



WATFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



MEETING OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Tuesday 11 August 2020 – 7pm

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

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 Isy Imarni (Vice Chair), Dacorum Borough Council
Cllr P Choudhury, Hertsmere Borough Council
Dr M Ramsay, Independent Member (Independent member)
Mr Ian Laidlaw-Dickson (Independent member)
Cllr J Hollywell, Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr C Woodward, Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr G Saffery, Watford Borough Council
Cllr S North, North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr A Curtis, East Herts District Council
Cllr S Hodgson, St Albans City and District Council
Cllr P Hebden, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Cllr Sara Bedford, Three Rivers District Council

Also Present: Mr David Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner
Mr David Gibson, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Mr Chris Brace, Chief Executive, PCC
Dr Amie Birkhamshaw, Director of Strategy, PCC
Mr Ian Rooney, Director of Finance, PCC
Ms Carolyn Kitchen, Transparency & Executive Support Administrator, PCC
Mr Stuart Nagler, Assistant PCC
Mr Jeffrey Burke, representative of the Hertfordshire Independent Stop & Search Community Scrutiny Panel
Mrs N Boateng, Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel
Mr Stephen Billington, Broxbourne Borough Council
Mr James Horrax
Mr John Hale

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Members of the Panel nominated and voted for Cllr Siobhan Monaghan to be Chair of the Police and Crime Panel with Cllr Israel Imarni as Vice Chair.

2 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr B Sarson with Cllr P Hebden substituting and Cllr Scarth with Cllr Sara Bedford substituting.

3 AGREE CONTINUED APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

The Panel agreed the continued appointment of Dr Malcolm Ramsay and Mr Ian Laidlaw-Dickson as Independent Panel members. The Chair thanked them for their continued support.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 11 April 2019

Agreed

5 MATTERS ARISING

Amended to show date of meeting.

6 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Two questions were received. The first question is reproduced on the questions sheet to the PCC prepared by the Panel at appendix A. The second question can be found at appendix B.

7 QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

**8 THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20 &
ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN: "EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS"**

9 INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITORS SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT

**10 COUNTRYWIDE COMMUNITY STOP AND SEARCH SCRUTINY PANEL ANNUAL
REPORT**

11 INDEPENDENT DOG WELFARE VISITING SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT

A short presentation was provided for each of the reports for items 8 to 11. The questions and answers regarding these reports can be found at appendix A.

12 REPORT FROM PCC ON ISSUES ARISING FROM COVID 19

13 REPORT FROM PCC ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Items 12 and 13 were dealt with together by the PCC.

Financial update impact of Covid 19

The total spend for the first quarter was £559,000 up from £536,000 in the report.

The level of extractions were lower than anticipated. Levels are normal at 8%, with 3% being sickness absence.

The majority of additional expenditure is on PPE, with overtime 2nd highest. Regional spend on PPE is up to approximately £600,000. Appropriate stocks of PPE are in place.

The Home Office announced all PPE costs incurred by forces from March 2020 up to 22 July will be reimbursed.

Estate costs – we have incurred additional costs for social distancing measures and extra cleaning.

We have experience some loss of income, due to a reductions in tickets from cameras.

There have been savings due to a reduction in travel costs.

The Government have provided limited measures to help forces address the impact of the Pandemic. Such as, the payment of the (non-ring fenced) £2 million police pension grant being paid in April instead of June, which helped cash flow. In addition, the re-purposing of the Police uplift program funding, £1.2 million for Herts to be paid monthly over 6 months which can be spent on either recruitment or Covid 19.

We are making monthly submissions to the Home Office which include police uplift data and Covid 19 costs to assist in making a case for additional funding.

In the absence of further funding assistance from Government, reserves will have to be used to meet additional costs.

The Government announced a 2.5% pay award for officers, which has been factored into our budget assumptions.

Crime levels

Crime levels have significantly fluctuated during the pandemic. Lockdown kept crime figures low for the first couple of months. 150 -180 offences recorded per day, compared to 230 -260 per day before the pandemic. The broad crime categories listed below were all down:

- Burglary
- Robbery
- Shop lifting

- Theft from the person

The exceptions to this were domestic abuse, stalking, harassment and cybercrime which rose. As Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted crime figures are returning to pre-pandemic levels.

DL is chair of Criminal Justice Board in Herts, from 1st April their monthly meetings moved to weekly. He has also had weekly meetings with each District Council's community safety portfolio holder.

JH - asked about the rise in domestic abuse and different reports about this in the media and asked if more could have been done.

DL – agreed that there had been differences in reporting on this topic. 12% increase in domestic abuse reports, this is not as bad as we had feared. He thought there had been a good coordinated approach to domestic abuse.

14 NOTIFICATION OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S CONTRACT EXTENTION

The Panel were advised of the Chief Constable's contract extension to October 2024.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SN - suggested as a future agenda item, the environmental impact of the police and what the constabulary are doing to reach the zero carbon target.

SN – Ask if DL had any comments on the devolution recovery white paper and the County Councils suggestion to create a single unitary authority for Hertfordshire?

DL – could see the merit in the proposal. But on the fence on the issue. However, important for the system to reflect what local people want.

SN – Recent reports in the media suggesting female police officers and members of staff have been subjected to sexual harassment (lad culture). Could a report into this be commissioned within Hertfordshire?

DL – Pointed out this was operational. However, thought that considerable strides had been made in this area. There is increased diversity in gender and sexuality. Confirmed he would be happy to talk to the Chief Constable about this.

CW – I wanted to raise the letter that the PCC shared with the Chair dated 28th April response to the HMICFRS inspectorate report on Herts Police child protection, there were six short comings identified. Following the letter the PCC was going to have a follow up meeting in May, could we be provided with an update?

DL – Will publish through the Strategic Executive Board, but happy to come back on this at a future date.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7:00PM THURSDAY 12 November 2020 venue tbc