged the upcoming court case and made a statement, which included an apology and stated that she was still passionate to fulfil her role as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire.

Dan Howitt, the Head of Strategy and Performance provided the Panel with an overview of the progress of delivering the 'Make Notts Safe' Plan 2021-2025. In presenting the update, Mr Howitt highlighted:

- The lowest levels of neighbourhood crime since the survey began
- National call handling performance had recently been published and Nottinghamshire had the second-best rate in the country; it was also noted that the control room offered online reporting and a call back and live chat facility
- The number of people receiving victim support which had led to an improved ability to cope and recover had increased
- The small number of knife crime incidents made incident rates vulnerable to fluctuation; focused work was being undertaken around the city where a majority of offences had occurred
- The PEEL inspection had highlighted a need for the Force to strengthen its crime recording standards, which would be scrutinised by the Commissioner as part of monthly Accountability Board meetings
- The Violence Strategic Needs Assessment was approved in March 2022 and an independent Victim Needs Assessment was due to be published later in June; these would help shape the commissioning of victim care services

The Panel was informed that areas for improvement identified this quarter via the internal and external assessments and the Commissioner's new accountability framework included:

- Robbery, vehicle crime, violence with injury and violent knife crime following increases in and around Nottingham City Centre
- Improving consultation and engagement processes with diverse communities
- Ensuring problem solving activity is audited and evaluated and better integrated with the work of other agencies

Members of the Panel discussed the update and were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Commissioner.

Reference was made to the increase in knife crime, which members were advised was a national trend and was mainly attributed to the return of the nighttime economy following the coronavirus pandemic. One member raised concerns about anti-social behaviour at tram stops in Broxtowe and was advised that meetings could be arranged with Nottingham Express Transit and the local Neighbourhood Policing Inspector to discuss the issue.

Discussion ensued around Safer Streets schemes. In response to a question, members were advised that the outcome of outstanding bids for further schemes was expected to be announced in July 2022. Panel members were interested in how the areas had been selected for the Safer Streets projects. They were advised that the areas had been selected because they had been identified as hotspots for neighbourhood crime. Members also asked about the measures that were being used to assess the effect of investment beyond people's feelings of safety, which only provided a subjective perspective.

In referring to the continuing deteriorating trend in the level of public confidence in the police, members asked about the threshold that would trigger a change in approach. The Commissioner was asked to identify what she saw as the key strategies to address the deterioration and how local authorities could best support that. The deterioration was attributed in part by the Commissioner to the Sarah Everard case and the media representation of certain incidents. The Commissioner stated she was passionate about preventative work and saw work in schools as key, highlighting the Migrate programme as an example of good practice. She also highlighted support for victims. Reference was also made by Panel members to areas where there was a lack of confidence in the police and the impact that was having on schemes like Neighbourhood Watch.

Members asked whether the data around confidence in the police had been broken down by district, borough and city to help identify any trends and target interventions. It was confirmed that information was available by local area or district and could be included as part of the update report at the Panel's next meeting.

## **Action**

### **That locational data on confidence in the Police be included in the update report at the Panel's next meeting**

Reference was made to another Force where a decision to close a custody suite was reversed. Panel members asked whether the facilities at Newark were being retained and could be brought back into use in future if a similar decision was made in Nottinghamshire. Members were advised that custody arrangements were an operational matter for the Chief Constable and the Commissioner had been given assurance that the current provision was sufficient. It was noted however, that facilities in Newark would remain available if there was any operational need to reverse the decision in the future.

Members turned their attention to the findings of the PEEL Review and the issues that were identified around the recording of crimes. Concern was expressed by members about the impact of unreliable data on performance reporting and asked for assurance the matter was being addressed and what steps were being taken. Members were informed that the matter was discussed at Accountability Board meetings with evidence being provided to demonstrate that improvements were being made. In probing the evidence that was used, Members were advised that dip-testing was being undertaken to check the crime data as part of the plan to address the recommendations. The Panel was informed that information had been provided by the Force which gave the Commissioner reassurance about what it was trying to do and that an action group had been established, which was looking at those peers it might learn from.

In response to a question about how the new Accountability Board differed from previous arrangements, Panel members were informed that it was more formal and operated around a structured work programme, with meetings also being formally minuted.

## **Action**

### **Panel members asked that for the next meeting they be provided with a detailed analysis around the quality of data together with a summary of the plan to put things right.**

Reference was made to call response times for grade 1 calls, which had been highlighted when the report was presented as an area of positive performance. Members noted, however, that

performance information indicated that the response rate for grade 2 calls had deteriorated. The Panel was advised that there had been an increase in both 999 and 101 calls and that the force did not downgrade calls to monitor progress over time. Members were supportive of the new online chat service but suggested that it could be better promoted. Members were reassured that the service had only just started but that once it had been embedded it would be properly launched.

Members of the Panel referred to increases in crime in the city centre and asked the Commissioner about what was being done to address serious violence and manage public perception. The Panel was advised that the knife crime team was working with the Violence Reduction Unit on the issue and that there was an intention to work with the media to ensure that reporting was not exclusively of negative stories. While Panel members acknowledged that the night-time economy impacted on violent crime, there was concern that recent violent incidents had involved young people and wanted reassurance about measures to address this recent trend. Members were informed that partnership-based, preventative work was in progress. Broader discussion ensued on young people who carried weapons with them.

Further reference was made to recommendations arising from the PEEL Review regarding consulting and engaging with diverse communities. Members were advised that a new Community Engagement Officer was due to start work for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner imminently. One of their first tasks would be a community mapping exercise. The Commissioner acknowledged that more needed to be done to see how diverse communities could best be reached. She added that she was keen that the Force continued to reflect and represent the diverse communities of Nottinghamshire. This was followed up with a question about what the Commissioner was doing to support the Chief Constable in engaging with diverse communities. Panel members also made reference to the percentage of reasonable stop and searches, which had reduced, and members wanted to know what assurance the Commissioner had been given around this and what the Force's policy should be. Members were advised that dip testing of body worn video was undertaken and learning from that review implemented.

Members of the Panel noted that there had been an increase in hate crime and asked for assurances about whether the figure was a fair reflection of the actual number of incidents in light of the areas highlighted in the PEEL Review. Members also asked whether the increase in hate crime had affected community tension and if so, wanted to be reassured about measures that were in place to address this. The increase in the incidence of hate crime was seen as positive, indicating that people felt confident to report offences. It was noted that one of the Make Notts Safe grants targeted hidden harm and hate crime.

Members' attention turned to measures in place to improve road safety. The Commissioner advised that the next round of make Notts Safe Grants included a bid for community speedwatch and stated that extra funds generated from holding speed awareness courses in-house would be targeted to this issue.

Questions sought to ascertain links between football and violence and drug-related offences. Given the recent promotion of Nottingham Forest to the premiership members wanted assurance that appropriate strategic plans were in place. Members also asked for assurance about measures to ensure safety across the wider community as fans travelled through the county. Assurance was given that arrangements were in place to manage such events.

Members were advised by the Chief Constable the force had seen no tangible link between cocaine use and football violence. The Commissioner sought to provide some assurance around

measures to tackle substance misuse and highlighted that wider, strategic programmes were being developed with public health as part of the 'From Harm to Hope' drug strategy.

The Panel was interested in measures that were being implemented to tackle online fraud. The Commissioner stated that extra resources were being put into fraud as it was a key part of the 'Make Notts Safe' plan. Measures included increasing the team, the time and effort spent in trying to get money back, and supporting victims.

*15:48 – Councillor Lee left the meeting*

Members of the Panel were interested in progress that had been made to date around rural crime; they were advised that other forces were looking at how Nottinghamshire had integrated tackling rural crime throughout the force. Members also noted that there were dedicated contacts in the control room, that new equipment that had been procured and training was being rolled out in partnership with the National Farmers' Union.

The Panel referred to a decrease in the use of Stalking Protection Orders and, given the increases in violent crime that had been reported, asked for assurances. The Commissioner stated that she had been satisfied with the Chief Constable's explanation that while their use had decreased, better use was being made of bail conditions, Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Domestic Violence Protection Orders which had a lower threshold and were less complex to put in place than Stalking Protection Orders.

Members were also given information on the decrease in numbers of Police Community Support Officers and police staff; a number of these had become warranted officers, which had created a dip in the headcount.

*16:00 – Councillor Smith left the meeting*

Following a report published by the Justice Committee which asked Government to increase capacity in courts, the Commissioner was asked what progress had been made. In her response, the Commissioner referred to the Local Criminal Justice Board. She also referred to the impact court delays could have on victims. Reference was also made to lobbying that was being undertaken by Police and Crime Commissioners and Parliamentary colleagues.

Members concluded by asking whether the savings that had been anticipated from the joint headquarters building were on track considering inflationary pressures. Members were advised that the initial target saving of £400K on the estate had incorporated estimates around inflation but they were not as high as the rates being experienced. Assurance was given that in light of the overall spend of the force, the impact was minimal but pressure was being experienced around fuel oil and petrol.

**RESOLVED 2022/021**

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

The meeting closed at 16.04pm.

