



Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel: Annual Report 2016/17

Foreword

The Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the Panel) holds the Police and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner) for Cambridgeshire to account by acting as a 'critical friend'. Its role is to scrutinise, challenge and support the Commissioner, maintaining a check and balance on the performance of the Commissioner in regards to the strategic actions and decisions made.

The Panel is not responsible for holding the Chief Constable or the Constabulary to account; this is a role for the Police and Crime Commissioner. The principal role of the Panel is to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Commissioner, not the performance of the police force. The key functions of the Panel are:

- To review the PCC's Police and Crime Plan
- To hold the PCC to account for the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan – the panel has powers to request any necessary information from the PCC on his decisions
- To review and report on the appointment of the Chief Constable and other senior appointments – the Panel has powers to veto the appointment of the Chief Constable
- To review the Commissioner's proposed police precept – the panel has powers to veto the precept
- To scrutinise the PCC's annual report
- To consider complaints against the PCC.

This is the fourth annual report of the Panel covering its work throughout 2016-17.

The work of the Panel

During 2016-17, the Panel met on six occasions and has scrutinised a number of key areas of the Commissioner's work. These include –

- Reviewing the Commissioner's performance reporting procedures which sets out what the police are expected to achieve and how the Commissioner holds the police to account.
- Reviewing how the findings of the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) reports had been addressed and how the Commissioner intended to address these in the future.

- Understanding how the Commissioner and the Constabulary deal with hate crimes and incidents.
- Two meetings of the Complaints Sub Committee held in July and October to hear two complaints against the Commissioner which resulted in no further action being taken against the Police and Crime Commissioner and recommendations suggested.
- An Interview Panel was set up in order that the vacant Co-opted Independent Member position could be filled. Interviews were carried out and the position was filled in November 2017.
- Reviewing the progress made between the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Authority and East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust on realising the opportunities of the Policing and Crime Bill.
- The Panel became a Member of the Eastern Region of Police and Crime Panel Network in February 2017.

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 [here](#).

Commissioner Budget Precept

The Commissioner proposed that for 2016/17 there would be 1.97% increase in the precept. The Panel has the power to veto any proposed precept from the Commissioner through a two thirds majority vote of its members. The Panel undertook a thorough scrutiny in the Commissioner's budget for the Constabulary asking a number of detailed questions on areas of expenditure including:

- Collaboration with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and the seven forces
- Estates Strategy
- Central government funding
- Policing Frontline
- Increasing Population
- Future Savings and efficiencies

The Panel endorsed the Commissioner's proposed precept.

Cambridgeshire Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Confirmation Hearing

In June 2016, the Panel considered the Commissioner's proposed appointment for the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. Councillor Andy Coles was the Commissioner's preferred candidate for this position.

The Panel held a confirmation hearing with the candidate and asked a number of questions regarding his professional competence and personal independence of the role. The Panel also considered

- The criteria used to assess the candidate's suitability for appointment
- Why the candidate satisfied those criteria
- The terms and conditions on which the candidate was proposed to be appointed

Following careful consideration of the information provided by the Commissioner and answers given at the confirmation hearing, the Panel recommended the appointment of Councillor Andy Coles to Cambridgeshire Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

About the Panel

The Panel comprises the current membership as at May 2017:

- Councillor David Connor (Cambridgeshire County Council)
- Councillor Robin Howe (Huntingdonshire District Council)
- Councillor Andy Pearson (East Cambs District Council)
- Councillor Michael Shellens (Cambridgeshire County Council)
- Councillor Ben Shelton (South Cambs District Council)
- Council David Oliver (Fenland District Council)
- Councillor Dave Baigent (Cambridge City Council)
- Councillor Derek Giles (Cambridgeshire County Council)
- Councillor Nick Sandford (Peterborough City Council)
- Councillor Ray Bisby (Peterborough City Council)
- Councillor Ed Murphy (Peterborough City Council)
- Edward Leigh (Independent Co-opted Member)
- Claire George (Independent Co-opted Member)

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