

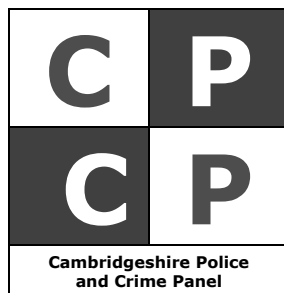


Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel



Scrutinising and Supporting the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

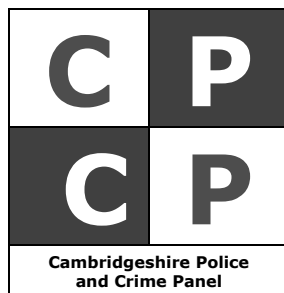


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1. FOREWORD

Welcome to the **TENTH ANNUAL REPORT** of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel covering the municipal year April 2022 to March 2023.

Police and Crime Panels were established by central government in November 2012. This report covers yet another challenging year for the Panel, which has worked hard to fulfil its statutory responsibilities and develop its role to scrutinise and support the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.



2. KEY PERSONNEL

The current Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is Darryl Preston, who was elected to serve in this role in May 2021.



[Darryl Preston - Commissioner](#)

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, appointed by the Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2022, is John Peach.

The Panel is made up of eleven councillors from across the seven Local Authorities – Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, together with two co-opted independent members.

In 2022/23, the Chair was co-opted independent member Edward Leigh and the Vice Chair was Claire George, the second co-opted independent member on the Panel.



[Edward Leigh – Chair](#)



[Claire George - Vice](#)

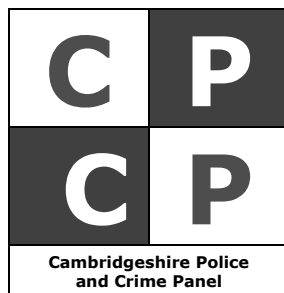
Key Terms and Abbreviations

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC or Commissioner)

Police and Crime Panel (PCP)

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

Chief Executive of the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (Chief Executive)



3. A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

It is ten years since Police & Crime Commissioners and Panels were created. The legislation that brought them into being, set out the roles and responsibilities of Commissioners in some detail, and they continue to evolve and grow.

My own view as a Panel member is that it is important, we make a positive difference. Panel members bring an extraordinary breadth of knowledge, insight, wisdom, and experience to the table. As chair of the Panel, I have endeavoured to build a relationship with the Commissioner and his office that is mutually respectful and constructive, so that we can all learn from and help each other. By focusing on challenges and opportunities in policing and crime prevention, rather than points of political difference, I hope that all Panel members feel they can make a positive difference.

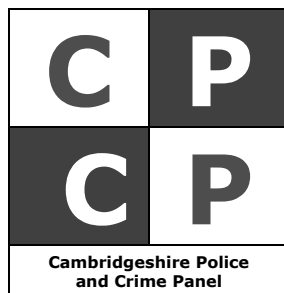
That said, the Panel must of course always maintain sufficient distance to be critical when needed, and never to compromise in its duty to the public to hold the Commissioner to account on their conduct in office.

I would like to thank the Commissioner and his office for listening and engaging constructively with the Panel. And I would like to thank Panel members, current and past, for your time and thoughtful contributions to our scrutiny work. It is a significant and important commitment which few members of the public are aware of, let alone thank you for.

Edward Leigh

4. WHAT IS CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL?

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel came into being in November 2012, at the same time as elections for Police and Crime Commissioners were held across the country. Both were part of the new police governance arrangements whereby Commissioners and Panels replaced the old Police Authority and took over, respectively, its governance and scrutiny functions in accordance with the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Police and Crime Panels are, in effect, joint scrutiny bodies of the local authorities in the police force area and are composed of elected members from these authorities and co-opted independent members who are not local councillors. Councillor membership of a Police and Crime Panel must be geographically and politically proportionate.



5. PANEL MEMBERSHIP

In Cambridgeshire the number of members from each authority and each political party was agreed by council leaders as follows: -

- 3 members from Cambridgeshire County Council
- 3 members from Peterborough City Council
- 1 member each from the remaining 5 Councils
- 2 independent, co-opted members

In 2022-23, Panel members were:

Peterborough City Council:	Councillor Scott Warren (Conservative) Councillor Christian Hogg (Lib Dem) Councillor Ansar Ali (Labour)
Cambridgeshire County Council:	Councillor Anna Bradnam (Lib Dem) Councillor Steve Tierney (Conservative) Councillor Stephen Ferguson (Independent)
Huntingdonshire District Council:	Councillor Marge Beuttell (Conservative)
South Cambridgeshire District Council:	Councillor Sally Ann Hart (Lib Dem)
Fenland District Council:	Councillor Steve Count (Conservative)
East Cambridgeshire District Council:	Councillor Alan Sharp (Conservative)
Cambridge City Council:	Councillor Alice Gilderdale (Labour)
Co-opted Independent Members:	Edward Leigh (Chair) Claire George (Vice Chair)

Thanks - Thanks are given to all Panel Members for their contributions over the past year.

6. GOVERNANCE

The host authority for the Police and Crime Panel is Peterborough City Council.

Jane Webb Fiona McMillan/ Rochelle Tapping Claire Cameron Amanda Rose	Senior Democratic Services Officer Monitoring Officer (until November 2023) Monitoring Officer (from December 2023) Accounts Communications
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7. THE PANEL'S CORE WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel's statutory scrutiny responsibilities constitute its core work programme:

- Review annually the Commissioner's proposed council tax precept, with powers to veto once.
- Review annually the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan and Annual Report.
- Scrutinise the Commissioner's proposed appointment of a Chief Constable, with the power to veto once.
- Scrutinise the appointment of any deputy commissioner and the Commissioner's senior executive staff, with the power to recommend against an appointment.
- Consider non-criminal complaints against the Commissioner.

In addition to the above, the Panel can engage in further scrutiny reviews on any topic relevant to its role. It submits reports and makes recommendations to the Commissioner, and it can carry out investigations as it sees fit into the Commissioner's decisions and delivery of his or her duties.

Apart from the two instances where the Panel has a veto (the level of the police precept and the appointment of a chief constable) it achieves its impact by influence, by examining reports and draft policy documents, questioning the Commissioner and/or external witnesses, and then making recommendations. These are communicated to the Commissioner in writing and are publicly recorded in the Panel's minutes.

The main Panel meetings are open to the public and can be viewed live, by following the link [here](#). The Panel's website is [here](#).

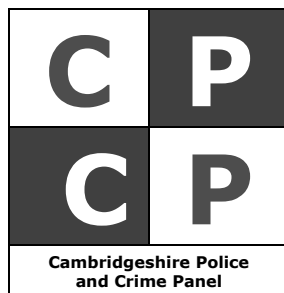
8. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PANEL'S ACTIVITY IN 2022/23

Since its establishment, the Panel has often seen a notable change in its membership year on year. The stability provided by the pandemic helped the Panel build on its knowledge and collective scrutiny and support of the Police and Crime Commissioner, which has, in turn, strengthened governance and decision-making on behalf of the people of Cambridgeshire.

Panel Members have regularly expressed the view that a more stable and committed membership would be beneficial in ensuring the effective discharge of its responsibilities, and it is hoped that the Cambridgeshire Leaders will recognise this when appointing to the Panel. Nationally, this view has also been expressed to the Home Office.

During 2022-23 the Panel met physically on five occasions to scrutinise several key areas of the Commissioner's work. These included:

- Understanding the Commissioner's approach to the HMICFRS Report
- Understanding the Commissioner's approach to budget setting and an overview of the Constabulary Budget Considerations



- Reviewing the Commissioner's reporting procedures which sets out what the police are expected to achieve and how the Commissioner holds the police to account.
- Monitoring the overall performance of the Constabulary, including against the priorities set out in the Plan alongside reports on other areas of business that deliver towards the objectives within the Plan.
- Understanding the Commissioner's approach to:
 - Commissioning and Grants
 - Criminal Justice and Community Safety
 - Communications and Engagement
 - Supporting problem solving of local issues of concern
- 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 with copies of the agenda and minutes are available to view [here](#).

2022/23 Panel meetings

[20 July 2022 - Annual General Meeting - Minutes](#) [Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording](#)

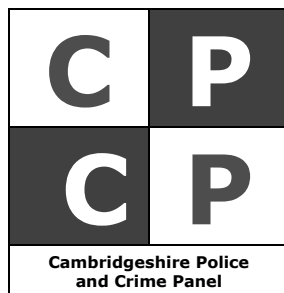
[Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Panel - Annual Report 2021/22](#) This report communicates to members of the public, partners, and other authorities the details of the Panel's activities across the year and what the Panel has achieved and carried out throughout the year. The Panel endorsed the report.

[14 September 2021 - meeting postponed](#)

Following the death of Her Majesty the Queen, it was His Majesty the King's wish that a period of Royal Mourning be observed, considering this, the Police and Crime Panel meeting was postponed. It was decided that the items of this meeting were to be incorporated into the November meeting, effectively making the November meeting a 'double' meeting.

[11th November 2022 - Annual Police, Fire and Crime Panels Conference](#)

Objective The Conference served to brief Panels about current policies, reviews and key issues in policing, criminal justice, and the wider public sector (including fire and rescue services) through plenary sessions and policy seminars, addressed by significant partners across the sector. It enabled horizon



scanning in respect of potential governance changes, developing strategies, spending reviews and collaboration. The Conference included skills development for Panel members and officers in their roles of providing support for and challenge to their Commissioners. It also provided a space for networking and peer to peer support in forums focused on roles fulfilled or governance arrangements.

Participants Chairs, Members and Support Officers of Police Fire and Crime Panels, this included Elected Members and Independent (Co-opted) Members. Officers included Monitoring Officers, as well as Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officers all of whom supported Panels in various ways.

Format Hybrid event, in-person meeting in a conference centre located in the Midlands to facilitate easy access to all panels and virtual access to the conference.

The Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel was represented by five Panel members who attended either in person or online and found it extremely interesting and great for networking with other panel members from across the county.

The Conference covered key issues relevant to Police, Fire and Crime Panels such as:

- Measuring Panel Performance
- The Financial Impact on Policing – Where do we go from here?
- Being a Critical Friend – Joining the Dots

And keynote speakers included:

- Dr Sarah Chapman - Professor of Criminology, University of Portsmouth
- Inspector Chris Excell - Former Chair, Black Police Association
- Paul Grady - Grant Thornton's Director, and Head of Police
- Jim Haylett - Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Office for Police and Crime Commissioner
- Sal Naseem - Regional Director for London, Independent Office for Police Conduct
- Vicky Newbury - Chair, Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel

[23 November 2022 - Minutes](#) [Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording](#)

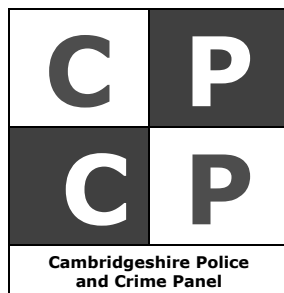
Panel's Decision - Police and Crime Plan

Having reviewed the Annual Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner the Panel AGREED to ENDORSE the Annual Report for 2021/22 and made the following recommendation.

1. To circulate a flowchart to show the more detailed summary of the outcomes secured by all victim service providers (which is available on the website) to Members.

HMRICFRS Report – recommendations agreed:

1. To bring a full report on the two areas of concern from the HMRICFRS Report to the next Panel meeting (September).



2. To approach the Public Service Board about joining together to lobby government for fairer funding for Cambridgeshire alongside the Constabulary

[Commissioner's Response](#)

[1 February 2023 - Minutes Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording](#)

Panel's Recommendation - Precept

In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and following consideration of the information submitted to it, the Panel unanimously AGREED to NOT exercise its veto power over the precept increase proposed by the Commissioner.

[23 March 2022 – minutes Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording](#)

Eastern Network Regional Meetings

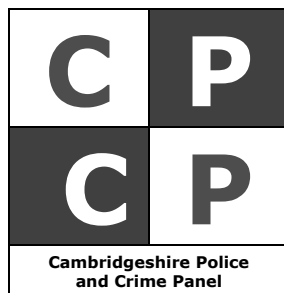


Regionally, the Panel's Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Support Officers are active members of the Eastern Police, Fire and Crime Panels Network. The Network is facilitated by Frontline Consulting, which runs the Annual National Police, Fire and Crime Panel Conference,

and provides support to Police, Fire and Crime Panels across the UK. The Network met virtually in October 2021 and March 2022 and is made up of Panel Members and Support Officers who share information around good practice, support, and scrutiny for the Commissioner, learning and development, the use of the Grant from the Home Office, innovation, work programming and future plans etc. This has led to a good network of support officers who have come to rely on one another when in difficult and unusual circumstances, as the support officer role of the Panel can tend to be an "isolated" role.

More generally

Training Ensuring all Panel members fully understand their governance role is extremely important to the effectiveness and efficiency of the Panel and regular training is provided. This is most frequently provided by Frontline Consulting, the lead training agency in this specialised area of public service. Panel members participated in a full day's training on 8th September 2022, which served as a comprehensive induction for the newer Panel members and a refresher for others. The Chief Executive also participated in this training event, providing additional insight into the role of the Panel and interface with the role of the Commissioner and the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner.



Governance – The role and responsibilities of the Panel and the Commissioner’s own governance framework in holding the Chief Constable to account, can be a challenge. However, work continues to be supported by the host Authority and Frontline Consulting to ensure the Panel has the skills, knowledge, and support to the best it can be.

Panel/OPCC Relationship – Over the last few years Panel Officers and OPCC staff have strived to create a productive, constructive relationship that ensures each other’s respective statutory duties are met in the best interests of the public; both the Panel and the Commissioner have the highest priority of upholding standards in policing and public life. The improvement in the relationship that the Commissioner now has with Members of the Panel is reflected in the meetings, these are now geared around the scrutiny of the Commissioner, not the Constabulary and the whole tone and culture of the Panel meetings are as intended by the legislation – supportive and challenging but not adversarial, game playing etc; this has come from the hard work of building strong relationships between the OPCC and Panel Officers.

Updated Complaints Policy - The Panel last reviewed and made changes to the “Procedure for dealing with complaints and conduct matters about the Cambridgeshire Police Crime and Commissioner and/or Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner at its meeting in October 2012.

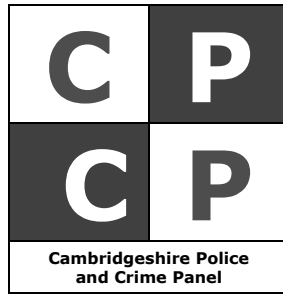
An updated Complaints Policy and appendices was taken to the September meeting of the Police and Crime Panel where it was agreed that further changes should be made to the policy before being brought back to the November meeting of the Panel for review and adoption.

The Panel had previously delegated this responsibility to the Commissioner’s Chief Executive. However, where it was considered that there may be a conflict, the Procedure provided that this could be referred to the Democratic Services Officer/Monitoring Officer to the Panel to determine whether it was a matter for the Panel or the IOPC (Independent Office for Public Conduct) to determine.

It was considered it would help promote transparency and accountability if the potential for the perception of conflict was addressed. The revised process would ensure that any perception of conflict was removed, given that the Chief Executive reported to the Commissioner.

It was therefore proposed to the Panel that the responsibility for the initial handling of complaints be delegated by the Panel to the Democratic Services Officer/Monitoring Officer of the Panel in accordance with section 101(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, which allowed a committee to arrange for its functions to be discharged by an Officer.

As the Procedure had not been updated since 2012, it was quite difficult to follow in places as it mirrored the Regulations, which might prevent members of the public from being able to understand how to raise their concerns. The Democratic Services Officer was therefore requested to review the Procedure to see if it could be streamlined, simplified, and re-ordered to make it easier for the public to follow and this was reflected in the revised version, which now also included a Quick Guide, a flowchart, and a complaints form.



A procedure for dealing with habitual and vexatious complaints was also added to the process, following best practice examples from other authorities, which offered a clear steer on how this type of complaint would be dealt with when it occurred.

At the November meeting:

The Panel **AGREED** to **ADOPT** the Complaints Guidance allowing minor modifications to be made by officers in consultation with the Chair, Senior Democratic Services Officer, and the Monitoring Officer.

The updated Complaints Guidance can be found [here](#)

9. THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AND THE PUBLIC

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel has a website, [here](#) and this is where you can find copies of the agenda papers, minutes, and decisions for the Panel meetings.

There is information about Members of the Panel, its spending, how to make complaints and other useful documentation.

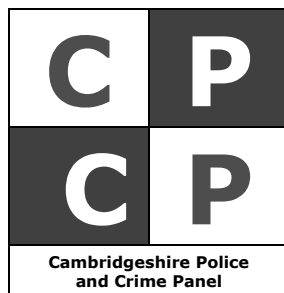
Police and Crime Panel meetings are open to members of the public and **Rules of Procedure** for submitting and asking public questions are on the Police and Crime Panel's Website.

All Meetings since March 2000 can now be found on Peterborough City Council's YouTube page [here](#).

10. THE YEAR AHEAD 2023/25

Panel Members and substitutes throughout 2023/24:

Edward Leigh	
Claire George	
Councillor Marge Beuttell	Councillor Charlotte Lowe
Councillor John Gowing	Councillor Mark Goldsack
Council Alan Sharp	Councillor Julia Huffer
Councillor Dennis Jones	Councillor Mohammed Jamil
Councillor Simon Barkham	Councillor Christian Hogg
Councillor Anna Bradnam	Councillor Graham Wilson
Councillor Bryan Tyler	Councillor Scott Warren
Councillor Stephen Ferguson	Councillor Tom Sanderson
Councillor Baiju Thaittala Varkey	Councillor Alice Gilderdale
Councillor Susan Wallwork	Councillor Luci Foice-Beard
Councillor Helene Leeming	Councillor Peter Sandford



The Panel has a work programme that is reviewed regularly.

In addition to the statutory responsibilities of the Panel, it covers key issues of importance to the public of Cambridgeshire.

The Panel is also working to strengthen links with the Community Safety Partnerships. These Partnerships are focussed on the safety of all community groups within our towns and villages, and it is important the Panel are aware of the issues they are discussing.

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel will continue its commitment to support, and to scrutinise the decisions of the PCC to secure an efficient and effective Police Force for the people of Cambridgeshire.

Over the next twelve months the Panel will focus on the following key areas:

- the Review the PCC's Annual Report.
- Supporting the PCC in delivery against the themes and deliverables in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.
- Holding the Commissioner to account for the delivery of his precept commitments.
- Reviewing the Commissioner's approach to commissioning and grants.
- Understanding the work of the Harm to Hope Drug Strategy/High Harms Board.
- Understanding the Serious Violence Strategy.
- Understanding how the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account for ethics and integrity within the Constabulary.
- Undertaking a proactive scrutiny across a range of areas.
- Maintaining a work programme in consultation with the OPCC.
- Having due regard to the Policing and Crime Act and the legislative changes.
- Ensuring that the Commissioner and Chief Constable recruit, retain and progress a workforce which reflects the communities it serves.
- Supporting the PCC to maximise opportunities for joint working.
- Liaising with HMICFRS to improve the Panel's understanding of Cambridgeshire Police's performance.
- Providing ongoing Panel Member learning, development, and support.

11. CONTACT DETAILS

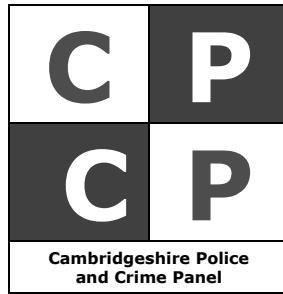
For any further information, contact details and web address, please see below.

The Panel can be contacted via the below:

Senior Democratic Services Officer (Police and Crime Panel)

Democratic Services

Peterborough City Council



Town Hall
Bridge Street
Peterborough
PE1 1HF

Telephone: (01733) 452281

Email: jane.webb@peterborough.gov.uk

Website: Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel

The Police & Crime Commissioner can be contacted via his office:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Cambridgeshire Police Headquarters

Hinchingbrooke Park

Huntingdon

Cambridgeshire

PE29 6NP

Telephone: (0300) 333 3456

Email: cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk

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