



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL  
HELD AT PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL  
ON 31 JANUARY 2018**

**Members Present:** Edward Leigh (Chairperson), Councillors D Oliver (Vice-Chairperson), T Sanderson, M Shellens, D Baigent, A Dickinson, A Sharp, E Murphy, and Claire George (Independent)

**Officers Present:** Jane Webb                      Secretariat, Peterborough City Council  
Fiona McMillan                      Monitoring Officer, Peterborough City Council

**Others Present:** Jason Ablewhite                      Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner  
Dr Dorothy Gregson                      Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner  
Matthew Warren                      Interim Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

**46. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bond, Ayres and Cuffley.

**47. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of Interest.

**48. Minutes of the meetings held on 15 November 2017 and 19 December 2017 (Confirmation Hearing)**

The minutes of the Panel meeting held on 15 November 2017 and 19 November 2017 were agreed and signed.

**49. Public Questions/Statements**

No public questions or statements were received.

**50. Review of Complaints - IPCC Consideration of Referral of Conduct Matter**

The Panel received a report to formally update them on the outcome of the referral of a conduct matter by the Chief Executive of the Police and Crime Commissioner's office ("OPCC") relating to the former Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner to the Independent Police Complaints Commission ("IPCC") for investigation.

On 13th November the former Interim Director of Law and Governance wrote to Panel members to notify them that he had taken the advice of leading counsel regarding what action, if any, was now open to the Panel. He said:

“I have to advise members that once the IPCC has concluded there is no conduct issue to investigate then there is also no conduct matter to refer to members. In essence that concludes the conduct questions and there is no matter to refer to the panel”.

This report was a formal confirmation of the above advice.

The Commissioner commented that the length of time taken to bring this matter back to the Panel was unacceptable. The Chairperson agreed that the delay had been frustrating but this had been hindered by not only by a change in the officer dealing with the matter but also by the fact that the initial letter received from the IPCC had not been entirely accurate; this current report now concluded the matter completely.

## **ACTION**

The Panel **NOTED** the report.

### **51. Precept Report 2018/19 and Police and Crime Plan Variation to Appendix - Medium Term Financial Plan**

The Panel received a report to notify them of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) proposed budget and precept for 2018/19 to enable them to review the proposed precept and were also notified of the consequential amendment to the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan (the “Plan”) ‘Appendix – Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2021/22’.

The Commissioner thanked those Members of the Panel that had attended the recent budget briefing held at the OPCC and presented the report to the Panel with Matthew Warren, Interim Chief Finance Officer of the OPCC.

The Panel made comment, asked questions and received responses from the Commissioner with regard to the Report, these included:

- a) The Commissioner explained that by 2020/21 there would be a small surplus in the budget.
- b) Inflation had previously been set at 1% but because of the recent decision around pay it was felt prudent to increase this to 2%. If general inflation increased this would only be around a small proportion of the budget (80% was spent on staff). If fuel or heating increased this would have a cost effect but would be controllable.
- c) The Interim Finance Officer stated it was prudent to ensure enough reserves were earmarked and reduced over the medium term; there were other significant projects ongoing that would fit into the reserve strategy and be brought back to the Panel at a future meeting.
- d) The Commissioner was questioned as to the borrowing requirements for the Southern Hub and asked if this facility had the flexibility required. The Commissioner stated it would have the necessary flexibility and that a full business case had been written on the southern hub but in theory the Parkside building could be sold and then the hub opened. The business case showed that a future project would result in income generation of more money than the borrowed amount.
- e) The Commissioner stated the general reserve was for specific one off events only.
- f) The Commissioner was asked if the police authority disposed of a site and received a capital sum, could this be used for reserves. The Commissioner explained it would need to be used for capital but this could be flexed by using capital to capital/capital revenue if the site was still owned by the OPCC. At present he did not have any commercial but the government were now out to consultation with regard to giving

Commissioners the General Power of Confidence, which would need secondary legislation, with a view to implementation next year.

- g) The Commissioner explained the government had given him the flexibility to increase the precept this year and the following year but had also stated that there could be no complaint with regard to funding if the precept was not increased. The government expected to see police forces making maximum efficiencies, collaborating, and innovate in return. There were some forces that would use the increase to bridge their funding gap and others like Hampshire that were cutting officers to balance the budget; Cambridgeshire was not in that position.
- h) The Commissioner was asked if he intended to increase the precept by £12 next year to which he replied that he did.
- i) The Commissioner explained that Cambridgeshire had one of the cheapest precepts in the UK and was not an incredible increase but just £1 per month which was based on a Band D property of which 70% of properties within Cambridgeshire were in Bands A to C. The increased precept would bolster.
- j) The Commissioner was asked about the possible impact from the problems of Capita and Carillion to which he stated they were mindful of this and would look at contingencies going forward. Cambridgeshire share procurement with both Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and therefore any impact would be lessened.
- k) The Commissioner stated he was very confident that the budget gap of £9.3m would be met through the Local Policing Review and the budget was now green rag rated.
- l) The increase in Police Officers was welcomed by the Panel although some Panel members were not comfortable with the reduction in PCSOs. The Panel asked if it would be possible for the Commissioner to fund research on if there was a reduction in crime pro-rata to the increased amount of police officers. The Commissioner welcomed these comments and stated that the OPCC often received offers of help and support from various academics for different pieces of work.
- m) The Panel asked what scope there would be for having non-officers stationed at major hospital reception areas to take over the responsibility and release police officers. The Commissioner explained this came down to individual culpability and the fact that an officer sat with someone in mental crisis may seem a waste but one officer was far more cost effective than half the police searching for them later. This was an issue that would need to be looked at with Partners and as Chair of the Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership, the Commissioner had taken the lead on this to look for other solutions. The Commissioner explained when Police Officers handover a patient and something happens within 24 hours then they are referred to the IPCC for investigation and therefore these Police Officers would not take that personal risk; whilst a case is referred to the IPCC their career remains on hold and therefore the officers were risk adverse to these issues.
- n) The Commissioner stated he was happy that Cambridgeshire received more than its fair share with regard to collaboration with both Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.
- o) The Chair questioned the Commissioner's press statement stating the Local Policing Review had created savings for an additional 50 officers; he believed this to be misleading as the number of PCSOs would be reducing. The Commissioner disagreed stating his statement had been very clear in that there would be an overall reduction of PCSOs.
- p) The Commissioner explained it would be down to the Chief Constable as to where the extra 50 officers were placed; the Commissioner could not interfere with this by law.

## **ACTION**

Following debate the Panel **AGREED** to:

- **ENDORSE** the precept proposed by the Commissioner;
- **NOTED** the Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- **ENDORSE** the variation of Appendix – Medium Term Financial Plan of the Police and Crime Plan

## Reasons for the decision

The Panel considered that the proposed precept was acceptable and necessary for the continued provision of effective and efficient policing across the area covered by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

The Panel noted that the variation to the Plan did not contain any changes and was therefore acceptable and necessary for the continued provision of efficient and effective policing across the area covered by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

*The Panel also asked the OPCC for the following:*

- *Panel to have sight of the business case for the southern hub, when available.*
- *OPCC to clarify figures within Table 3 more effectively as at present they were confusing.*
- *OPCC to share correct version of Appendix B - Capital Programme re: forecast and funding figures do not currently balance.*
- *OPCC to share further information as to how the transport costs (Appendix A) had halved from £24k to £12k.*
- *Panel requested sight of Full-year accounts (original budget v actuals) for June meeting.*
- *OPCC to clarify as Appendix B - Capital Programme table (p49) states contributions to reserves from this financial year is 0 yet Table 3 - Projected Budget Assistance Reserve Table (p45) indicates a transfer from reserve of £5.648m.*

## 52. Fire Governance Update

The Panel received a report, which provided an update on the process undertaken by the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the future governance arrangements for the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Panel made comment, asked questions and received responses from the Commissioner with regard to the report, these included:

- a) The Commissioner explained the proposal was still with the Home Office and an announcement was expected on 8 February 2018.
- b) The Commissioner stated that he would be looking at a transition period as early as 1 April 2018 and as late as October 2018.

## ACTION

Following discussions the Panel **AGREED** to **NOTE** the report.

## 53. Monitoring the Delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan

The Panel received a report to update them on the progress of creating the delivery mechanism to ensure the success of the delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.

The Panel made comment, asked questions and received responses from the Commissioner with regard to the report, these included:

- a) The Panel asked if any work had been undertaken to expand the list of companies that were willing to provide employment to ex-criminals.

The Commissioner stated he had just attended a seminar with providers, of which some would be giving ex-criminals that opportunity. The Commissioner explained that the stability of housing for ex-criminals was the biggest issue they faced and he had challenged housing authorities where there was not a consistent approach across the county for someone coming out of prison.

- b) The Panel were pleased to see that the Commissioner would now be collating statistics on re-offending rates.
- c) The Panel explained that, regarding non-policing allocation, it would be extremely useful to both the Panel and the public to see an illustration of this within the proportions of a shift.
- d) The Commissioner stated that ATHENA was still on track for May 2018.
- e) The Panel agreed it was good to see the new Police website had developed and grown and asked what was on the take up and benefit in time as a result of the changes. The Commissioner explained there had been exception take up of the website and this had resulted in a decrease of both 101 and 999 calls; he would be happy to furnish the Panel with statistics if they wished.

## **ACTION**

Following discussions the Panel **AGREED** to:

- **NOTE** the report
- **NOTE** that it was the Commissioner's intention to submit this report to the September 2018, November 2018 and March 2019 meetings, with the Commissioner's Annual Report to the June meeting capturing the overall progress towards the delivery of the Commissioner's Plan for the previous financial year.

*The Panel also asked the OPCC for an illustration showing the allocation of time over a shift that pertained to non-policing issues.*

## **54. Decisions By the Commissioner**

ITEM	ACTION
<b>Review of Complaints - IPCC Consideration of Referral of Conduct Matter</b>	The Panel <b>NOTED</b> the report and that the matter was now concluded.
<b>Precept Report 2018/19 and Police and Crime Plan Variation to Appendix - Medium Term Financial Plan</b>	Following debate the Panel <b>AGREED</b> to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ENDORSE</b> the precept proposed by the Commissioner;</li> <li>• <b>NOTE</b> the Medium Term Financial Strategy;</li> <li>• <b>ENDORSE</b> the variation of Appendix – Medium Term Financial Plan of the Police and Crime Plan</li> </ul> <p><i>The Panel also asked the OPCC for the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Panel to have sight of the business case for the southern hub, when available.</i></li> <li>• <i>OPCC to clarify figures within Table 3 more effectively as at present they are confusing.</i></li> <li>• <i>OPCC to share correct version of Appendix B - Capital Programme re: forecast and funding figures do not currently balance.</i></li> <li>• <i>OPCC to share further information as to how the transport costs (Appendix A) have halved from £24k to £12k.</i></li> <li>• <i>Panel have requested sight of Full-year accounts (original budget v actuals) for June meeting.</i></li> <li>• <i>OPCC to clarify as Appendix B - Capital Programme table (p49) states contributions to reserves from this financial year is 0 yet Table 3 - Projected Budget Assistance Reserve Table (p45) indicates a transfer from reserve of £5.648m.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Fire Governance Update</b>	Following discussions the Panel <b>AGREED</b> to <b>NOTE</b> the report.
<b>Monitoring the Delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan</b>	Following discussions the Panel <b>AGREED</b> to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NOTE</b> the report</li> <li>• <b>NOTE</b> that it was the Commissioner's intention to submit this report to the September 2018, November 2018 and March 2019 meetings, with the Commissioner's Annual Report to the June meeting capturing the overall progress towards the delivery of the Commissioner's Plan for the previous financial year.</li> </ul> <p><i>The Panel also asked the OPCC for an illustration showing the allocation of time over a shift that was pertained to non-policing issues.</i></p>
<b>Decisions by Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner</b>	Following discussions the Panel <b>AGREED</b> to <b>NOTE</b> the report.
<b>Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan 2017-2018</b>	The Panel received and noted the agenda plan including dates and times for future meetings.

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.

**ACTION**

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

*(At this point the Police and Crime Commissioner and his staff left the meeting.)*

**63. Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan 2017-2018**

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

The meeting began at 2.00pm and ended at 3:50pm

CHAIRPERSON