



WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL



MEETING OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Thursday 22 June 2023- 6:00pm

St Albans City & District Council

MINUTES

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

Members Present:	Cllr S Monaghan	Broxbourne Borough Council
	Cllr J Taylor	St Albans City and District Council
	Cllr A Scarth	Three Rivers District Council
	Cllr L Pringle	Dacorum Borough Council
	Cllr A Dychton	Watford Borough Council
	Cllr L Chesterman	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
	Cllr R Townsend	East Herts District Council
	Cllr C Gray	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr A Willoughby	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Dr Malcolm Ramsay	Independent Member

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
- 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

ACTIONS

- 1) Independent stop and search report Cllr Pringle with reference to the figures in Dacorum asked whether an analysis could be undertaken.
- 2) The use of Force Report Cllr Dychton – asked for a deeper report on the findings for Watford.

1. WELCOME

The Clerk welcomed everyone to the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Panel meeting. The Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chair of the Panel.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Cllr Monaghan was voted in by the Panel as Chair of the Panel.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Deferred to the next meeting.

3. CONFIRMATION OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Dr Malcolm Ramsay was confirmed by the Panel as an independent member.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received Cllr Adam Mitchell and Cllr J Hollywell.

5. WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS FROM HERTFORDSHIRE AND EAST HERTS

The Chair welcomed the new Panel members, Cllrs Pringle, Gray, Mitchell, Townsend, Chesterman and Willoughby.

THANK YOU TO PAST MEMBERS

The Chair thanked Cllrs Choudhury, Adeleke, Ranger, North, Saffery and Trigg, for their contribution to the work of the PCP.

IAN LAIDLAW-DICKSON TRIBUTES

Following the sad news of the passing of Independent Panel Member Mr Ian Laidlaw-Dickson, the Chair highlighted that he was a much admired Member of the Panel and wanted to express her thanks to him for his outstanding contribution to the work of the Panel over the years. He will be greatly missed by all.

David Lloyd (PCC) also paid warm tribute to Mr Laidlaw-Dickson, expressing gratitude for his friendship. Referencing his distinguished contribution as Chair of the previous Police Authority. Indicating that he had been a helpful guide, who as a Panel member always provided constructive challenge. DL considered that a lot of the good policing in Hertfordshire was due to Ian's contribution, and he would be missed as a friend.

6. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 2 February 2023

The minutes were agreed.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

None.

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

One question from Mr T Sharp had been received, the question and answer can be found at appendix one.

10. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ANNUAL REPORT

The report was introduced by DL.

Cllr Pringle – asked a question about enforcement from cameras and prosecutions.

DL – explained that the money from speed cameras can only be used for road safety not prosecutions.

DL – in response to a point raise by Cllr Scarth, DL indicated that the information from cameras is often used to gather evidence of where the hotspots are. Letters are sent out and Police visits take place.

Cllr Scarth – urged PCC to encourage the Chief Constable to use more hand held cameras.

DL – confirmed that further training for hand held cameras had taken place.

Dr Ramsay – welcomed a stronger emphasis on cybercrime, which is becoming more sophisticated. He hoped that best practise across the Country would be followed.

DL – confirmed a lot of work was being done nationally and locally, with much investment through the National Crime Agency etc.

Cllr Monaghan – asked whether the work on knife crime would be rolled out.

DL – A lot of work had been done in schools on this which has been well received, we hope to roll this out elsewhere.

11. INDEPENDENT STOP & SEARCH SCRUTINY PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

The report was introduced by Mr Demitrins Nurse the chair of the Hertfordshire Independent Stop & Search Community Scrutiny Panel.

Cllr Pringle – Thanked them for the work, made reference to the figures in Dacorum and whether an analysis had been undertaken.

DN – indicated he was happy to take this question away.

Dr Ramsay – mentioned the research that have been undertaken and detailed in the report.

DN – indicated he was pleased that DL had asked for the research to be done.

12. DOG WELFARE ANNUAL REPORT

DL introduced the report.

Cllr Scarth – enquired how long it takes to get a dog after an officer has called for one to assist.

DL – this report isn't about the deployment of dogs, therefore I won't have those figures. This report is specifically about their welfare. Deployment timescales is an operational matter. However, I can't recall over the last 10 -11 years of there not being a dog available when needed.

13. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VOLUNTEERS ANNUAL REPORT

DL introduced the report.

Cllr Pringle – asked whether there were statistics on the diversity of the visitors, does the demographic represent the population.

DL – referred to figure 4 on page 9 of the report which set out the ethnicity of the Panel and age profile.

Cllr Pringle – asked whether specialists were recruited, such as for Children, mental health.

DL – In Hertfordshire children are not detained in custody, the L/A is under a duty to provide facilities. It is very rare to have children in custody. With regard to mental health the custody sergeant makes an assessment whether a person is well enough to go into custody.

DL – asked what happens if the person later presents as having mental health problems.

Dr AB – advised that a mental health nurse was on call permanently in custody suites.

14. USE OF FORCE SCRUTINY PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

Mr Chris Cowdrey the Chair of the Use of Force Scrutiny Panel, introduced the report.

Cllr Pringle – asked about body worn cameras, and whether officers ever forget to activate them.

CC – sometimes the camera may be obscured by a coat etc.

Cllr Pringle – asked about complaints.

CC – advised the Panel do not get involved with complaints.

Cllr Dychton – asked for a deeper report on their findings for Watford.

CC – said he could look this up.

Cllr Chesterman asked how they recruit volunteers.

Dr AB advised that many avenues are used to recruit, such as webinars and different social media platforms.

CC – advised this was high on the Panel's agenda, there is a lot of promotion by Panel members.

Cllr Chesterman indicated she would be happy to meet with both Panel Chairs to discuss ideas on recruitment.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Scarth mentioned he would have liked to have seen reference to OWL in the report.

Cllr AD asked a question about how long Police officers spend in A&E.

DL – this is an ongoing discussion nationally, and mentioned the ‘Right Care Right Person’ model to reduce the risk of Police officers having to wait alongside a patient in mental health crisis for up to 50 hours etc.

Cllr Monaghan advised that an email would be sent to new Panel members welcoming them to the Panel and an informal meeting arranged.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 23 November 2023 6pm, at Three Rivers Council