



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
HELD AT CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
ON 28 JANUARY 2015**

Members Present: Councillors McGuire (Chair), Ablewhite, Shelton, Sinnott, Shellens, Reeve, JR Fox, Palmer, Stokes and Edward Leigh.

Officers Present: Paulina Ford Peterborough City Council
Ian Phillips Lead Officer Peterborough City Council

Others Present: Sir Graham Bright Cambridgeshire Police and Crime
Commissioner
Brian Ashton Deputy Cambridgeshire Police and Crime
Commissioner
Cristina Strood Head of Policy and Performance
Robert Vickers Interim Chief Finance Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Over, Councillor Oliver, Councillor Herbert, Councillor Davidson and Christine Graham. Councillor Sinnott was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Herbert and Councillor Stokes was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Over.

The Chair welcomed two new Members to the Panel who were Councillor Palmer and Councillor Fox.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were given.

3. Minutes of the meeting held 5 November 2014 and 15 December 2015

The minutes of the meetings held on 5 November 2014 were agreed as an accurate record.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2014 were agreed as an accurate record.

1. Public Questions

No public questions were received.

2. Review of Complaints

The Panel received a report which provided an update on any complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner.

ACTION

The Panel noted that no complaints had been received against the Police and Crime Commissioner or his Deputy since the last report received.

3. Precept Report 2015-2016

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced the report which notified the Panel of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioners proposed budget and precept for 2015/16 to enable the Panel to review the proposed precept. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner gave a presentation to provide context to the report.

Observations and comments raised by the Panel on the presentation included:

- Members were concerned about the wellbeing and impact on Police Officers, PCSOs and Specials due to the implementation of project METIS and wanted to know if a full consultation had been undertaken. *The Deputy Commissioner responded that all new changes implemented had first been piloted with groups of the constabulary to ensure ease of use and to make sure that the changes were relevant.*
- Members referred to the slide in relation to the “% total police officers against a 2006/07 baseline” and asked if there had been a reduction in officers. *The Deputy Commissioner emphasised that there was less funding available now and it was a case of having to do more with less. More emphasis was being put into recruiting and retaining Specials.*
- Members were informed that the new system technology was based on Cloud technology and maintained in more than one place therefore reducing the risk of system failure.
- Members requested that the use of acronyms be avoided in future reports.

The Chair invited the Panel to comment on the proposed 0% increase in the Precept.

Observations and comments raised by the Panel included:

- Members were disappointed that an invitation from the Panel to meet with the Police Commissioners Office prior to the meeting to go through the Precept in more detail to enable them to gain a better understanding had been declined by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Members referred to page 23, Table 3 and the total number of Police Officers Cambridgeshire Constabulary had access to: 1341 in 2014/15 and 1539 in 2015/16. Members felt that these figures were misleading as the number reflected the total number of officers when collaborated with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.
- Members commented on and questioned in detail Appendix 1: Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/19.
- Members of the Panel sought clarification as to why there was so little detail and explanation provided in the Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy to allow in-depth scrutiny.
- Members requested detailed information on the following:
 - Cost of the 101 service and staff costs
 - Details of the 8% rise in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner staffing costs
 - Breakdown of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner staff including salary and posts
 - Victims Hub running costs and staff
 - Treasury details
 - Capital expenditure

In response the Commissioner stated that the Police and Crime Plan – Appendix 1 update would be considered at the next Panel meeting. He added that the cost of his office reflected the wider scope of responsibilities that he had taken on, such as victims services.

- Members commented on and questioned in detail Appendix 4: Draft Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Appendix 5: Draft Estimated Share of Precept to be paid by each District/City Council in 2015/16.

At this point Councillor Sinnott put forward a recommendation to veto the Precept on the basis that there was not enough detail in the report to allow proper scrutiny. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Reeve. Members of the Panel debated the recommendation.

The Chairman reminded the Panel of the procedure should the Panel decide to veto the Precept. A total number of nine Panel members which would be equivalent to two thirds of the Panel membership would be required to vote in favour of the recommendation for it to be approved.

One Member commented that in his view there was sufficient information to consider the precept.

The Chairman then asked the Panel to vote on the recommendation to veto the proposed Precept. The Panel voted against the proposal and was therefore NOT agreed. (3 in favour, 6 against, 1 abstention)

Responses by the Commissioner to questions from the Panel included:

- The Commissioner worked closely with the Constabulary to ensure an effective and efficient police force including holding them to account at a monthly Board meeting. Reports were requested to ensure the constabulary were delivering against the Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner's office was also proactive in identifying potential issues for review. The police force was very proactive and often came forward with solutions before problems occurred.
- The Government Council Tax Freeze Grant was not automatically consolidated into the Base in future years. It had, however, been rolled into the main grant in the last two years so it was hoped that this would continue.
- For the year 2015/2016 the cost of fuel and vehicles had been rebased to the current cost of running vehicles and a rate of 3.5 % had been applied over the next few years.
- The £875k for victim's services and restorative justice mirrors the grant received this year from the Justice Department. No grant had been promised for 2016/17 but if a grant was received it would improve the budgetary position.
- The format provided for the Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy was similar to that provided in previous years to the Panel but with more detail.
- All agencies had been informed of the future reduction in the Community Safety Crime Reduction grant and that this would be spread across all agencies.
- MRP - Minimum Revenue Provision
- ERSOU - Eastern Region Special Operations Unit
- Kings Lynn PIC – Police Investigation Centre
- The Police and Crime Plan – Appendix 1 update would be presented to the Panel at the meeting in March.
- The telephone rental figure was the actual cost as the budget figure had been inadequate.
- The £20k was an audit fee which previously resided with the constabulary which was now being paid for by the Commissioner's Office. The same auditors are used by the Police Commissioners Office and the constabulary.
- The subscriptions corporate were for professional organisations but a list could be provided.

- The Collection Fund Surplus (+)/Deficit (-). The Commissioner's Office received estimates from each authority every year of how much the council tax base would be. In the table at Appendix 5 Fenland had a figure of £55,592 which indicated that they had estimated a figure which had been too low or it could be due to improved collection rates.

The Chairman put forward a recommendation to support the 0% increase in Precept.

The Chairman put the recommendation to approve the 0% increase for the Precept for 2015/2016 to a vote. The recommendation to approve the proposal of a 0% increase for the Precept for 2015/2016 was APPROVED. (8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention)

The Chairman addressed the Police and Crime Commissioner and requested that he take on board the comments made by the Panel and give serious consideration as to how the Panel might get involved earlier in the budget setting process on an informal basis. This would allow the Panel to have a better understanding of how the budget was achieved and allow the Panel to be more focused and contribute in a more positive way at the formal budget meeting. *The Commissioner noted the request and advised that he would consider giving information to the Panel earlier in the process, however preparation and setting of the budget was the Police and Crime Commissioner's duty.*

Following debate, the Panel AGREED to endorse the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed precept.

ACTION

The Panel requested that the Police and Crime Commissioner

1. Take on board the comments made by the Panel.
2. Provide more detail when reporting on the budget in the future.
3. Engage with the Panel earlier in the budget setting process.
4. Provide a further detailed report on the budget at the 18 March meeting of the Panel.

4. Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Plan- Objective 4: Keeping people Safe

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced the report which provided the Panel with an update on the progress made towards Objective Four of the Commissioners Police and Crime Plan – Keeping People Safe. The Commissioner highlighted the following areas:

- Domestic Abuse
- Hate Crime
- Victims Hub
- Integrated Offender Management
- Vulnerable People – Child Sexual Exploitation and Hate Crime
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Performance Update

Responses by the Commissioner to questions from the Panel included:

- The Integrated Offender Management Scheme which had been set up to address issues of offending mainly around serious acquisitive crime such as those committing dwelling burglary had seen evidence of a reduction in reoffending.
- Violence against a person statistics had increased due to the fact that more people were now reporting such crimes. The police force had a working group which was looking at domestic violence.
- Members sought clarification with regards to the Victims Hub. What happens to those victims who are assessed as low to medium risk in particular those subject to domestic violence. What services were offered and what referrals were made. *Members were*

advised that the police force had an action plan to assess vulnerability and this was continually being developed. The group of people who would be dealt with by the Victims Hub had also been widened.

- *Members had various questions seeking clarification regarding the information contained within the graphs in the report under the heading "Continue to Tackle Crime and Disorder". The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner responded that the format of the performance report was currently being reviewed.*
- *Members commented that Victim Based Crime recorded by the Police was increasing and asked if there was some way of separating out newly reported crime and a way of showing the trend of historical crime. Members were informed that historically many people had chosen not to report crime. As more people report crime and recording processes have been tightened up, recorded crime has risen.*
- *Members referred to page 49, paragraph 7.4 and the increase in recorded hate crime. Members sought clarification as to whether there had been an actual increase in hate crime or just an increase in the recording of hate crime. The Commissioner responded that the Force has been encouraging increased reporting. The Commissioner had requested a full report on the subject from the police force.*
- *Members requested more evidence based information regarding hate crime statistics. The Commissioner noted the request.*

At this point Councillors Fox, Stokes, Shelton and Ablewhite left the meeting.

- *Members referred to page 54, Police and Crime Dashboard. How was the Commissioner challenging the police force on the areas of underperformance and what action was being taken. The Commissioner responded that the police force were challenged on performance at the monthly Board meetings and detailed reports were requested on specific areas as necessary.*
- *Members requested that the Commissioner report to the Panel on what action the Chief Constable was taking to address the areas of underperformance. The Commissioner responded that the monthly Performance reports to the Board were published on the website and a link could be sent directly to the Panel.*

Councillor Sinnott had a number of questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner relating to domestic abuse. Due to the number of questions the Chair requested that Councillor Sinnott write to the Police and Crime Commissioner outside of the meeting and copy in the Panel members. The Chair also requested that the Commissioner provide a written response to all Panel members.

ACTIONS

1. Councillor Sinnott to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner with a list of questions relating to domestic abuse.
2. The Panel noted the report and requested the following actions be taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner:
 - a) Provide a formal response to questions submitted by Councillor Sinnott to the Police and Crime Commissioner when received.
 - b) Send the Panel a link to monthly performance reports as presented to the Board from the Chief Constable.

5. Community Remedy and Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced the report which provided the Panel with details of the Community Remedy document for Cambridgeshire, outcomes of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioners public consultation, how the Community Remedy is being applied and how this has been communicated to the public.

Responses by the Commissioner to questions from the Panel included:

- Members referred to page 73, paragraph 6.3 and raised concern regarding the number of recipients to the consultation. Thousands of recipients were referred to but no exact number was quoted. 52 online responses seemed very low. *The Commissioner responded that the consultation was publicised to over 12000 subscribers but trying to get responses was difficult. The 52 respondents were genuine victims who came forward with some very sensible suggestions.*
- Members referred to paragraph 7.2, and the Community Remedy Options and in particular financial recompense. Would there be a mediator involved with this option. *Members were informed that this did not mean that financial compensation would be paid to the victim. An example would be if a gate was damaged a new gate would be provided.*

ACTION

The Panel noted the report

6. Decisions by Cambridgeshire Police and Crime 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.

There were no questions from the Panel.

ACTION

The Panel noted the report and decisions that had been made by the Commissioner.

7. Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan 2014-2015

The Panel received and noted the agenda plan including dates and times of future meetings.

ACTION

The Panel agreed that the following items be included on the Agenda Plan at a future meeting:

- a) Follow up report on 101 Call Handling.
- b) How the Police and Crime Commissioner is considering ways of measuring public confidence.
- c) Further statistical information regarding the number of Specials going back to 2006 and those who have had more than two years' service.

ACTIONS

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	ACTION	UPDATE
28 January 2015	Precept Report 2015-2016	The Panel requested that the Police and Crime Commissioner 1. Take on board the comments made by the Panel.	

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	ACTION	UPDATE
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Provide more detail when reporting on the budget in the future. 3. Engage with the Panel earlier in the budget setting process. 4. Provide a further detailed report on the budget at the 18 March meeting of the Panel. 	<p>Police and Crime Plan Variation – Appendix 1 Update on agenda for 18 March 2015 meeting.</p>
	<p>Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Plan- Objective 4: Keeping people Safe</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor Sinnott to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner with a list of questions relating to domestic abuse. 2. The Panel noted the report and requested the following actions be taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide a formal response to questions submitted by Councillor Sinnott to the Police and Crime Commissioner when received. b. Send the Panel a link to monthly performance reports as presented to the Board from the Chief Constable. 	<p>No questions had been submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner as of 10 March 2015.</p> <p>A link to the Commissioner's Business Coordination Board (BCB) meeting papers has been provided to the Panel. http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/business-coordination-board/bcb-february-xxth-2015/</p>
	<p>Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan 2014-2015</p>	<p>The Panel agreed that the following items be included on the Agenda Plan at a future meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Follow up report on 101 Call Handling. b) How the Police and Crime Commissioner is considering ways of measuring public confidence. c) Further statistical information regarding the number Specials going back to 2006 and those who have had more than two years' service. 	<p>To be programmed in to the 2015/2016 Agenda Plan.</p>

The meeting began at 2.00pm and ended at 4.45pm

CHAIRMAN