



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
HELD AT HUNTINGDON DISTRICT COUNCIL
ON 5 NOVEMBER 2014**

Members Present: Councillors McGuire (Chair), Criswell, Shelton, Herbert, Shellens, Reeve, Over and Christine Graham.

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
Dr Dorothy Gregson Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Robert Vickers Interim Chief Finance Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ablewhite, Councillor Hunt, Councillor Fletcher, Councillor Oliver and Councillor Davidson. Councillor Criswell was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Ablewhite.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were given.

3. Minutes of the meeting held 30 July 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2014 were agreed as an accurate record and the action points were noted.

The Chair suggested to the Panel that 'Matters Arising from the Minutes' should be included as an item on the agenda going forward. One Member was concerned that including this item may take over the meeting and leave little time for the substantive items of business. The majority of Members on the Panel supported the idea and voted 7 in Favour, 0 against and 1 Abstention.

4. Public Questions

One public question had been submitted to the Panel and is attached at Appendix 1 of the minutes. The response given to the question is also included in the attachment.

5. 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.

6. Recruitment of Independent Co-opted Panel Member Update

The Panel received a report which provided an update on the process for recruiting to the vacancy of Independent Co-opted Member. The Lead Officer provided a verbal update on interviews which had taken place since the report had been written. There had been two applications and both had been shortlisted for interview. Interviews had taken place on Monday 3 November. Councillors McGuire, Ablewhite and Shellens formed the interview panel. The outcome of the interview was that a Mr Edward Leigh had been offered the position of Independent Co-opted Member.

The Panel unanimously endorsed the recommendation to appoint Edward Leigh as the second Independent Co-opted Member of the Panel.

7. Objective Three – Continue to Tackle Crime and Disorder

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced the report which provided the Panel with an update on the progress made towards Objective Three of the Commissioners Police and Crime Plan – Continue to tackle crime and disorder. The Commissioner highlighted the following:

- Burglary victims have a high level of satisfaction of the police force.
- The cost of policing per head in Cambridgeshire is one of the lowest in the country.
- Fewer people see anti-social behaviour as being a significant problem.
- The needs of victims and vulnerable people was at the centre of police work and benefit from the Constabulary's Victims' Hub.
- E-CINS (Empowering Communities Inclusion and Neighbourhood Management System) continues to be of great use to all partners.
- Over £500,000 has been given to the Community Safety Partnerships since Sir Graham has been in post as Commissioner.
- The Cadet Scheme was launched on 5 November 2014 in Peterborough.
- Burglary statistics remained static. Attendance at a burglary remained a priority.

Responses by the Commissioner to questions from the Panel included:

- All Local Authorities now used E-CINS.
- Members were supportive of E-CINS but were concerned that Housing Associations were not signed up to E-CINS and wanted to know how the Commissioner could get them involved. *The Commissioner responded that he would look into engaging with Housing Associations.*
- The launch of the Cadet Scheme on 5 November was an informal event and a more formal launch would be held in January 2015.
- Recruiting adult volunteers to support the Cadet Scheme was not a problem and there were lots of volunteers.
- It was envisaged that the Cadet Scheme would also be rolled out in Cambridge however funding was limited.

- The older cadets would be able to eventually work in a supportive role with PCSO's and Police at some events.
- Future funding for Community Safety Partnerships was not known yet but if the Home Office Policing Grant funding was to be cut by 4% then this may have to be passed onto the Community Safety Partnerships.
- There were six Community Safety Partnerships which reported into their Local Authority Scrutiny Committees.
- Options proposed for Community Remedy would be closely monitored by the Commissioner and the Chief Constable to see if it would have the right effect. It would be reviewed in the spring of 2015. The purpose of Community Remedy is to give victims a say in the out-of-court punishment of offenders as an alternative to going to court.
- PSCOs have been appointed powers by the Chief Constable regarding low level crime. *The Commissioner would provide a list of what these powers are.*
- Members referred to the scam affecting older people and wanted to know if there was a national initiative to engage with banks to address this issue. *The Commissioner responded that his office was pursuing engagement with banks and also the Home Office regarding this issue.*
- Members noted that the section on Drugs in the report only covered the Cambridgeshire Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and not the Peterborough DAAT. *The Commissioner apologised for omitting information on the Peterborough DAAT and agreed that this should be included in any reports going forward.*
- A member of the Panel raised the issue of Libyan soldiers being based at Bassingbourn Barracks and the recent issues regarding a series of serious crimes and disorder. The Member sought clarification from the Commissioner as to when he had been informed and what had happened in regard to these events. The Member was concerned that no information had been given to Cambridge City Council regarding the events and that it had not been made public after the first incident. *The Commissioner responded that he had been made aware that Libyan soldiers were at the camp and had discussed this with the Chief Constable. Difficulties had arisen over the past weeks. The Constabulary liaised directly with the Army. The Commissioner advised that he then approached the Home Secretary directly regarding concerns. It was noted that immediate action was being taken and it was expected that the Libyan soldiers would be gone by the end of the week.*
- The Chair advised that he was also Chair of the Community Covenant and advised that going forward he would ask the army to ensure that any future information would be communicated with a wider audience including the relevant local authorities.
- Panel members felt that it was important that the Police and Crime Panel were kept informed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner of matters of significant concern.
- Panel members referred to paragraph 3.1 of the report and the sentence "*The overall goal is to reduce crime and improve public confidence*" and wanted to know how public confidence was being measured. *The Commissioner responded that it was difficult to get everyone's views and it was difficult to measure public confidence.*
- The Panel also requested that in future performance data needed to be included in all reports where mentioned and not a link referring to background documents.
- The Commissioner had not witnessed or recognised that low level drug culture was being ignored by the Police Force but would raise the concern with the Chief Constable.
- Child exploitation was a high priority and an ongoing piece of work which was being fully resourced.
- The appointment of the Chief Finance Officer would be resolved within the next two to three weeks.

ACTIONS

The Panel noted the report and requested the following actions be taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner:

1. Provide the Panel with a list of Partners within each Local Authority who are using E-CINS.
2. To look at ways of encouraging Housing Associations to use E-CINS.
3. To provide a list of the powers that the Chief Constable has given to PCSO's regarding low level crime.
4. To include the work of the Peterborough DAAT team in future reports when reporting on drugs.
5. To include relevant performance data in all reports (rather than web links) – particularly in relation to measuring the impact of the police and crime plan.
6. To consider ways of measuring public confidence.

8. Distribution of Police Cover

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced the report which provided the Panel with an update on resources available to tackle crime in Cambridgeshire at:

- National level,
 - National Crime Agency
 - Counter Terrorism Resources
 - Non-policing agencies that support law enforcement
 - National Police Air Service
 - Mutual Aid
- Regional level:
 - Eastern Region – Eastern Region Special Operations Unit
 - Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire Strategic Alliance; and
- Local level, front line policing

Responses by the Commissioner to questions from the Panel included:

- The replacement of Police liaison meetings with Skype / video conference meetings will be monitored.
- Objective 1 of the Police and Crime Plan: Maintain Local Police Performance had been updated to ensure that the constabulary's collaboration with Bedfordshire Police and Herefordshire Constabulary and also with Operation Metis ensured the release of resources across the forces when required.
- Panel Members referred to page 26 of the report, table 4.4.6, "*FTE Establishment territorial policing*". Clarification was sought regarding the number of PCSO's and Specials compared to officers for East Cambs and compared this to the number of PCSO's and Specials compared to officers for Huntingdonshire. PCSO's and Specials were showing as 40% of officers at East Cambs compared to 70% at Huntingdonshire. *The Commissioner responded that Specials had the same powers that a constable had and therefore East Cambs were not being short changed.*
- The Panel sought the Commissioners view on the Police and Crime Panels collaborating. *The Commissioner responded that this had not been raised before and would discuss this with the other Commissioners.*
- The Commissioner advised that he was looking in to trying to recruit Specials from Rural villages and had discussed with the National Farmers Union to try and recruit within rural areas.

ACTION

The Panel noted the report

9. 101 Call Handling

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced the report which provided the Panel with an update on developments in the 101 call handling function by Cambridgeshire Constabulary. The Commissioner highlighted areas around the 101 first pick up and 101 secondary pick up – post triage. It was noted that some members of the Panel had recently visited the 101 Call Centre and had been very impressed by the service and dedication of the staff.

Responses by the Commissioner to questions from the Panel included:

- It was difficult to assign a target for the secondary call as it was not possible to predict what the issue of the call would be. Secondary calls were being monitored and a call back facility was being looked into to avoid waiting on the phone.
- Members of the Panel commented that a priority should be staffing and resourcing the 101 Call Centre. *The Commissioner agreed that this was important and the use of different technology was being looked at and there was a continual recruitment drive for staff but it was a specialist role.*
- Panel Members wanted to know what the timeframe was for resolving the waiting time for the 101 secondary pick up. *The Commissioner responded that issue needed to be resolved as soon as possible. Operation Metis would help the situation hugely but there was no timeframe. The Deputy Commissioner advised that part of the resolution was about changing communication channels. It was not known to what extent behaviours could be shifted and it was a complex problem to resolve.*
- The Chair advised that the Panel would continue to monitor the situation.

ACTION

The Panel noted the report.

10. 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.

11. Variation to Police and Crime Plan (Objective 1)

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced the report which provided the Panel with a variation to Objective 1, Maintain Local Police Performance of the Police and Crime Plan. The Panel were asked to endorse the variation.

The Chair requested that the Commissioner extend his surgeries to other areas of the county.

ACTION

The Panel noted the report and endorsed the variation of the Police and Crime Plan.

12. 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:

- The replacement of Police liaison meetings with Skype / video conference meetings.
- Child Exploitation
- Community Safety Partnerships

Councillor Reeve requested that the layout of the meeting room be considered to allow for better access for Members of the public to film the meetings.

ACTIONS

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	ACTION	UPDATE
5 November 2014	Objective Three – Continue to Tackle Crime and Disorder	<p>The Panel noted the report and requested the following actions be taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide the Panel with a list of Partners within each Local Authority who are using E-CINS. 2. To look at ways of encouraging Housing Associations to use E-CINS. 3. To provide a list of the powers that the Chief Constable has given to PCSO's regarding low level crime. 4. To include the work of the Peterborough DAAT team in future reports when reporting on drugs. 5. To include relevant performance data in all reports (rather than web links) – particularly in relation to measuring the impact of the police and crime plan. 6. To consider ways of measuring public confidence. 	
	Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan 2014-2015	<p>The Panel agreed that the following items be included on the Agenda Plan at a future meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The replacement of Police liaison meetings with Skype / video conference meetings. • Child Exploitation • Community Safety Partnerships 	To be programmed in to the Agenda Plan.

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	ACTION	UPDATE
		Councillor Reeve requested that the layout of the meeting room be considered to allow for better access for Members of the public to film the meetings.	Secretariat noted the request.

The meeting began at 2.00pm and ended at 4.04pm

CHAIRMAN

Appendix 1

Question/s for Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel Meeting held on 5 November 2014

Questioner	Councillor Ed Murphy, Peterborough City Council
Questions addressed to which Member of the Panel	The Chairman
Date Question was submitted	1 October 2014
Question	<p>Concerning the incumbent police and Crime Commissioner, presently unless he has committed a criminal offence or he is likely to be prosecuted for one or found guilty of something such as fraud there is little that can be done in cases of public concern or over his conduct to suspend or dismiss the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p> <p>What is your view concerning these limited powers to suspend or dismiss Cambridgeshire Polices and Crime Commissioners and would you support changes to these rules.</p>
Answer	<p>The legislation provides the Panel with the power to suspend the Police and Crime Commissioner if he or she is charged with an offence that carries a maximum prison term of more than two years.</p> <p>Whilst these powers are limited, the Police and Crime Panel can only operate according to the rules and laws as set out by Government. Until such time as the Government seeks to review or amend these powers, then the Panel cannot make any further comment.</p>