

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel



Annual Report 2018/19



Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel

The Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel is currently hosted by Peterborough City Council on behalf of all 7 authorities in Cambridgeshire.

It is a joint committee of all 7 authorities, consisting of representatives from each of the District Councils (Cambridge City, East Cambs, Fenland, Huntingdon and South Cambs, and three representatives from both the County Council (Cambridgeshire) and the Unitary Council (Peterborough City) plus two independent co-opted members.

The Panel can be contacted via the below:

Police and Crime Panel Secretariat

Democratic Services
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Email: jane.webb@peterborough.gov.uk

Website: Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire is Jason Ablewhite.

He can be contacted via his office:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Cambridgeshire Police Headquarters
Hinchingbrooke Park
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE29 6NP

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Website: www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk





Foreword

The Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the Panel) holds the Police and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner) for Cambridgeshire to account by acting as a 'critical friend'. Its role is to scrutinise, challenge and support the Commissioner, maintaining a check and balance on the performance of the Commissioner in regards to the strategic actions and decisions made.

The Panel is not responsible for holding the Chief Constable or the Constabulary to account; this is a role for the Police and Crime Commissioner. The principal role of the Panel is to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Commissioner, not the performance of the police force. The key functions of the Panel are:

- To review the PCC's Police and Crime Plan
- To hold the PCC to account for the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan – the panel has powers to request any necessary information from the PCC on his decisions
- To review and report on the appointment of the Chief Constable and other senior appointments – the Panel has powers to veto the appointment of the Chief Constable
- To review the Commissioner's proposed police precept – the panel has powers to veto the precept
- To scrutinise the PCC's annual report
- To consider complaints against the PCC.

This is the sixth annual report of the Panel covering its work throughout 2018-19.

The Work of the Panel

During 2018-19 the Panel met on seven occasions and has scrutinised a number of key areas of the Commissioner's work. These include:

- Reviewing the Commissioner's performance reporting procedures which sets out what the police are expected to achieve and how the Commissioner holds the police to account.
- Requesting, receiving and scrutinising further detailed information regarding Cambridgeshire Constabulary's estates.
- Monitoring the overall performance of the Constabulary, including against the priorities set out in the Plan by way of requested quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports alongside reports on other areas of business that deliver towards the objectives within the Plan.
- Understanding how the Commissioner and the Constabulary deal with Community Engagement.
- Reviewing and scrutinising the decisions taken by the Commissioner
- Understanding and keeping up to date with regard to the possible future changes to the governance arrangements of the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- Theming each meeting to ensure that each objective within the Police and Crime Commissioner's plan is scrutinised, supported and challenged.



- Requesting and regularly attending briefings to enable the Panel to remain up to date on key issues

In addition, the Panel has scrutinised the Commissioner's variations to his Police and Crime Plan throughout the year and the decisions which he has taken. Full details of the issues that the Panel have considered can be found on the website [here](#).

Commissioner Budget Precept

The Commissioner proposed that for 2018/19 there would be 12% increase in the precept. The Panel has the power to veto any proposed precept from the Commissioner through a two thirds majority vote of its members. The Panel undertook a thorough scrutiny in the Commissioner's budget for the Constabulary asking a number of detailed questions on areas of expenditure including:

- Local Policing Review
- Increase in future precepts
- Policing Frontline
- Disposal of sites
- Future Savings and efficiencies

The Panel endorsed the Commissioner's proposed precept.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary Chief Constable Confirmation Hearing

In July 2018, the Panel considered the Commissioner's proposed appointment for the Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Chief Constable. Nick Dean was the Commissioner's preferred candidate for this position.



The Panel held a confirmation hearing with the candidate and asked a number of questions regarding his professional competence and personal independence of the role. The Panel also considered

- The criteria used to assess the candidate's suitability for appointment
- Why the candidate satisfied those criteria
- The terms and conditions on which the candidate was proposed to be appointed

Following careful consideration of the information provided by the Commissioner and answers given at the confirmation hearing, the Panel recommended the appointment of Nick Dean to Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Chief Constable.



Police and Crime Commissioner’s Chief Finance Officer Confirmation Hearing

In September 2018, the Panel considered the Commissioner’s proposed appointment for the Cambridgeshire Chief Finance Officer. Matthew Warren was the Commissioner’s preferred candidate for this position.









The Panel held a confirmation hearing where the following was considered:

- The criteria used to assess the candidates suitability for appointment
- Why the candidate satisfied those criteria
- The terms and conditions on which the candidate was proposed to be appointed












Following careful consideration of the information provided by the Commissioner and the answers given at the confirmation hearing, the Panel recommended the appointment of Matthew Warren to the position of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Chief Finance Officer.

About the Panel

Panel Members and substitutes throughout 2018/19:

Panel Members			
 <p>Edward Leigh Chairman Co-opted Independent Member</p>	 <p>Claire George Co-opted Independent Member</p>	 <p>Councillor Kevin Cuffley Cambridgeshire County Council</p>	 <p>Councillor David Connor Cambridgeshire County Council</p>
 <p>Councillor Mike Shellens Cambridgeshire County Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Richard Brown Peterborough City Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Ansar Ali Peterborough City Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Christian Hogg Peterborough City Council</p>



 <p>Councillor Alan Sharp East Cambs District Council</p>	 <p>Councillor David Oliver Vice Chairman Fenland District Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Dave Baigent Cambridge City Centre</p>	 <p>Councillor Claire Daunton South Cambs District Council</p>
 <p>Councillor John Palmer Huntingdonshire District Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Steve Tierney Cambridgeshire County Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Nicky Massey Cambridge City Council</p>	
<p>Substitutes</p>			
 <p>Councillor Mark Howell Cambridgeshire County Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Lucy Nethsingha Cambridgeshire County Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Lynne Ayres Peterborough City Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Ed Murphy Peterborough City Council</p>



 <p>Councillor Andrew Bond Peterborough City Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Julia Huffer East Cambs District Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Alex Miscandlon Fenland District Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Hazel Smith South Cambs District Council</p>
 <p>Councillor Simon Bywater Huntingdon District Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Carla McQueen Cambridge City Council</p>	 <p>Councillor Hamish Masson Huntingdonshire District Council</p>	

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