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# HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Thursday 15 June 2017  
Three Rivers District Council

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## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Cllr T Hutchings, Broxbourne Borough Council (Chairman)  
Cllr P Choudhury, Hertsmere Borough Council  
Cllr R Henry, Stevenage Borough Council  
Cllr S Hodgson, St Albans City and District Council  
Cllr I Imarni, Dacorum Borough Council  
Dr M Ramsay, Independent Member  
Cllr S Reed, East Herts District Council  
Cllr A Scarth, Three Rivers District Council  
Cllr R Trigg, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council  
Cllr C Woodward, Hertfordshire County Council

**Also Present:** Mr C Head, Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel  
Mr D Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner  
Mr D Gibson, Deputy PCC  
Mr C Brace, Chief Executive, PCC  
Mr P Scoins, Senior Communications & Engagement Officer, PCC  
Cllr J Hollywell, Stevenage Borough Council (shortly to replace Cllr Henry as the Panel member for Stevenage)

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr C Cowdrey, Independent Member, Cllr T Hunter, North Hertfordshire District Council, and Mr I Laidlaw-Dickson, Independent Member.

### 2 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 2 FEBRUARY 2017

The minutes of the meetings were agreed.

### 3 MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman reported that the application to the Home Office for an additional independent member was progressing, albeit slowly.

#### **4 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman noted that the Panel currently did not have a Vice Chairman and proposed that Cllr Imarni be appointed to this position. This was seconded by Cllr Henry and carried unanimously.

#### **5 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

No questions had been received from members of the public.

#### **6 QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No questions had been received from members of the public.

#### **7 POLICE AND CRIME PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE COMING YEAR**

The Chairman set out a number of workstreams and the lead members as follows:

- Collaboration – Chris Cowdrey and Cllr Isy Imarni
- Victim Support – Cllr Roger Trigg and Cllr Jackie Hollywell
- Cyber Crime & Scamming – Malcolm Ramsey and Cllr Pervez Choudhury
- Finance – Cllr Stephen Hodgson
- 'Prevent' – Cllr Tim Hutchings and Cllr Stephen Reed

These are to be standing items for future meetings and at the end of the year a short report demonstrating the Panel's activity in these areas is to be placed on the Panel's website.

There followed a discussion on how better to publicise Panel meetings and encourage attendance by members of the public. The Chairman requested that, for future meetings, the member for the host authority would send an invitation to the local Community Safety Partnership.

Cllr Pervez suggested using OWL and Cllr Imarni proposed contacting Neighbourhood Action Groups.

Mr Gibson offered the support of the OPCC's communication team.

The Commissioner made the point that it is important that people can see how the PCP holds him to account.

#### **8 INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITORS SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT**

The Commissioner showed a short video on the work of Independent Custody Visitors and expressed his thanks for the work that these volunteers do. He felt that the service had been in need of a refresh and over the past couple of years efforts have been made to introduce younger people and those with new ideas.

There are now 56 custody visitors.

In response to questions by members of the Panel, the Commissioner made the following points:

Visits are occasionally refused for reasons of the health of the visitor or where the detainee is asleep or does not agree to the visit.

Self-harming is not normally an issue as any means of harm are taken away. There have been no deaths during the Commissioner's tenure of office.

The number of custody suites in the county is part of the operational plan that the Chief Constable puts forward each year. It is important to ensure that they are effective, efficient and safe. It is better to have fewer, larger facilities.

Although two officers are required to transport a detainee to a custody suite, the booking-in period is now shorter as the new suites are more efficient.

The Commissioner said that he would always ask questions, as he was concerned to ensure the care of very vulnerable people.

## 9 **COUNTYWIDE COMMUNITY STOP AND SEARCH SCRUTINY PANEL ANNUAL REPORT**

The Commissioner presented this report and drew attention to improvements over the past year. The panel is chaired by a retired judge and they have a rigorous programme of dip-sampling. He said that this was about trying to increase confidence in policing and ensuring that the Police use their powers proportionately.

In response to questions by members of the Panel, the Commissioner made the following points:

Recruitment to the panel is broadly representative of the county, although it does fall short with regard to young people. Members made some suggestions of measures to try to remedy this.

Police officers are well trained in how to search but there is an aspiration to change the culture and not to send officers out specifically to carry out stop and search.

The Chairman noted that the percentage of arrests from stop and search is quite high and that the Panel would return to this topic in the future.

## 10 **THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Commissioner presented his annual report which reflects on the first year of his second term of office. He referred to his key achievements for the year as set out in the report, namely:

- Put Victims First  
As Victims' Champion, continued to put victims at the centre of the criminal justice system
- Kept Crime Low  
Hertfordshire remains one of the safest places to live and work in the country
- Protected Local Policing

Each Borough and District continues to have its own strong local policing team and police station

- Increased Efficiency

Reduced costs and made improvements in performance through collaboration and investment in technology

- Kept Tax Low

Only charged tax-payers what is required to maintain and deliver a quality service.

He then made the following points:

He has continued to insist on keeping numbers up on local neighbourhood policing.

HMIC had said that performance overall was good, but that 'effectiveness' needed improvement. The Chief Constable immediately put an action plan in place and this has changed very quickly, such that a revisit by HMIC established that it was back to 'good'.

It is important to bring together the various elements of the criminal justice system to ensure that people do not fall between the cracks. From the moment of arrest to the point of going into jail, the system needs to be seamless.

Street triage is working very well and there are mental health nurses in the control room.

The business case for emergency service collaboration is to be issued next week, seeking the public's view. There will be an eight-week consultation.

It is important to ensure that the Prevent strategy works.

In response to questions by members of the Panel, the Commissioner made the following points:

Community payback is not working as effectively as it should. The PCC needs to be more closely linked to this and all other aspects of the justice system.

With regard to police treatment of victims and the public at large, it is the PCC's role to hold the Chief Constable to account. In this regard he is determined that there will be greater use of body worn video. The complaints system has been taken out of the constabulary and put into the PCC's office. The Commissioner noted that satisfaction rates are consistently high.

Incidents of hate crime in the county reflect what is happening nationally. There has been no increase in physical violence, although verbal attacks have risen. There are a number of processes in place to address this. The hate crime strategy is currently out for consultation.

Modern day slavery is hidden. All partners need to be working more closely on this. It may well not be the police who come across this first.

## 11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman summarised the current position on discussions with regard to a national association or special interest group within the Local Government Association. The LGA is holding a workshop on this, fire service integration and other matters on 12 July.

The Panel's training day has been moved back to later in the year (Friday 20 October), as the Chief Constable was not able to make 4 July.

The PCP National Conference is on 6 November in Warwick. All members are welcome to attend and accommodation is available on site for those who do not wish to travel up on the day of the conference. Members were requested to book their places through the Clerk.

## 12 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Panel is on Thursday 16 November 2017 at County Hall, Hertford.