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MEETING OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Thursday 21st November 2024

East Herts District Council

MINUTES

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

Members Present:	Dr Malcolm Ramsay	Independent Member (Vice Chair)
	Dr Julian Hargreaves	Independent Member
	Mr Mark Jackson	Independent Member
	Cllr Val Bryant	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr Glen Saffery	Watford Council (Substitute for Cllr Aga Dychton)
	Cllr Tom Plater	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Andrew Scarth	Three Rivers District Council
	Cllr Harriet Sherlock	St Albans City and District Council

Also Present: Mr Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Police and Crime Commissioner
Mr Gavin Miles, Deputy Chief Executive PCC
Mr Ian Rooney, PCC Chief Financial Officer
Ms Rhiannon Sawyer, Director of Strategy, PCC
Mr Ibrahim Balta, Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

1. WELCOME

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the Police and Crime Panel meeting. **Dr Ramsey(Vice Chair)** informed the Panel that Nathalie Boateng has resigned from her post as Head of Legal Services at Broxbourne and Clerk to the PCP meetings on behalf of the Panel wanted to minute the Panel's appreciation for Nathalie Boateng's work as a Clerk to the PCP meetings.

2. APOLOGIES and DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors Aga Dychton, Reena Ranger, Morris Bright, and Richard Townsend

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 7th NOVEMBER 2024

The minutes were agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters arising.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

No questions.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

No questions.

7. PCC'S PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

The Commissioner and **Ms Sawyer** gave a summary from Power Point Presentation on 'The Police and Crime Plan 2025 First Look and Initial Steer' (attached).

The Commissioner and **Ms Sawyer** gave an overview of the Feedback and consultation, How and what data was gathered.

The Commissioner stated that the format of the plan would be different, it will be a strategic document, it will be very focused on the impact we are trying to have. Didn't want the plan to sit like a list of 150 things to do, it will be performance based, what we are asking from policing and the goal of the plan will be more focused, focused on where we could make a difference. The key activities will be on the priorities and detailed actions. It will be focused on what we are going to achieve. The style and format will be similar to Essex, Devon and Cornwall, Lancashire but not directly comparable.

The Commissioner said the 6 priorities which I set out in the elections manifesto:

- i) Preventing and deterring crime
- ii) Strengthening local policing
- iii) Getting tough on neighbourhood crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.
- iv) Disturbing high harm criminality to protect vulnerable people
- v) Bringing more offenders to justice, addressing prolific offending and supporting victims
- vi) Improving service to the public

The Commissioner set out briefly how each priority will be addressed as set out on the Power Point Slides aforementioned.

Dr Ramsey(Vice Chair) appreciated for the update. Commented and added emphasis on fraud and cyber crime as that will over the years will become more important as it can be a devastating experience for some of the victims.

The Commissioner acknowledged the significance of the impact on victims fraud/cyber crime, complex area which doesn't always sit with local policing, lots of work being done by Beacon Fraud Hub, probably leading nationally and that a lot to built up on this.

Cllr Sherlock stated impressed with the strategic plan but how does the Commissioner intend to measure and monitor success.

The Commissioner this is work in progress, we will look at matrix plot where we are nationally, some areas we can do it straight forward and some areas we will probably need to do more public consultation for example point around visibility using technology around

hotspotting. But what the community thinks, as some of it is around how do people feel is police visible or not.

Ms Sawyer gave more examples of how progress will be measured.

Cllr Scarth commented on the plan in respect of police visibility, commented on the morale and stress levels of officers, impact of feedback and criticism are dealt with accordingly to boost morale and can do approach.

The Commissioner agrees and commented that in much more detail is policing, be visible, be responsive. Go after offender and look after the victim and if we zoom out, this is what we are asking good performance.

Dr Ramsey (Vice Chair) commented on enhancing neighbourhood specially as that might help the officers when rising status.

Ms Sawyer we need to make officers feel valued, measure timeline and over 4 years we are being clear with the force.

Dr Hargreaves congratulated on the plan an academic question, who collected data, who answered, whether it was directly answered and online sample.

Ms Sawyer SMSR used representative range of methods asking people on the streets. As set out in the summary of SMSR page we collected data of the streets, in the thousands approx. 2500, online in the hundreds.

Dr Hargreaves how will the plan analysis provided.

The Commissioner that work is resourced in the office. We are confident we can deliver.

Mr Jackson stated that he is sceptical having worked on homicide, child protection reviews, national review on all the recommendation over many years, there is often 2-3 recommendations appear. What changes? How are you going to get engagement with some of those partnership?

The Commissioner we are trying to be specific, work out what needs to be done, where we can move the dot, acknowledges the comment and stated that there are areas that some of those recommendations are policing nationally and system wide approach, right to be cautious. The question on partners has financial challenges. Police budget is on budget, creativity is needed on how we use that. Recognising partnerships and agencies and contact points in different organisations, key on unlocking resources and focusing on what we need.

Mr Jackson enquired about non missing or hidden missing people. Child protection and child safety.

Ms Sawyer commented on the importance of matter analysis, information sharing, intelligence documents, voluntary sector sharing information.

Cllr Plater asked if Herts Police involved in White Ribbon.

The Commissioner. Yes.

Cllr Plater enquired about the surveys through Herts connected, whether social media and other various online platforms where explored, what sort of work is done.

Ms Sawyer yes to social media, no money spent on algorithms but it's a point for us to take.

Cllr Plater how are we working with other partnerships on the issue of county lines.

Ms Sawyer there is a national county lines plan, that could grow within the local plan.

Cllr Saffery two questions, firstly the issue of drug trade and links to other issues, disturbing local supply of drug and problems relate to drugs and how it will be built in the plan. Secondly, town centre policing, how can we support, huge network of CCTV, community safety, observes that when walking around town notes issues around drugs.

The Commissioner acknowledged the points made as good points, stated county where people are safe, people can thrive, and town centres are one of those important places where people to have confidence in going to and explained policing visibility, partnerships, cctv and other interventions. In response to the drugs point it is linked to addictions, shop lifting, does have links to ASB. It is about disturbing and preventing supply of drugs. We had good success in Stevenage, but lots more to roll out and work together to make communities safer and have resilience.

Dr Ramsey (Vice Chair) commented on community engagement and practicalities and getting right recruitment of policing, CPSOs, cadets, keeping up to date with diversity of the population.

Cllr Plater- referred to the line of the last inspection in the vetting of officers.

The Commissioner stated that work is being done nationally and in Hertfordshire.

8. PCC TO PROVIDE A PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE PRECEPT

Dr Ramsey (Vice Chair) although today is not the evening to go through finances/budget but requested a short update.

The Commissioner- provided a brief update on the precept/budget and forecast.

9. AOB None

10. Date of Next Meeting 19th December 2024- Broxbourne Council