



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH POLICE
AND CRIME PANEL
HELD AT HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ON 6 NOVEMBER 2013**

Members Present: Councillors McGuire (chair), Ablewhite, Bick, Bullen, Hunt, Khan, Miscandlon, Shellens, Todd and Christine Graham.

Officers Present:

Alex Daynes	Peterborough City Council
Gary Goose	Peterborough City Council
Sarah Ferguson	Cambridgeshire County Council

Others Present:

Sir Graham Bright	Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Brian Ashton	Deputy Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Cristina Strood	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Anna Horne	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Councillor Curtis, Councillor Elsey, Councillor Shelton and Raja Ali.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were received.

3. Minutes of the meeting held 18 July 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2013 were agreed as an accurate record and the action points were noted.

4. Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman nominated Councillor Ablewhite. This was seconded by Councillor Khan. There were no other nomination. Councillor Ablewhite was elected as vice chairman.

5. Public Questions

One question had been submitted by Councillor Hiller from Peterborough City Council as below:

Will the Panel request that the Commissioner goes to the Chief Constable to explain the rationale behind the Constabulary using a brand new fully-loaded Audi Q7 vehicle for, it appears, regular patrol use? I noticed this liveried vehicle recently in Bishops Road, Peterborough.

When budgets are being stretched to the limit in the public sector it seems a somewhat extravagant use of public funds for officers to be using probably one of the worst fuel-efficient cars on the market today for routine patrol work. I do appreciate this vehicle may have capabilities called-upon for emergencies occasionally but so do many other vehicles that are far more economical to run, especially given the huge mileages covered by this type of police use. Therefore, will the Panel further request that budget savings targets are set by the Commissioner, in his next budget, relating to fuel costs across the Constabulary?

I would also be interested to learn just how many of these highly fuel-inefficient cars are being used by Cambs police, and why?

The Panel requested that the Commissioner provided a response to the question and this was given as below:

EU procurement rules state that forces have to go out to the market for police vehicle requirements and we of course adhere to these rules. Decisions regarding the fleet will consider operational appropriateness, whole life cost, warranty, dealer back up and environmental credentials. As these decisions are informed by operational needs, they are delegated to the Chief Constable. However, we do know that the force have 2 Audi Q7s which form part of the fleet for Armed Responses Vehicles. They are also used as platforms for Bronze and Silver command when at major incidents and escort vehicles when required. The vehicles do significant mileage under stress responding to calls for service. Their whole life costs compare favourably with other vehicles within the category required for this work and are purchased through the National Fleet Contracts.

The Commissioner added that he considered that it was the right decision to use such vehicles and that there were only two of them used by the constabulary.

The chairman acknowledged that the whole life cost of the vehicle had to be considered and therefore the use was supported.

6. Decisions by the Commissioner

The Panel received a report to enable it to review or scrutinise decisions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner under Section 28 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Panel was recommended to indicate whether it would wish to further review and scrutinise the decisions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner taken since the previous Panel meeting.

The Commissioner advised the following:

- Programme Metis was an ongoing operation and the commissioner would ensure that it was successful and provided value for money;
- The situation with collaboration agreements had changed since the previous meeting as Hertfordshire were now fully committed to the collaboration work;

In response to questions from the Panel, the Commissioner further advised:

- Helicopter support service would see 15 helicopters shared nationally so there could be more than one available at any one time;
- Regarding collaboration, each force would be given the lead on a specific policing issue such as personal protection, traffic enforcement etc;
- The proposed precept would be submitted to the Panel in February for scrutiny.

The Panel noted the report and made no requests for more information on any of the decisions.

7. Complaints Procedure

The Panel received an updated report requesting it agreed the procedure for the handling of complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Panel was recommended to:

1. Agree the procedure for the handling of complaints outlined in the report and appendices;
2. Determine whether non-serious complaints should be agreed by a Panel Member;
3. Agree to establish a sub-committee to carry out any informal resolution of complaints;
4. Agree the membership of the sub-committee to be a minimum of 3 members of the Panel.

The Panel debated the recommendations in the report along with the additional information provided. Comments included:

- One or more panel members should be involved in the initial sifting process to avoid public perception of any bias from the chief executive;
- Involvement of the Panel in sifting should not slow down the process;
- Complaints referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) may also be referred back to the Panel if not considered serious; and
- Public perception and confidence in the process was important.

The Panel **AGREED** that:

1. The panel would be involved in the initial sifting/triaging of complaints and these would be submitted to Peterborough City Council as host authority in the first instance; and
2. The Chairman or, if he was unavailable, the vice chairman would be the Panel member involved in the initial sifting of complaints along with the Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Panel considered the reporting process for complaints. Comments included:

- A summary of any complaint should be made public; and
- All panel members should be made aware of the detail of the complaint.

The Panel further **AGREED** that:

3. A sub-committee of three Panel members (with two reserves made available) would consider any complaint referred on to the Panel;
4. At least one independent/co-opted Panel Member must be present and should chair the sub-committee.

Following a query from the Panel the Commissioner confirmed that a whistle blowing policy was in place for police officers and this covered the officers of the police and crime commissioner too and was available on the Commissioner's website.

ACTIONS:

Circulate the final agreed procedure to all Panel Members.

8. Update on Collaboration

The Panel received a report to consider and comment on developments made towards collaborative working between Cambridgeshire Constabulary and other policing areas. The Commissioner introduced the report highlighting:

- Regional and national collaboration would be considered if it was beneficial;
- Financial savings and resilience would increase along with greater capability; and
- Currently Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire were involved in developing further collaborative arrangements with Cambridgeshire.

The Panel noted the report and responses by the Commissioner and his Deputy to questions from the Panel included:

- Regional collaboration, for example across East Anglia, would present different issues than local collaboration;
- Some services could be shared with Local Authorities and other organisations;
- There would be a lead command force for each policing issue;
- Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire were already collaborating on areas that Cambridgeshire could join in with;
- Could come to a future meeting to explain how the command structure would work;
- Helicopter use would remain an operational issue; and
- All services could be considered to collaborate on including the use of buildings.

ACTION:

Commissioner to provide information on the process for reporting a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) at an enquiry desk, indicating what happens to the report and how it gets allocated for further investigation.

9. Engagement and Communications Update

The Panel received a report summarising the Commissioner's broad aspirations for engaging with the public both individually and collectively as well as identifying some specific tactical initiatives to support those aspirations. The Commissioner introduced the report highlighting:

- The work of the Outreach worker was proving successful in engaging with a wider variety groups and communities;
- Greater engagement was planned with young people; and
- Social media was being employed to provide information.

The Panel noted the report and responses by the Commissioner and his Deputy to questions from the Panel included:

- The number of 'hits' on the website and trends in use could be circulated to the Panel;
- Issues raised through the website were addressed;
- A meeting was planned to discuss the cost to the tax payer of drunkenness and how to tackle this;
- Tensions between communities in different parts of the county was being addressed;
- Not everyone uses social media so other ways of engaging residents were also needed;
- Schools and youth clubs should be engaged with to help understand issues of concern;
- Delays in responses to the secondary stage of 101 calls was an issues and was being addressed;

- The Chief Constable would need to respond on how best to tackle the enforcement of desired speed limits in some areas and any apparent opposition to the lowering of speed limits.

ACTION:

Commissioner to advise the Panel of the number of hits on the Commissioner's website and usage trends.

10. Agenda Plan

The Panel received the agenda plan including dates and times for meetings.

The meeting began at 2.00pm and ended at 3.45pm

CHAIRMAN

ACTIONS

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	ACTION	UPDATE
6 November 2013	Complaints Procedure	Circulate the final agreed procedure to all Panel Members.	Revised by Officers and with Lead Member for approval.
	Update on Collaboration	Commissioner to provide information on the process for reporting a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) at an enquiry desk, indicating what happens to the report and how it gets allocated for further investigation.	Response received on 28 January 2014. Circulated to Panel Members on 28 January 2014.
	Engagement and Communications Update	Commissioner to advise the Panel of the number of hits on the Commissioner's website and usage trends.	Response received on 28 January 2014. Circulated to Panel Members on 28 January 2014.

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