



Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2017/18





Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel

The Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel is currently hosted by Peterborough City Council on behalf of all 7 authorities in Cambridgeshire.

It is a joint committee of all 7 authorities, consisting of representatives from each of the District Councils (Cambridge City, East Cambs, Fenland, Huntingdon and South Cambs, and three representatives from both the County Council (Cambridgeshire) and the Unitary Council (Peterborough City) plus two independent co-opted members.

The Panel can be contacted via the address below:

Police and Crime Panel Secretariat

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Website [Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel](#)

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire is Jason Ablewhite.

He can be contacted via his office:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Cambridgeshire Police Headquarters
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Website: www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk



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 fifth annual report of the Panel covering its work throughout 2017-18.

The work of the Panel

During 2017-18 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.
- Requesting, receiving and scrutinising further detailed information regarding Cambridgeshire Constabulary's estates.
- Monitoring the overall performance of the Constabulary, including against the priorities set out in the Plan by way of requested quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports alongside reports on other areas of business that deliver towards the objectives within the Plan.
- Understanding how the Commissioner and the Constabulary deal with Community Engagement.
- Reviewing the progress made against areas of improvement (AFIs) from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) Legitimacy Inspection report 2016 and ensuring compliance is met with the current national guidelines for vetting; also



reviewing that the systems and checks are in place to ensure that vetting has been actioned.

- Understanding and keeping up to date with regard to the Commissioner's Consultation and Local Business Case on future changes to the governance arrangements of the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- Theming each meeting to ensure that each objective within the Police and Crime Commissioner's plan is scrutinised, supported and challenged.
- Requesting and regularly attending briefings to enable the Panel to remain up to date on key issues
- 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.

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 2017/18 there would be 6.4% 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 December 2017, the Panel considered the Commissioner's proposed appointment for the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. Councillor Ray Bisby 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 Ray Bisby to Cambridgeshire Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

About the Panel

The Panel's membership as at May 2017:

- Councillor David Connor (Cambridgeshire County Council)
- Councillor Angie Dickinson (Huntingdonshire District Council)
- Councillor Michael Shellens (Cambridgeshire County Council)
- Council David Oliver (Fenland District Council)
- Councillor Dave Baigent (Cambridge City Council)
- Councillor Andrew Bond (Peterborough City Council)
- Councillor Tom Sanderson (Cambridgeshire County Council)
- Councillor Alan Sharp (East Cambs District Council)
- Councillor Ben Shelton (South Cambs District Council)
- Councillor Lynne Ayres (Peterborough City Council)
- Councillor Ed Murphy (Peterborough City Council)
- Edward Leigh (Independent Co-opted Member)
- Claire George (Independent Co-opted Member)

Substitutes

- Councillor Kevin Cuffley
- Councillor Ann Sinnott
- Councillor Alex Miscandlon
- Councillor Nick Sandford
- Councillor Andy Pearson
- Councillor Mark Howell
- Councillor Ali Ansar
- Councillor Lucy Nethsingha

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