



HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

APPENDIX A TO AGENDA ITEM 9 - ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 2014/15

Introduction

This report covers the year from April 1 2014. The Panel carried out an appointment process to fill one independent member vacancy. The response however, was such that the Home Secretary was requested to approve the appointment of two additional members because of the different and extensive experience and knowledge the proposed appointees would bring to the Panel. This approval was duly received and so the Panel now consists of 15 members: one nominated by each of the 11 principal local authorities in Hertfordshire, three independent co-opted members and one additional co-opted member chosen by the Panel (nominated by the county Labour Party) to meet the political balance objective as far as practicable. Following the changes to membership and the need to work on how the Panel would carry out its role to support the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and hold him to account, a training session was hosted by the Chief Constable to brief members on policing issues in Hertfordshire, as well as police finance, the role of the Panel and the role of the PCC.

Details of all meetings, the Panel arrangements agreed by the 11 authorities and the rules of procedure of the Panel can be found at its website: <http://www.hertspcp.org.uk/default.aspx>

Meeting of 24 April 2014 at County Hall, Hertford

At its first public meeting in April 2014 the Panel considered the proposed appointment of the PCC's Chief Finance Officer. The meeting had to be called outside the programmed calendar of meetings and was held in holiday time at Easter because of the statutory timescale of such meetings. There was not a quorum present so the Panel could not comment formally to the PCC. However, the members present did ask questions of the PCC and the candidate so they could be recorded publicly with the responses.

The notes of the meeting can be found here: <http://www.hertspcp.org.uk/Papers/2014-04-24/HPCP%20Minutes%20-%2024%20April%202014.pdf>

Meeting of 19 June 2014 at North Hertfordshire District Council's Offices, Letchworth Garden City

After the local elections at its annual meeting in June the Panel considered its membership and work programme. The work programme is based around the statutory responsibilities of the Panel. The agenda also included Hertfordshire County Council's scrutiny report of the Panel, the annual report of complaints against the PCC and the main item of business, the annual report of the PCC.

Opportunity was available for public questions of the PCC (seven members of the public were present) as well as questions by the panel. Public questions included the PCC's views on the DriveSafe scheme in and around Barley in North Hertfordshire.

Minutes of the questions and answers as well as decisions can be found here: <http://www.hertspcp.org.uk/Papers/2014-06-19/HPCP%20Minutes%20-%2019%20June%202014%20revised%2013%20November%202014.pdf>

Meeting of 13 November 2014 at Broxbourne Borough Council's Offices, Cheshunt

The Panel considered the PCC's report on the Constabulary's work on crime data management in response to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's national assessment following some public concerns. The PCC provided his usual update report and received questions on that and his work generally. The topics covered included a panel set up by the PCC to look into the use by the Constabulary of stop and search powers, blue light emergency service collaboration and a pilot scheme in Dacorum to allow local groups to be updated on crime and related issues locally. The Panel also considered the inquiry by the Committee on Standards in Public Life into governance of the police service. There were 17 members of the public in attendance and they had the opportunity to ask the PCC questions as usual.

Minutes of the questions and answers as well as decisions can be found here: <http://www.hertspcp.org.uk/Papers/2014-11-13/HPCP%20Minutes%20-%2013%20November%202014.pdf>

Meeting of 29 January 2015 at Hertsmere Borough Council's Offices, Borehamwood

The PCC introduced his precept proposal for his share of the council tax paid by households in Hertfordshire. Together with detailed estimates and budget papers he outlined why he proposed to freeze the council tax for five years. Questions were raised on the substantial collaboration work being undertaken by the Constabulary with the forces in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire and the risks associated with this work. These include the risks of not achieving the savings forecast and the risks to the service received by the public. The PCC also outlined how the budget permitted some recruitment of officers to continue when many forces were unable to do this. Hertfordshire would be recruiting around 150 new officers in the coming year which will mean an increase in held strength of about 60 after retirements/resignations are taken into account. The Panel resolved to approve the precept proposal of the PCC. As there was no requirement to have a further precept meeting and the PCC proposed bringing a proposed senior appointment before the Panel in March 2015, the planned meeting for 12 February 2015 was postponed to 26 March 2015.

Minutes of the questions and answers can be found here: <http://www.hertspcp.org.uk/Papers/2015-01-29/HPCP%20Minutes%20-%2029%20January%202015.pdf>

Meeting of 26 March 2015 at Three Rivers District Council's Offices, Rickmansworth

To be added.