



WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL



MEETING OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Thursday 23 June 2022- 6:00pm

East Hertfordshire 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 (Chair) - Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr P Choudhury (Vice Chair) - Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr J Taylor - St Albans City and District Council
Cllr A Scarth - Three Rivers District Council
Cllr R Trigg - Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Cllr R Fernando – East Herts District Council
Cllr R Ranger – Hertfordshire County Council

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. Item 11 – PCC to look into the benefits of PCC becoming White Ribbon accredited.

2. Item 11 – PCC to look into providing a Prevention 1st ‘briefing’ to Panel to show how Officers are implementing this initiative.

3. Item 13 – PCC to give feedback to the Panel on the HMIC report on the Independent Custody Volunteers scheme.

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

Cllr Choudhury was voted in by the Panel as Vice Chair of the Panel

3. CONFIRMATION OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Mr Malcolm Ramsay and Mr Ian Laidlaw-Dickson were confirmed by the Panel as independent members.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Ian Laidlaw-Dickson, Dr Malcolm Ramsay, Cllr Imarni, Cllr Saffery, Cllr Jackie Hollywell, and Cllr North.

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

The Chair welcomed the two new Panel members Cllr Ranger and Cllr Fernando.

THANK YOU TO CLLRS THOMSON, CURTIS AND IMARNI

The Chair thanked Cllr Imarni, Cllr Curtis and Cllr Thomson on behalf of the Panel for their work on the PCP.

6. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 17 March 2022

The minutes were agreed

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It was noted that Cllr Danny Clare's surname was misspelt in the minutes.

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

None

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

None

10. INDEPENDENT STOP & SEARCH SCRUTINY PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

Mohammad Islam-Ruman (Deputy Chair of the Independent Stop and Search Panel) introduced the report. He confirmed the purpose of the Panel was to provide independent scrutiny that Officers had reasonable grounds for stop and searches, he confirmed the Panel has no investigative powers. The Panel meet once a month. The Panel picks randomly from all the stop and searches. The Panel provides feedback on its findings to the constabulary. Of the 337 records reviewed, 66% the Panel were confident of the findings and 34% the Panel were not confident. This has gone down from last year. The records where the Panel were not confident, do not mean the stop and searches were not done properly, but that the recording of the stop and search needs improving.

Cllr Choudhury asked about recruitment to the Panel from younger age groups.

AB – indicated that an external agency had been appointed to undertake a 'health check' on the Panel; part of their work will include improving recruitment in the 18 – 24 age group.

Cllr Scarth – commented that the Panel needed a greater spread of ethnicity.

Cllr Trigg - asked if Sergeants attend Panel meetings.

AB – confirmed that Sergeants do attend, which is rotated around the ten districts. The Chief Inspector is also in the room and feeds comments back to Officers.

Cllr Ranger – asked about local engagement in the work of the Panel.

Mohammad – confirmed that following Covid the Panel had re-started community meetings for local engagement.

AB – also confirmed that engagement is undertaken through OWL, Twitter, Facebook and a programme of ‘in person’ meetings.

Cllr Fernando – asked whether any trends had been noticed by the Panel.

Mohammad – The Sergeants who receive feedback look for trends i.e. if problems are identified with the same Officers.

Cllr Choudhury – have there been any cases where the body worn camera has been switched off.

Mohammad – not found any cases of this.

AB – Body worn cameras are mandatory for stop and searches.

11. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ANNUAL REPORT

DL introduced report. Confirmed crime in Hertfordshire has continued to remain low with a 10.3% reduction from 19/20.

Cllr Monaghan – asked if crime reduction was due to Covid, i.e. burglaries are down because people were at home, shop lifting’s down because shops were closed.

DL – I have used the figures from 19/20 just before Covid. The Covid year would not give a clear indicator.

Cllr Taylor – asked whether there were plans for the PCC to become White Ribbon accredited.

DL – indicated he wasn’t sure what the benefits would be, but would look into it. (DL -Action)

Cllr Scarth – mentioned Prevention first and indicated that he would like to see what Officers are doing with regard to this, perhaps a briefing.

CB will look into how this might be done (CB – Prevention 1st briefing?)

Cllr Ranger – asked a question around the low reporting of fraud and the prevention of cybercrime.

DL – Advised he had put more money into these areas.

AB – there is a County wide Fraud and Strategy Group, Multi-agency Communication Group, there is also the Friends Against Scamming Group. The Beacon Fraud hub visits people with mobility problems and issues doorbell cameras to the elderly. We want to make sure that between the County Council, District Councils and Police we are giving the public the same messages. We are looking into a single point of contact for fraud.

Cllr Taylor – referred to instances involving people with mental health issues (where their condition may not be serious enough to be sectioned), where no crime has been committed, however, these instances take up a lot of Police time.

DL – The use of mental health nurses in these instances would be a better option, rather than the Police.

Cllr Monaghan – commented it was good to see staff welfare in the report.

DL – Referred to the helpful discussions he had had on this topic with Cllr Sam North, the work undertaken to ensure staff welfare can be seen on page 29 of the report.

12. DOG WELFARE ANNUAL REPORT

DL summarised report.

Cllr Scarth – asked if there were dogs in Hertfordshire.

DL confirmed there were dogs in Hertfordshire but indicated the challenge was when an extra dog was needed in the tri-force initiative. This is not a problem with pre-planned operations

13. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VOLUNTEERS ANNUAL REPORT

DL summarised report.

Cllr Monaghan – asked why this report was written by PCC unlike the Stop and Search Panel report.

DL – the Independent Custody Volunteers scheme is part of my statutory role, therefore the report needs to be from PCC. HMIC undertake reviews of the scheme.

Cllr Scarth – asked for the Commissioner to give feedback to the Panel on the HMIC report which was due to be published on 24 June. (Action for PCC).

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING –17 November 2021 AT 6 PM VENUE – Hertfordshire County Council