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# MEETING OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Thursday 23 November 2023- 6:00pm

Three Rivers District Council

## MINUTES

(Please note the minutes are a brief summary of the discussion and not intended to be verbatim)

<b>Members Present:</b>	Cllr A Curtis	Broxbourne Borough Council
	Cllr J Taylor	St Albans City and District Council
	Cllr A Scarth	Three Rivers District Council
	Cllr A Dychton	Watford Borough Council
	Cllr L Chesterman	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
	Cllr A Mitchell	Hertfordshire County Council
	Dr Malcolm Ramsay	Independent Member (interim Chair)

### ACTIONS

None from last meeting

**Also Present:**

- Mr David Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Mr Lewis Cocking, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
- Mr Chris Brace, Chief Executive, PCC
- Dr Amie Birkhamshaw, Assistant Chief Executive, PCC
- Mr Ian Rooney, Chief Finance Officer, PCC
- Mr Nigel Atkins – Communications Manager, PCC
- Mrs N Boateng, Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel
- Mr Ibrahim Balta, Deputy Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel
- Mr Elliot Free, Legal Apprentice, Broxbourne Council

### 1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr S Monaghan, Cllr L Pringle, Cllr R Townsend, Cllr C Gray, Cllr A Willoughby and Cllr Jackie Hollywell.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 22 June 2023

The minutes were agreed.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Taylor raised a concern about the way the public question had been responded to from the last meeting. The question related to cold calling in the evening. DL advised it was an

operational police matter. If the callers are licensed and are operating within the terms of their licence the Police would not be able to act.

## **5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL**

One question to both PCP and Commissioner on the number of stop and searches which had taken place in Welwyn Hatfield with reference to crime rate figures (question at appendix one).

Panel response: -

Dr Ramsay commented that stop and search is relevant to some types of crime such as knife crime but not others.

Cllr Chesterman was surprised by the use of the word “dangerous” in the question and undertook to contact the questioner to discuss their concern.

## **6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The same question posed to the PCP was also posed to the Commissioner (question and Commissioner’s response are at appendix one).

## **7. THE ANNUAL POLICE AN CRIME PLAN DELIVERY PLAN**

DL presented the annual police and crime plan delivery plan report to the Panel (summary of DL’s presentation is at appendix two).

Cllr Chesterman asked whether the reports of crime were the same now as in 2012.

DL explained that the reporting of crime and how it is recorded have changed. 5 to 6 years ago if there had been a fight involving 10 people it would have been recorded as one crime, now it would be recorded as 10. Generally, the crimes in the public realm have gone down.

Cllr Dychton indicated that the 147 priorities in the report were impressive but asked about the 9 priorities that had not been started.

DL provided detailed feedback on the 9 priorities outstanding explaining why they had not commenced, such as changes to legislation pending or funding not being identified.

Cllr Scarth praised the PCC for keeping safer neighbourhood teams and expressed a wish for the police to be more visible, walking the beat.

DL referred to the paper by the Chief Constable on public access and visibility.

Cllr Curtis mentioned priority 1 that was hoped to be in place by the spring.

DL gave more information about any action implemented needing to be evidence based.

Dr Ramsay commented that the Police could drill down a level further to understand why certain crimes happen in certain locations.

DL There is information and data which gives an understanding of what crime might occur in different locations.

Cllr Curtis asked whether this date can be used.

DL talked about the different types of data, such as health data, for example if someone presents at hospital with a knife wound, (and the police know nothing about it). It would be useful to pull together this sort of data. However, there is also a need to protect patient confidentiality.

Cllr Mitchell asked about the projects that had been started in the plan but not completed.

DL explained that it was a five-year plan to 2027, so there will be projects that have commenced but are ongoing.

Dr Birkhamshaw also clarified that once priorities have been set out and scoped, they may be subject to legislative amendments or a change in police priorities.

Dr Ramsay asked a question about priority 52 on lighting.

DL referred to a report which suggested lower lighting resulted in less crime. The lighting may not be the causation of the difference, could be that less lighting is in more rural areas with less people, and higher levels of crime may occur in areas with more lighting because of the area being more populated.

Dr Ramsay asked about priority 106 relating to the ethnic mix of police officers.

DL advised that there are initiatives in place to improve representation.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 8 February 2024 6pm, at Broxbourne Council**