



Cambridgeshire  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner

Councillor Mac McGuire  
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel  
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28 May 2015

I refer to Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel's meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and the actions arising from the meeting on which the Panel sought my response. In addition, Cllr Herbert also contacted me following the Panel meeting with some questions which I will also respond to here.

I do wish to reassure to the Panel that I consider that transparency, accountability and integrity are fundamental principles of my role. As such, by publishing the Business Co-ordination Board (BCB) papers and the minutes of the meetings, it enables the public to understand the work of the Constabulary and how I am holding the Chief Constable to account. Papers from other meetings, such as the independent Joint Audit Committee, are also published to provide assurance as to how both the Constabulary and I demonstrate governance principles and proper working practices.

I do hope that the Panel and the public appreciate that discussions at the BCB can often be of a sensitive and operational nature. As such, the BCB needs to be an environment where members of staff and officers feel confident in the fact that they can discuss matters without prejudicing operations and strategies. However, at the same time, I need to ensure that I am holding the Chief Constable to account for such matters and consequently why the BCB minutes are a record of the meeting and are publicly available.

I am cognisant that the Panel have asked on several occasions why the Chief Constable does not attend Panel meetings alongside me. I do appreciate that some of the issues that the Panel discuss are clearly operational, however I believe we are all conscious of the need to ensure clear lines of accountability. As such, whilst both the Chief Constable and I are keen to assist the Panel, the role of the Panel is to scrutinise me, and in turn for me to hold the Chief Constable to account.

I have noted the Panel's comments regarding the presentation of the budget report and this will be provided annually to the Panel, with outturn data for 2014/15 presented to the Panel later this year. Panel members may wish to note that the 'budget build' process is transparently provided throughout the financial year through papers being submitted to my BCB, including minutes of the Finance Sub-Group, all of which are published on my website at <http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk>.

Further, I would like to follow up on the responses I gave at the Panel meeting regarding the Victims' Hub, Treasury Management Statement Strategy, capital expenditure and pensions.

As at the end of March 2015, the Victims' Hub had 13 staff in place, along with a number of volunteers. The Hub is predicted to have running costs of £447,000 in 2015/16; actual running costs from October 2014 to March 2015 were £297,000.

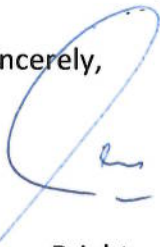
In addition, I would like to confirm that changes to the Treasury Management Statement Strategy will be presented to the BCB on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015, and if there are any decisions to change this, the Panel will be notified. A copy of the Strategy will be available on my website. I confirm that any overtime worked does not contribute to pensionable earnings.

Finally, a detailed capital expenditure report was presented to the BCB on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and the report is available on my website.

Costs of the 101 call handling service will be provided to the Panel in the paper they has requested for their June 2015 meeting.

I would like to thank Cllr Herbert for his suggestions regarding the presentation of financial data on my website. I am pleased to report that my office will be incorporating improvements in the way that information is presented to further improve accessibility and transparency as part of the next website refresh.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Graham Bright  
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner