



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel
HELD AT Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall
ON 19 July 2023**

Members Present:	Claire George (Chair), Councillors A Gilderdale, A Bradnam, S Barkham, A Sharp, J Gowing, M Jamil, H Leeming, L Foice-Beard, and Edward Leigh.	
Officers Present:	Jane Webb	Senior Democratic Services Officer, Police and Crime, Peterborough City Council
	Adesuwa Omoregie	Monitoring Officer, Peterborough City Council
Officers Present:	Darryl Preston Commissioner	Cambridgeshire Police and Crime
	Jim Haylett	Chief Executive OPCC (Office of Police Crime Commissioner)
	John Peach	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
	Jack Hudson	Director of Governance and Compliance
	Nicky Edwards	Director of Commissioning
	Cristina Turner	Director for Strategic Partnerships

1. Election Of Chair

The Senior Democratic Services Officer asked for nominations for the role of Chair. Claire George was nominated by Edward Leigh and seconded by Councillor Jamil. There were no other nominations and therefore Claire George was appointed Chair for the municipal year 2023/24.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

The Chair asked for nominations for the role of Vice Chair. Councillor Dennis Jones (in his absence) was nominated by Councillor Jamil and seconded by Councillor Barkham. There were no other nominations and therefore Councillor Dennis Jones was appointed Vice Chair for the municipal year 2023/24.

Claire George thanked Edward Leigh for his work as Chair over the previous five years and more as a Panel Member and the Panel were grateful for his help and support.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Jones, Ferguson, Varkey, and Wallwork. Councillor Jamil was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Jones.

Councillor Foice-Beard was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Wallwork.
Councillor Gilderdale was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Varkey.

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15 March 2023

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

6. Review Actions and Recommendations from previous meeting

The Commissioner congratulated the Chair on her new role and looked forward to working with the new and existing Members of the Panel. The Commissioner also gave his thanks to the outgoing Chair, Edward Leigh, stating he had found him to be both supportive and challenging and they had played a significant part as a collective role in keeping Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's communities safe.

The Commissioner had taken several questions from the previous meeting and acted upon them:

- *District Days* – There had been a requirement for advance notice of these; this was now happening, and he offered the new Members an opportunity for him to visit in their wards, should they wish.
- *Hard to Reach Communities - Diversity of Panels* – The scrutiny panel has 25 volunteers (11 female, 14 males) and 8 identify as ethnic minorities.
- *Independent Custody Visitors* – 29 volunteers (11 female and 18 males) and 26 identify as white British and 3 others.
- *Ongoing Vetting of Police Staff* – the national “data wash” including Cambridgeshire Constabulary was now completed and there had been no significant vetting issues identified for Cambridgeshire staff including the OPCC.
- *Culture Statement* – This has now reached local media interest and has been seen as best practice across the country.
- *Share a link to the Eastern Region Cyber Resilience Centre* – this has been circulated.
- *Lessons Learned from Covid* – The Local Resilience Forum and their review as a collective/multiagency approach was the primary focus rather than individual agencies – this work was ongoing.
- *Vision Zero Partnership* - This was a multiagency group which could not be scrutinised by the Commissioner, as it is funded and supported by the Commissioner. The Councils are statutory partners to the Vision Zero partnership and therefore it would be the Councils that would have the right to scrutinise the partnership.
- *OPCC Logo* – With elections only next year, it would be wrong to spend public money and rebrand currently.
- *Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Fund* – Great news, successful bid received of £786,000.

7. Public Questions/Statements

There were no public questions or statements received for the meeting.

8. Public Complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner for the year 2022/23

During the year 2022/23 no public complaints were received that met the criteria for recording concerning the Commissioner.

Councillor Barkham enquired as to what the criteria was, Jim Haylett, Chief Executive of the OPCC explained there was a specific regulation, which stated it dealt with conduct matter, with serious criminal matters being referred to the IOPC (Independent Office of Police Conduct). As with all complaints there was a threshold that should be met. Complaints against OPCC staff or constabulary do not fit the criteria, it would need to be the personal conduct of the Commissioner himself.

ACTION

The Panel **NOTED** the item.

9. Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 23/24

The Panel received a report to review the draft Annual Report for 2022/23 issued by the Police and Crime Commissioner (the "Commissioner") under Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the "Act").

The Commissioner highlighted several points from the report:

1. *Additional Police Officers* – Thanks to the Chief Constable and his team, the Commissioner was pleased to report that Cambridgeshire had met and exceeded their national uplift target, attracting additional monies from government to enable this. There was now a record 1,732 warranted police officers across the county. To retain these numbers, there was a significant ongoing recruitment campaign which over the last three years had recruited 500 police officers. The Commissioner added he was pleased with the diversity mix of police officers, with 44% being women.
2. *Neighbourhood Crime* – This was a government priority (domestic household burglary, robbery, and vehicle crime). A 30% decrease had been seen in neighbourhood crime (baselined against 2019 - pre-covid).
3. *Other Crimes – Bike Crime* – The Commissioner reported that Cambridge had seen a 60% reduction in bike crime, whilst across the county, a 49% decrease had been recorded. *Rural Crime* – The Commissioner stated there had been significant decreases in rural crime, particularly in hare-coursing.
4. *Community Safety* – Up to £730,000 had been invested in Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), the Commissioner stated these were now moving in the right direction.
5. *Crime Prevention, Safer Streets Funding* – This funding had enabled the recruitment of two additional Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinators for Peterborough and Fenland. Training had also been delivered to over 150 people from various agencies to deliver a more consistent approach to problem solving.
6. *Youth Fund* – The Commissioner stated he was particularly proud of the Youth Fund as early intervention for young people was extremely important – this year a total of 35 projects had been granted, totalling £100,000.
7. *Road Safety – Vision Zero*. The Commissioner stated he continued to support the partnership and the constabulary; resulting in enforcement equipment having been bought for the Special Constabulary.
8. *Supporting Victims and Witnesses* – The Commissioner had invested £4.4m in Victim Services, supporting over 11,000 victims across Cambridgeshire.

The Panel made comment, asked questions, and received responses from the Commissioner and his staff regarding the draft Annual Report, these included:

1. Councillor Barkham referred to a question brought up at the previous meeting by Councillor Hogg regarding improving the live webchat and asked had this been carried out. The Commissioner explained that the webchat was a national system

that they could feed back into but there had been no other complaints received regarding the webchat system.

2. Councillor Barkham stated fox hunting and trail hunting still existed and this caused problems for rural landowners with hounds and horses crossing their land, had this issue been investigated. The Commissioner explained that Cambridgeshire has the best rural crime team in the country who were aware of the legislation and if any reports were received by the Constabulary, he would expect the Chief Constable to investigate and deal with any acts of criminality.

3. Councillor Barkham stated that often vulnerable women were exploited within the prison system and once released were addicted and in turn, exploited and therefore remained "captive" outside of prison, Councillor Barkham asked if this was recognised within the prisons and were these types of people receiving any help once released. The Commissioner stated he had visited Peterborough prison several times where the Governor pointed out that most women in prison were victims to far more serious crime than they were in prison for. The Commissioner's office had carried out some work with the prison but does not hold the prison system to account. Cristina Turner, OPCC, added the prison has a female lead in this area who was highly active and working with local partners for continuity of pathways between the prison and the communities. The Commissioner also stated that anyone leaving prison needed a place to live and a job to stop them reoffending.

4. Edward Leigh stated he was pleased to see the report was short, well-structured and fact filled. He added that some of the facts were led or originated from the Chief Constable, making them operational and therefore credit should be attributed to where it was due for the public to be aware of where the Commissioner's and the Chief Constable's powers lie, particularly regarding robust enforcement, to avoid any misunderstanding. The Commissioner explained that he gave credit not just to the Chief Constable, but to the men and women of the constabulary under the direct leadership of the Chief Constable, supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

5. Edward Leigh commented that Vision Zero as a Partnership was under-delivering and therefore asked if the partnership should be rebooted. The Commissioner agreed with Edward Leigh and stated he would investigate this as there had been no drop in the numbers of fatalities on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough roads.

6. Edward Leigh commented that the statistics provided by the Rape Crisis Partnership were horrifying and was a huge problem for many people. The Commissioner explained he did not think the issue was worse, but that people were now more confident to come forward and report and this would always remain a top priority.

7. Edward Leigh commented that the Commissioner had provided a link within the report to the 20/21 HMIC Report; this report stated there were two areas requiring improvement and one that was inadequate and therefore an explanation should be provided stating what has now changed in response to the report. The Commissioner stated he was not aware of this and would therefore take this away to look at.

8. Councillor Jamil stated he was pleased to hear that the number of police officers was growing, and that Cambridgeshire was now at a record level; yet the public still did not see this. Councillor Jamil asked what the Commissioner was doing, with the Chief Constable, to ensure that the public were aware of more police. The Commissioner stated that it was for the Chief Constable to deploy officers and staff and not the Commissioner. He explained that new officers were young and new in service, and it would take some time before this impact would be seen.

9. Councillor Jamil asked the Commissioner what could be done to ensure continuity of local contact between Members and Police Officers when Members were dealing with constituents' problems. The Commissioner stated the

neighbourhood policing teams were now more consistent, but he would encourage Members to speak to their Community Safety Partnerships going forward.

10. Councillor Sharp asked if the bike crime figures were due to better detection, better advice and had these perpetrators been dealt with. The Commissioner explained that the Constabulary had taken this issue to task and tackled this problem.

11. Councillor Sharp asked if there were any statistics around tackling knife crime, had the number of incidents reduced. The Commissioner explained that knife crime and serious crime had gone up across the country over the last 10/15 years whereas most other crimes have reduced significantly; this was attributed to County Lines and drug dealing, which was why the government introduced a Serious Violence Strategy which states that all agencies have a duty to reduce serious violence. The Commissioner explained it was important for early intervention, to ensure that young people did not get involved in criminality. The Commissioner made it clear that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough did not see the violence that many other parts of the country did; this was a safe county.

12. Councillor Sharp asked how to change the mentality of speeding drivers on Cambridgeshire roads. The Commissioner explained that different measures were used, such as education, enforcement, and technology but it was down to people not driving safely or being a victim of someone else who was driving unsafely. The Commissioner stated he would continue to be heavily involved in this issue.

ACTION

The Panel **AGREED** to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report for 2022/23

10. Police and Crime Commissioner's Approach to Integrity Assurance

The Panel received details of the mechanisms the Police and Crime Commissioner has in place to hold the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Constabulary to account for ethics and integrity.

The Panel made comment, asked questions, and received responses from the Commissioner and his staff regarding the draft Annual Report, these included:

1. Edward Leigh stated there was a gap around the public's contact and the feedback from the police and asked why this was not monitored, learnt from, and fed back to the Commissioner. The Commissioner stated this was not included in the report as it did not come under integrity assurance, but it was an issue the Commissioner recognised. Although operational, he would continue to discuss this with the Chief Constable as it related to public confidence in policing. The Commissioner explained he had received more direct feedback that this issue had improved due to the local embedded policing teams, and he encouraged Panel members to ensure their residents did report, not just for the police to prioritise issues but because it would also help the Commissioner hold the Chief Constable to account, which he could not do without this information.

2. Councillor Barkham stated that an automated response system that thanked the member of public for the information they had provided and inform them that if there was no need for the police to get back to them due to an ongoing issue, would solve the communication issue, as it would manage expectations. The Commissioner explained there would always be a resource implication, but it would be a worthwhile investment, but he was also cautious as he was aware that the police also received a lot of positive feedback too.

ACTION

The Panel **AGREED** to **NOTE** the report.

11. Delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2021-24 – Progress Report

The Panel received an update on the approach for successfully delivering the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2021-24.

The Panel made comment, asked questions, and received responses from the Commissioner and his staff regarding the draft Annual Report, these included:

1. Councillor Gilderdale asked about the work the Commissioner was involved in regarding hate crime. The Commissioner explained hate crime was a priority for the constabulary, there was a team that dealt with this issue and if a Panel Members wished to speak to him about this issue, he would be happy to have a conversation.
2. Councillor Gilderdale asked what could be done to help the safety of non-car users regarding road safety (electric bikes, scooters, mopeds). The Commissioner explained that road safety involved everyone that used the roads, not just car users. Regarding the tragic accident regarding the charging of an e-scooter battery, the fire service reacted quickly, sending out emails to parents via the schools and the Commissioner's thoughts were with the family, community, police officers and fire fighters involved.
3. Edward Leigh stated the report gave a clear picture of how many projects the Commissioner's small team was involved in, and it was gratifying to see how much progress had been made. Edward Leigh stated there did not seem to be a specific report on the actions regarding ways to improve 999 and 101 call handling and asked if this could be included in future reports. Edward also stated he had looked at the new OPCC website which was a huge improvement and now much easier to find content within the website. The Commissioner explained that the Improvement Plan around the Demand Hub had been published, this would be circulated to Panel Members.
4. Edward Leigh stated the report referred to the BCB (Business Coordination Board) Board papers from 18 May 2023 (community trigger update), but that agenda item paper has not been published. The Commissioner stated this would be investigated.
5. Edward Leigh stated he was concerned that after looking at the Constabulary's Sustainability Strategy and noting that the Commissioner's Office were not represented at the Combined Authority regarding the fleet strategy; asked why the Combined Authority would be acting on this issue when clearly the Police and Fire play a significant role. The Chief Executive (OPCC) stated this would be investigated and brought back to the Panel, but he suspected it was due to the fleet arrangements being carried out through a broad consortium within policing.
6. Councillor Barkham asked what influence the Commissioner could have on school curriculums, regarding adding elements of policing to education for young people to understand what the laws were and how they were expected to behave. The Commissioner explained that he spent a lot of time in schools, of all age levels. Commissioners were able to lobby and had political inroads into government. Good feedback had been received from the police officers that currently visit the schools.
7. Councillor Bradnam asked for clarification that the Victim and Witness Support Hub still supported victims that chose to withdraw their allegations. Nicky Edwards, OPCC confirmed that victims were able to access all the services, whether they had reported their allegations or not. If a victim withdrew from the process; none of the support is withdrawn, they can remain with the services as long as they feel necessary. Some of the services available: IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor), Peterborough Women's Aid, Cambridge Women's Aid, Refuge, County Outreach Service, Peterborough – Lithuanian Support Worker, Countywide Specialist Worker for Male Victims of Domestic Abuse and Specialist Post for Minority Communities etc. Significant investment has meant that there are now the best support services available to victims.

ACTION

The Panel **AGREED** to **NOTE** the report.

The Chair thanked the Commissioner, his staff, and the constabulary for organising the Panel visit to the Demand Hub Police Headquarters in Huntingdon the previous week. The Panel had learnt that regarding the volume of 999 calls, there had been two days in June where there had been more than 800 calls, when the expected amount was usually approximately 400. The Chair fully appreciated that monitoring 999/101 calls would remain an issue.

(THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS STAFF LEFT THE MEETING)

12. Rules of Procedure

The Panel received a report to review the Rules of Procedure.

ACTION

It was **AGREED** to **NOTE** that no changes were required.

13. Administration Costs and Member Expenses

The Panel received a report detailing the budget claimed to support Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Panel, including the expenses of Panel Members.

ACTION

The Panel **AGREED** to **NOTE** the report.

14. Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan

DATES	ITEMS
13 SEPTEMBER 2023 1:30pm Civic Suite Huntingdonshire District Council Huntingdon	Public Questions Serious Violence Strategy Harm to Hope Drug Strategy High Harms Board Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan
29 NOVEMBER 2023 1:30pm Civic Suite Huntingdonshire District Council Huntingdon	Public Questions Commissioning and Grants OPCC – Forward Plan Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan
31 JANUARY 2024 1:30pm Civic Suite Huntingdonshire District Council Huntingdon	Public Questions Precept Report 2024/2025 (full meeting – given importance) OPCC – Forward Plan Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan
14 FEBRUARY 2024	If needed (Veto)

1:30pm TBC	
13 MARCH 2024 1:30pm TBC	Public Questions Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan

ITEM	ACTION
1. Public Complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Year 2022/23	The Panel AGREED to Note the report.
2. Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report	The Panel AGREED to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report for 2022/23
3. Police and Crime Commissioner's Approach to Integrity Assurance	The Panel AGREED to NOTE the report.
4. Delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2021-24 – Progress Report	The Panel AGREED to NOTE the report
5. Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel – Annual Report	The Panel AGREED to NOTE the Annual Report.
6. Rules of Procedure and Panel Arrangements	It was AGREED to NOTE that no changes were required
7. Administration Costs and Member Expenses	The Panel AGREED to NOTE the report.
8. Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan	The Panel NOTED the forthcoming meeting dates.

CHAIRMAN
2.00 - 4.22 pm