



HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Thursday 14 February 2013
Three Rivers District Council

MINUTES

Present

Cllr R G Hannam, Broxbourne Borough Council (Chairman)
 Cllr M Alexander, East Herts District Council
 Cllr Mrs A Brewster, St Albans City and District Council
 Cllr Mrs T Cowley, North Hertfordshire District Council
 Cllr J Dean, Welwyn Hatfield District Council
 Ms A Francis, Co-opted Member
 Cllr C Goldstein (substitute), Hertsmere Borough Council
 Cllr R Henry (substitute), Stevenage Borough Council
 Mr I Laidlaw-Dickson, Co-opted member
 Cty Cllr P Ruffles, Hertfordshire County Council
 Cllr D Scudder (substitute), Watford Borough Council
 Cllr R Seabourne, Three Rivers District Council

Also Present

Mr D Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner
 Mr A White, PCC Chief Executive
 Ms D Currie, PCC Deputy Chief Executive
 Mr J Bugg, PCC Assistant Chief Executive
 Cllr A Franey (substitute), Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
 Mr J Hurley, Commissioner's Office/PCC and Constabulary Director of Resources
 Mr G Miles, Broxbourne Borough Council
 Mr M J Walker, Broxbourne Borough Council

15 members of councils and members of the public attended

1 APOLOGIES

Cllr M Bright, Hertsmere Borough Council
 Cllr N Harden, Dacorum Borough Council
 Cllr Ms S Taylor, Stevenage Borough Council
 Mayor D Thornhill, Watford Borough Council
 Dr M Verlot, Co-opted Member

2 STATEMENT BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Mr Lloyd made a statement about the resignation of the Deputy Commissioner, Dr Rachel Frosh, on 13 February 2013 following press interest in a re-tweet by Dr Frosh. Mr Lloyd indicated that he did not intend to appoint a deputy commissioner in the short term. He will reflect on matters and, in due course, he will advise the Panel on his intentions should he decide to appoint a deputy commissioner.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2013

Agreed.

4 MATTERS ARISING

(a) **Commissioner's final budget and response to the Panel's deliberations** (attached)

The circulated Budget Proposal was noted.

5 THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S POLICE AND CRIME PLAN (WORKING DRAFT)

Mr Lloyd indicated that there is a high level of public interest in the Plan already. Though the Plan will build on the exemplary success of the Hertfordshire Constabulary, the Plan is different to previous plans. It is a set of aspirations. This Plan takes a holistic approach to crime. It contains no surprises and it is a bright new start. It is intended as a 'Green Paper' approach. The Commissioner wants the public to respond to the Plan. There are three strands.

Public focus

Customer care, case tracking, recruiting, property and active citizens.

Offender pays

What kind of place do we want to live in? Dealing with the proceeds of crime.

Business sense

Internally in terms of the Force's efficiency and effectiveness and externally in terms of work with business.

On metrics and performance indicators, the Commissioner drew attention to the targets set by the Chief Constable in the final pages of the Plan.

Cllr Ruffles was interested to know which business thread the Commissioner will see first as a 'measurable'. The Commissioner explained the Plan is about the big picture and culture change. We will know when we have got there. He wants an organisation which is business friendly. There will not be a timetable for these threads: the direction we are going is set by the Plan. The Constabulary is one of the most efficient and effective in the country to start with.

In looking at the performance measures for the Chief Constable for domestic violence, Cllr Henry asked whether the Chief Constable is clear about the importance of working with other agencies in partnership. The Commissioner felt that tackling DV is a golden thread through the plans of all tiers of government across the County.

Cllr Cowley found the Commissioner's statement on the proceeds of crime interesting. What resources will be added to work on the proceeds of crime and community payback? How is the Commissioner proposing to tackle the Benches' perspective on community payback to ensure it is effective? The Commissioner saw a need for an effective 'clearing house' for community payback. There are payback jobs beyond litter picking. Offenders have a wide range of skills, so every community should have a plan to use those skills, if available. A valuable resource is available which can be used for the common good. At present, work on the proceeds of crime is a little hit and miss. We should be prepared to put more in to increase the yield from offenders. The Plan's proposals are about making the community not pay for crime.

Cllr Brewster suggested that there is a significant public interest in community payback. There is an opportunity to let people know about this work and this Plan is an opportunity to strengthen the scope of effective working with partners. The Commissioner appreciated that delivery of community payback is not necessary in his own hands.

Mr Laidlaw-Dickson felt that an issue is that of what the Commissioner can do versus the responsibilities of other agencies. He would like a greater degree of specificity in the Plan targets. The Panel will need close tracking to measure success – including partners – at each meeting. He welcomed the Commissioner's ability to talk to other agencies. However, he is not clear how the Plan will achieve what it sets out to do. The Commissioner indicated that the Plan sets out the stall. It does not follow previous plans in the manner of working through lengthy analysis. The draft Plan sets out what the Commissioner felt people want. It has a broad set of themes which will shape what we do. After the significant reductions achieved in the past three years, to set a further reduction in crime this year is quite a stiff target.

The Chairman appreciated that the Plan is visionary but sought a handle on the three elements of Vision, Accountability and Trust. The Commissioner suggested the Plan is about setting a challenge to partners and the Constabulary. This is the Commissioner's vision, expressed from the heart. This will enable him to be held to account far more effectively and directly than by the previous policing plans.

Cllr Alexander felt that tackling the fear of crime is the key to public reassurance in which CCTV is a valuable tool. He pointed out that CCTV in Hertfordshire is largely paid for by councils. The Commissioner understood that. He hoped that a baseline can be drawn for the commercial or business CCTV systems in Hertfordshire – setting a minimum standard for such systems. His comments are particularly addressed to the small 24-hour stores with old systems which result in images of substandard quality.

Cllr Ruffles felt that the Commissioner's exhortations are central to success. Is the Commissioner aware of his active role in promoting action in the areas of domestic crisis, abuse, etc – making the public more aware of these services and using the Commissioner's high profile to strengthen victim support? Cllr Ruffles asked the Commissioner not to just

bless work being done, but rather enhance the profile of this work. The Commissioner saw his role as a champion of victims which he realised may not rest comfortably with some agencies in the Criminal Justice system.

As a previous member of the Police Authority and as a member of the Watford CSP, Cllr Scudder was pleased at the Commissioner's recognition of the role of CSPs in local partnership working. The Commissioner confirmed that he recognised work with local partners and outlined his engagement with local leaders and Council portfolio holders. The proportion of the remaining Safer Communities funding which he proposed will be passed to local partnerships has increased. During the Plan period, there will, however, be consideration of the structures appropriate for dealing with local issues too. The Commissioner said that while he thought each district needs a Responsible Authorities Group he was not so certain about each needing a CSP.

Cllr Cowley felt it would be useful to indicate by how much the 'reduce' targets are to be reduced. Can robust targets be set without figures? The Commissioner understood this point and will consider how targets can be best expressed. Mr Andrew White confirmed that metrics are available for most of the selected measures. This is a one year plan, but it also sets the scene for future plans too.

Cllr Brewster suggested that more commentary will be expected in a year's time to help the public understand what has been done over the year. She also sought confirmation from the Commissioner that annoyance crime is captured in his intentions too. The Commissioner confirmed that while he cannot refer to every type of crime. In the Plan he is aware of the importance of this crime for the public. His dialogue with the public will be ongoing.

Cllr Dean sought further baselines in the Plan's metrics, which will be useful in the next plan cycle too and Cllr Seabourne requested that at point 2.4 ASB and hate motivated crime should be separated out. Mr White explained that the crime types would be clarified but in that section the ASB was related to hate crimes and not ASB generally.

Cllr Seabourne noted that proposals to put more resources in areas such as the proceeds of crime can mount up and he did not want this to become a burden on the community. The Commissioner appreciated this dilemma, and recognised that as decision making and control of budgets can rest with different partners, he will try to bring a co-ordinated approach.

Ms Francis drew attention to the crossover between victims and offenders and the need to bear this in mind. The Commissioner indicated that victims had to be top of his list. First and foremost, he has to meet the needs of victims of crime.

The Commissioner confirmed that on behalf of Hertfordshire he will attempt to engage at a national level with Government and think tanks. He will endeavour to use Hertfordshire's achievements as an exemplar, which will assist the area with securing funding and support. The population changes shown by the census impacts will be taken into consideration, along with the resourcing implications of these changes. The Commissioner also confirmed that he plans to drive better use of technology and ICT such as the use of handheld devices by frontline police and a step change in how the control

room works. He will seek the smart use of technology and encourage the public to use the web too for reporting crime.

Cllr Alexander asked if the Plan will be shared with adjoining forces and commissioners. The Commissioner confirmed he has active discussions underway. The Plan is open to all sections of the public for comments. Comments from the probation and health services and all the key partner agencies are welcome, but the comments of the public are of greatest interest to the Commissioner.

6 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Frank Radcliffe, Victim Liaison Officer drew attention to the potential conflict between the reduction of crime by 2% and reducing offending for Class A drugs. Laura Stark, Herts Probation Trust saw a contradiction in offender pays principle – how will it be enforced and a danger of making a contribution to further offending. The Commissioner confirmed he was focussing on POC Act. He doesn't want people to profit from crime, but it is not about making people offenders. Mr Radcliffe felt that restorative justice in criminals seeing their victims is the way forward in changing criminal behaviour. The Commissioner appreciated the point made but we need to look at what works. He wanted the perception to be that Hertfordshire is not a good place for criminal behaviour.

Cllr Ann Shaw sought responsibility for the ex-police station at Rickmansworth which is unsightly and a source of abuse to residents. The Commissioner confirmed he will investigate the issue.

Mark Ryan expressed concern that a complaint about Panel processes had not been dealt with adequately. His observations were noted.

RECOMMENDATION

It was agreed that, based on the above discussion, officers will prepare a draft report to the Commissioner on the Panels' observations which will be circulated to all PCP members and their authorities for their comments before finalisation.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Seabourne raised the public involvement in the meetings not reflecting the rule adopted and asked if the rules could be reconsidered at the next meeting. Cllr Alexander also pointed out the requirement for seven days' notice for public questions conflicted with the agenda and papers going out seven days before the meeting. It was agreed to receive a report to the Panel's next meeting on revisions to the Panel's procedures for public contributions at the Panel.