



HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Thursday 26 May 2016
Broxbourne Borough Council

Ordinary meeting

MINUTES

Present

Cllr T Hutchings, Broxbourne Borough Council (Chairman)
Cllr H Chapman, Dacorum Borough Council (substitute)
Cllr P Choudhury, Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr S Hodgson, St Albans City and District Council
Cllr T Kingsbury, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (substitute)
Mr I Laidlaw-Dickson, Co-opted member
Dr M Ramsay, Co-opted member
Cllr S Reed, East Herts District Council

Also Present

Mr T Hewins, officer of the Police and Crime Panel
Mr D Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Mr R Wilsher, PCC Chief Executive
Mr D Gibson
Cllr M Mills-Bishop, Leader of Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr Mrs S Gordon, Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr J Kaur
Cllr L Cocking
Mr A Sanderson
Ms K Broad
Mr G Hicks
Mr M Briggs, Wormley and Turnford Society
Mrs P Briggs, Wormley and Turnford Society
Mrs D Parsonage, Wormley and Turnford Society
Mr J Wright
1 other member of the public

1 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

The Panel appointed Cllr Tim Hutchings, Broxbourne Borough Council, as Chairman.

The Panel deferred the appointment of a Vice Chairman until the next meeting.

2 **INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND WELCOME**

Apologies

Cllr Ms S Batson, Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr M Brooks, Three Rivers District Council
Cllr T Hunter, North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr Ms I Imarni, Dacorum Borough Council
Cllr J McNally, North Hertfordshire District Council (substitute)
Cllr R Martins, Watford Borough Council
Cty Cllr P Ruffles, Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr R Trigg, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

3 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 17 MARCH 2016**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman congratulated the Commissioner on re-election.

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

Mr Briggs raised the issue of speeding vehicles along the High Road, Wormley. The Commissioner advised that speeding vehicles is an operational matter. Average speed cameras will be installed on the A10 funded by speeding offences from elsewhere in the county. The Chairman noted that this may encourage more vehicles to take the High Road route and advised the issue will be raised at the next meeting of the Broxbourne Local Strategic Partnership.

Mr Wright asked what the policy is for the police patrolling on foot. The Commissioner advised the public have said throughout his first term that they want to see local police on the beat. A neighbourhood policing model has been retained in Hertfordshire with a Chief Inspector and neighbourhood policing team in each borough. The Chief Constable is responsible for the deployment of police officers. The role of the Commissioner is to hold the Chief Constable to account.

Mr Briggs noted that there is a shortage of counters in police stations which the public, particularly the elderly, can visit. The Commissioner advised that during the election campaign many people had commented they want to be able to directly visit the police if necessary.

6 QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions.

7 REVIEW OF PANEL MEMBERSHIP (INCLUDING INDEPENDENT MEMBERS), 2016/17 WORK PROGRAMME, RULES OF PROCEDURE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The Chairman advised that the elections in May resulted in no change to the political control of any constituent councils but a small change in the total numbers of councillors for the political parties. The Panel had three independent members not related to the political appointment objective up to the end of 2015/16 but one member has resigned from the role and a second member's term has expired. Therefore, the Panel currently has one independent member not related to the political appointment objective. The Panel can have up to two independent members not related to the political appointment objective. However, in 2014 the Panel was given special dispensation by the Home Office to appoint an additional independent member due to the quality of the candidates who applied for the role during the recruitment process. The Panel will seek to recruit an additional independent member.

The Chairman advised that the handling of complaints against the Commissioner is currently delegated to the Chief Executive of the Commissioner's office. If it is determined that there is a conflict of interest, the complaint is referred to the Panel for informal resolution. Following a complaint which was referred by the Chief Executive of the Commissioner's office to the Panel in December 2015, the Panel set up a subgroup to review the complaint and make recommendations to the Commissioner. It worked well and recommendations will be tabled at the next meeting so complaints which fall under the Panel's jurisdiction are reviewed by the Panel and the current delegation to the Chief Executive of the Commissioner's office is withdrawn.

The Chairman advised that meeting venues of the Panel are rotated across Hertfordshire so all residents in the county have a chance to attend.

8 POLICE AND CRIME PANEL CONFERENCE

The Chairman advised that the Panel has joined the Police and Crime Panels Eastern Region Network organised by Frontline Consulting Associates. The annual Police and Crime Panel Conference, sponsored by Grant Thornton UK LLP, will be held at the Banqueting Suite, Council House, Birmingham on Thursday 20 October 2016. There is sufficient budget for members of the Panel to attend.

9 UPDATE FROM THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner welcomed his re-election for a second term. The main functions of the role are to appoint and dismiss the Chief Constable, set the precept and budget and publish the Police and Crime Plan. The contract of the Chief Constable has been extended as it was considered not appropriate to appoint a new Chief Constable prior to the election. The process to recruit a new Chief Constable will start early to avoid similar selection issues faced by other areas of the country where the number of applicants was as low as one. The selection process will seek

to attract applicants from across the country and elsewhere in the world. Once interview dates are confirmed, the Panel will be notified.

The Commissioner advised that new challenges may mean the budget will need to be tweaked next year. The Commissioner's election manifesto will become the new Police and Crime Plan. It is a process of evolution, which includes closer working with the fire service and other parts of the public sector to provide a better response to the public.

The Chairman noted that the appointment of a Chief Constable is the only absolute veto the Panel has. Dr Ramsay advised that the Home Office encourage the consideration of as wide a range of people as possible for the role of Chief Constable. The College of Policing suggest a minimum recruitment period of three weeks is necessary. If the recruitment process is held during the summer holiday season, the number of applicants will likely be lower than if it was held at a different time of year. The Commissioner confirmed that he is already thinking about how to attract a wide range of candidates to apply. The private sector head hunts and this approach could be adopted.

Mr Wright asked how the Commissioner interacted with the Home Office. The Commissioner advised that the Home Office is no longer responsible for policing, although meetings take place with the Home Office every three weeks. The Commissioner also liaises with other police and crime commissioners on a weekly basis.

Cllr Hodgson welcomed the idea of head hunting the next Chief Constable and asked what involvement the Panel will have. The Commissioner advised that the Panel will have a scrutiny role. The recruitment panel will include a wide range of stakeholders, such as a local authority chief executive, a local authority leader and a representative from the private sector. An informal briefing will be held for the Panel prior to the recruitment process commencing. The Chairman welcomed the opportunity for the Panel to be briefed beforehand.

Cllr Chapman asked whether a mobile police unit could be utilised to visit different areas of the county. The Chairman noted that the Commissioner's role is strategic and the question is related to operational matters. The Commissioner advised that the public want access to the police and are concerned about the accessibility of police stations. The challenge is to find the best way of providing access.

Dr Ramsay mentioned other methods as to how the police could engage with the public, such as via market stalls and crime prevention days. The Commissioner acknowledged the importance of communicating with the public in the most appropriate manner, particularly as communication channels evolve and change.

10 **REVIEW UPDATES**

Force collaboration

The Chairman advised that a meeting will be arranged with Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire police and crime panels to discuss force collaboration.

Victim support

The Chairman welcomed the excellent Beacon presentation by Mr McGetrick at the Panel's meeting held on 28 January 2016.

Statistics

Dr Ramsay advised he had written to the Deputy Chief Constable to arrange a meeting to discuss performance and statistics with relevant staff at the Constabulary. The response received was an invitation to Dr Ramsay rather than the three members of the Panel's statistics subgroup.

Cllr Choudhury asked whether there was any best practice which could be followed by the Constabulary. Dr Ramsay advised that there is a variety of approaches used across the country by police forces, including some forces using their own crime survey, and welcomed sight of any specific best practice available.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

12 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be agreed in consultation with the Commissioner's office.