



WATFORD  
BOROUGH  
COUNCIL



# MEETING OF HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Thursday 12 April 2018 – Commencing at the conclusion of the preceding confirmation hearing

St Albans City and District Council  
Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans,  
Herts AL1 3JE

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## AGENDA

### 1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

### 2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 1 February *(attached)*

If members of the public have any comments on the draft minutes, please email [pcp@broxbourne.gov.uk](mailto:pcp@broxbourne.gov.uk)

### 3 MATTERS ARISING

#### PCCs RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE MEETING ON 1 FEBRUARY

- Cllr Scarth – data to be made available regarding shortages and hotspots
- Dr Ramsay – call for a review of the ONS
- Chris Cowdrey – business cases for investments (Report attached)

### 4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Questions can be sent to [pcp@broxbourne.gov.uk](mailto:pcp@broxbourne.gov.uk) seven days in advance of the meeting to allow for a quicker and more complete response. *(20 minutes are permitted)*

### 5 QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Questions can be sent to [pcp@broxbourne.gov.uk](mailto:pcp@broxbourne.gov.uk) seven days in advance of the meeting to allow for a quicker and more complete response. *(20 minutes are permitted)*

### 6 WORKSTREAM REPORTS

Panel members (as indicated below) will report on developments since the last meeting in the areas on which they are leading.

6.1 Collaboration – Chris Cowdrey and Councillor Isy Imarni

6.2 Victim Support – Councillor Roger Trigg and Councillor Jackie Hollywell

6.3 Cyber Crime & Scamming – Malcolm Ramsey and Councillor Pervez Choudhury

6.4 Finance – Councillor Stephen Hodgson

6.5 'Prevent' – Councillor Tim Hutchings

**7 THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT** (Report attached)

**8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7PM THURSDAY 14 JUNE 2018 LOCATION (TBA)**



WATFORD  
BOROUGH  
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Stevenage  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

THREE RIVERS  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



WELWYN  
HATFIELD  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE  
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BOROUGH OF  
BROXBOURNE  
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# MEETING OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Thursday 1 February 2018

Stevenage Borough Council

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## MINUTES

### 1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

Apologies - Cllr Israel Imarni, Mr Ian Laidlaw-Dickson

### 2 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 15 JUNE 2017

Agreed.

### 3 MATTERS ARISING

None

### 4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

A question was posed by Cllr Pervez Choudhury on behalf of one of his constituents.

A link to the question and written answer provided by Michelle Dunn the Deputy Chief Constable can be found **here** [\[link\]](#)

### 5 QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions or petitions were received.

### 6 PCC UPDATE REPORT

Report presented; Public and Panel invited by Chairman to pose questions. A short summary (non-verbatim) of the questions and answers are provided below:-

**Q:** Cllr Woodward, it is welcome that the HMICFRS ratings were 'good'. How will your increased budget and staffing impact on future ratings?

**A:** Nature of crime is complex. Even though crime is coming down CBI inspections show more crime is now reported, difficult to measure impact.

- Q:** Cllr Ruffles, in your update report you talk about the volume of case work involving counselling, tied in with the work of PCSOs. Due to funding challenges to Local Authorities, some are no longer funding PCSOs.
- A:** Stevenage still pays for 3 PCSOs. I think they are a brilliant part of what we do. They are more on the counselling end rather enforcement side. They do more work for victims and to avoid people getting into the criminal justice system.
- Q:** Cllr Hutchings, raised concern that PCSOs are being dragged into Police administration.
- A:** That is why I am putting the funding into the intervention teams, to reduce the need for PCSOs to cover shortages in the neighbourhood teams and the neighbourhood teams covering shortages in the intervention teams.
- Q:** Cllr Hollywell, how will you enhance outreach teams to support victims that don't report crimes?
- A:** The Panel are invited to see our Beacon Centre; we are investing in our Investigation Management Unit (IMU). This enables victims to get a swifter service; victims do not have to report a crime to get support.
- Q:** Cllr Woodward, do PSCOs have standard powers? And do you consider you get value for money with them?
- A:** Yes to both questions, the Chief Constable determines which powers are used. It is an advantage that they do not have the power of arrest, so the public interact with them differently.

## **7 RESPONSES FROM THE PCC TO HMICRS**

The responses were noted by the panel.

## **8 THE PROPOSED POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS PRECEPT**

The PCC summarised his report.

The government have given us flexibility to raise the precept. PCC therefore proposes to raise band D Council Tax by £12 (7.9%) to a figure of £164.00, this will generate income of £5.298 million per annum.

Budget is heavily reliant on reserves but this is not sustainable.

The pressure on policing is increasing; demand is up, particularly in the control room. We took 1000 calls on New Year's Eve. Since the Manchester bombings we have seen a significant rise in 999 calls. More crime is being reported, violent crime is up.

This precept will mean 35 additional officers will be employed in Hertfordshire.

We are unique in Hertfordshire in that we have not had to cut front line staff, due to our healthy reserves.

However, the governments approach to reserves has changed. We are now required to spend more of our reserves. Reserves will be used for fixed costs.

The Governments approach to income generation has not changed; we are still not allowed to make profits through income. We do not have the general power of competence in line with Local Authorities.

(a) Public questions

A short summary (non-verbatim) of the questions and answers are provided below:-

**Q:** Referring to paragraph 6.5 of the report, it was asked, where will we be in 4 years' time, when the reserves will be depleted; at that stage, what are you hoping will happen to avoid a cliff edge?

**A:** The important thing is how we use the reserves; we are reducing them to the 3 - 6% recommended by CIPFA. We are maximising the money we get from the precept to reduce the reliance on reserves.

**Q:** Referring to page 26, table 12 I am concerned we will get to 2021/22 and have a £5 million gap?

**A:** Table 12 assumes no change to government grant. The PCC will review the approach to precept and reserves annually. There is some scope in the force to increase the level of planned savings.

**Q:** Are the new officers to be recruited full time?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Cllr Hutchings - The Public might be disappointed to only see a 35 officer increase?

**A:** The use of reserves has stopped us having to cut officers in the past; therefore the increase in officers is not going seem as significant. Putting funding into the control room is just as important as that ensures the most effective deployment and use of frontline officers.

**Q:** Referring to paragraph 9.1, the PCC was asked what exactly does this mean?

**A:** The budget hasn't increased, it has stayed the same. A review of the office has taken place. The scope of the teams work has broadened.

(b) Panel questions

A short summary (non-verbatim) of the questions and answers are provided below:-

**Q:** Cllr Hodgson - does the fact you are working with a £12 increase instead of £52, impact on your plan.

**A:** The government encouraged us to move to this level. Hertfordshire is well funded because we have money in reserves due to the good decisions taken in previous years. My greater concern is partner organisations not having sufficient funding, e.g. NHS and local authorities. Lack of funding in those areas has an impact on Policing.

**Q:** Cllr Hunter – My question is about reserves, your projected reserves are broken down into different categories, are you able to vire from one to the other if necessary.

**A:** Mike Collier – Yes

There are capital and revenue reserves. Revenue reserves we can use, capital reserves we can't.

**Q:** Chris Cowdrey – referred to table 12, the level of savings this year are much lower than last year, why the lack of ambition?

**A:** This doesn't mean the savings won't come in.

(James Hurley) – The medium term savings were on ITC, HR and public contact. Our review of these areas suggested it would be prudent to retain resourcing. Last years' savings were achieved.

**Q:** Cllr Scarth – referred to the 10 JPS posts that would be removed.

**A:** The 10 JPS posts are included in the establishment figure; however, they have always been vacant. It is not about taking officers away, it is about reducing the establishment figure. We have retained performance levels in JPS at these reduced figures.

**Q:** Cllr Scarth' – asked about the effectiveness of 999 calls.

**A:** 999 calls work very swiftly. The public's perception on the response time to non urgent calls such as a 'burglary not in progress' may be low. This is why I am investing more money in the control room and the force.

**Q:** Cllr Scarth' – could data be made available to the Panel to see where the shortages and hotspots are, to enable us to focus on the specifics rather than generalisations?

**A:** (James Hurley) – that can be made available to you.

PCC - One of the problems I think we have in policing is how you measure whether you have an effective service. Figures are not necessarily the best measure.

**Q:** Cllr Scarth' – Safer neighbourhood teams, what number would be needed for the public to feel safe?

**A:** Public realm crime doesn't happen as much as before, less likely to be attacked on the street than you were 20 – 30 years ago. Children are less safe in their own homes now due to exploitation over the internet.

Cllr Woodward commented there are a lot of acting sergeants; officers acting up into senior roles, what we want are effective Officers.

**Q:** Dr Ramsay – It is difficult to know where we are on crime, we have an aspiration to keep crime low, we need better measurement of performance, it needs to be better documented. The PCC post has existed for 6 years, therefore it should have been possible to compare the first 3 years to the last? To show value for money.

**A:** The level of crime is lower; however, no victim of crime will say 'that's ok' because crime is low. There is a danger that the public don't understand crime figures, we will never entirely know what the level of crime is, some crime is not reported. Last year in Hertfordshire we had 5 murders and 9/10 burglaries a day. Most people would probably say that was low.

**Q:** Dr Ramsay – The public are given a distorted picture of crime, there is a need for a review of the ONS.

**A:** I will take that point away.

**Q:** Cllr Hodgson – referred to the commissioning budget and the £500,000 fund for efficiency and innovation and asked what that was about?

**A:** I want the Police to have the ability to put in place innovative ideas, not sure how well it will go, it is a one off.

**Q:** Chris Cowdrey – referred to capital budget and said it was difficult to pull out if there are savings? \*\*

\*\* This became a written question to the Commissioner, sent with the PCP's report.

**Q:** Cllr Rabi Martins – referred to the Community initiative fund, and asked what the PCC wanted to achieve with this?

**A:** Herts community fund is money for Parishes and Councils to use to fund good ideas for crime reduction.

**Q:** Cllr Rabi Martins – how do you measure there success?

**A:** I ask for a report afterwards – some ideas have been more successful than others. My website gives a list of all the people who have applied for this funding and what they have used the money for.

**Cllr Hutchings** addressed the Panel and said he proposed that they accept the Precept which was seconded. Members unanimously voted in favour of accepting the precept.

**9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7:00PM THURSDAY 12 APRIL 2018 AT ST ALBANS CITY & DISTRICT COUNCIL**



### ITEM 3

#### PCC RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM CHRIS COWDREY

*“We can see there is a sizeable capital investment programme on Estates next year (£4.4m) and over the following 3 years (totalling £29.2m). It is difficult to see in the 2018/19 precept and budget proposal the savings and/or income expected from these investments. Can the panel have more detail on the proposed business cases for these investments so we can see where the planned savings and/or income and their amounts are expected to fall as we assume they will be tracked as part of the various business cases and will figure in future budget proposals.”*

The detailed financial analysis that has been carried out on the projects detailed below include figures that are commercially sensitive and so cannot be shared publically. More detail is contained in the Estate Strategy that is attached to this response.

HQ is at or near the end of its economic life, most of it is over 50 years old, it has a maintenance forecast of £15m in the next 10 years and annual running costs of circa £2m.

Initial cost modelling and analysis shows the most cost-effective solution is complete redevelopment (the figures are commercially sensitive at this stage as it is still early in the project and procurement options and development models and partners are still to be identified). A business case will be reported in the next few months when these options have been developed further.

Options for relocation or redevelopment of Hemel Hempstead were reported to the PCC last summer as stated in the Estates Strategy. The detailed financial reports are still commercially sensitive as well at this stage and so cannot be published. Dacorum Borough Council were unable to accommodate the whole Community Safety Partnership police base in their council officers development and so this could not be pursued. Two re-location sites were considered, although one subsequently did not come forward as available. The costs of re-location were compared with the costs of refurbishment and the former were estimated at 15 to 90% higher than the latter. Accordingly approval was given to seek tenders for refurbishment.

Watford Court site has been the subject of partnership work with the court service to identify development potential as indicated in the Estates Strategy. The figures have been subject to independent property valuation analysis and show that the development potential of the combined site makes sense financially given the local planning authority's aspirations for the locality. Again, figures are currently commercially sensitive as negotiations continue to finalise the acquisition of the site.

The reason for the savings figure being lower is the public contact saving planned having been moved back for 18 months to allow Athena to be in. The HR savings programmed have been moved back largely because the recruitment taking place now, which has been enabled by the precept, was not planned in the 2017/18 budget.

A fuller briefing can be provided to the Panel once the business cases have more certainty of actuals rather than estimates.

## ITEM 7

### THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

#### Purpose of Report

To provide an update to the Panel about the current work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### Summary

Updates have been provided in relation to the following items:

- Fly Tipping Group Award
- Commissioner's Action Fund
- Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel Public Meeting
- Beacon Film Festival
- Police and Crime Commissioner Transparency Award
- HMICFRS Effectiveness Inspection

#### Updates

##### Fly Tipping Group Award

Hertfordshire's Fly Tipping Group – part of the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership – has won the Best Partnership Award at the Keep Britain Tidy Network Awards at this year's annual awards ceremony. The Fly Tipping Group is a multi-agency taskforce made up of Hertfordshire's local authorities, as well as the OPCC, the Police, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue, the Environment Agency and the National Farmers Union.

Since 2016/17 the PCC has been working with the Fly Tipping Group providing funding support for new initiatives to tackle fly tipping. These include a range of schemes from the installation of new covert cameras at fly tipping hotspots through to enhance training for frontline officers to improve the quality of enforcement action against fly tipping.

The Hertfordshire Fly Tipping Group was recognised for its work bringing together a wide range of partners to tackle fly tipping in the county. So far during 2017/18 the task force has overseen a reduction of over 19% in the number of fly tipping incidents reported across the county.

##### Commissioner's Action Fund

The PCC is putting £150,000 of money recovered from criminals back into community projects which reduce crime. The fund, created from the proceeds of crime, enables local groups to find solutions to community safety problems. Grants of up to £5,000 are available through the Commissioner's Action Fund, to support community and voluntary initiatives which tackle crime and make Hertfordshire a safer place to live.

The fund is open to voluntary and community groups, charitable and not for profit organisations, Community Safety Partnerships and Parish, Town and District Councils. The PCC particularly wants to support innovative projects formed from local collaborations and partnerships that can make a lasting difference to communities in terms of safety and crime prevention.

Applications to the fund can be made through the Hertfordshire Community Foundation website: [www.hertscf.org.uk/pcc-action-fund](http://www.hertscf.org.uk/pcc-action-fund).

### **Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel Public Meeting**

The annual public meeting of the Stop and Search Panel is taking place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 9.30-12.45 at the University of Hertfordshire de Havilland Campus in Hatfield, AL10 9EU. If you would like to register for the event or for further information please contact Lydia Massey, Police and Project Officer, OPCC: [pccadmin@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:pccadmin@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk), or call 01707 806100.

### **Beacon Film Festival**

On Friday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 students from Oaklands College teamed up with Beacon – Hertfordshire’s victim care centre – for a second year to host the Beacon Film Festival.

Over 100 students aged 16+ from Oakland’s Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) Creative Media and Foundation Degree courses produced the films, which were shown to an audience of 300 people. Some of the students reflected their own experience of being a victim of crime as their theme for the film. The winning films were #MeToo from Level 3 students and Vicious Circle produced by Level 4 and 5.

The winners of the Level 4 and 5 category were awarded a grant of up to £1,000 from the PCC to make a film about modern slavery. The film will be used to inform the public of how this crime impacts our communities and society. The judging panel included BBC Three Counties radio presenter Roberto Perrone, PCC David Lloyd and Panel Members and Hertsmere Councillor Prevez Choudhury.

### **PCC Transparency Award**

The Hertfordshire PCC has received an award for transparency for the third year in a row. CoPaCC, an independent organisation which compares the work of PCCs and shares best practice, has presented the PCC with its Transparency Quality Mark. 25 PCC Offices received the award, which is given to those who are meeting and exceeding the statutory requirements of disclosing information to the public.

### **HMICFRS Effectiveness Inspection**

HMICFRS has published its Effectiveness report, which shows an overall improvement on last year’s inspection. The force is good at preventing and investigating crime and tackling anti-social behaviour and serious and organised crime.

HMICFRS says the force ‘acted decisively’ since the past inspection, and quickly address the failings it identified last year.

HM Inspector of Constabulary Zoe Billingham said, ‘I commend Hertfordshire Constabulary for the progress it has made in addressing the areas for improvement we identified last year.’

'The force has taken prompt and effective action to address problems that we found last year in how it supported vulnerable people. It is improving many aspects of this vitally important area of policing, although there is still more to do.

'I am pleased that the force is good at investigating crime. Initial investigations are sound, incidents are attended promptly, the force makes good use of intelligence and victims receive regular updates.

'Hertfordshire Constabulary has also made progress in improving the supervision and quality of investigations involving some rape victims and domestic abuse.

'I recognise the considerable efforts that Hertfordshire Constabulary has made to address areas for improvement and commend it for the quick progress it has made. I am confident that the Chief Constable and his top team will continue to ensure that the areas for improvement that we have identified will be acted on.'

The report can be read at: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/peel-police-effectiveness-2017-hertfordshire.pdf>.