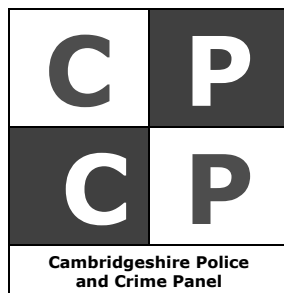


Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel



**Scrutinising and Supporting the Cambridgeshire
Police and Crime Commissioner**

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

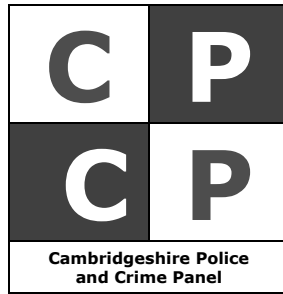


FOREWORD

Welcome to the seventh Annual Report of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel covering the municipal year 2019–20. The Panel is made up of eleven councillors from across the seven Local Authorities – Cambridge City, East Cambs, Fenland, Huntingdon, South Cambs, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, together with two independent members.

In 2019/20, the Chair was independent member Edward Leigh and the Vice Chair Councillor Alan Sharp from East Cambs District Council.

Police and Crime Panels were established in November 2012. This report covers one of the most challenging years since then for the Panel. It has worked hard to fulfil its statutory responsibilities, develop its role to scrutinise and support the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner, but has had to deal with some unprecedented events along the way, covered in this report.



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1. WHAT IS CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel came into being in November 2012, at the same time as elections for Police and Crime Commissioners were held across the country. Both were part of the new police governance arrangements whereby Commissioners and Panels replaced the old Police Authority and took over, respectively, its governance and scrutiny functions in accordance with the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Police and Crime Panels are, in effect, joint scrutiny bodies of the local authorities in the police force area and are composed of elected members from these authorities and co-opted independent members who are not local councillors. Councillor membership of a Police and Crime Panel must be geographically and politically proportionate.

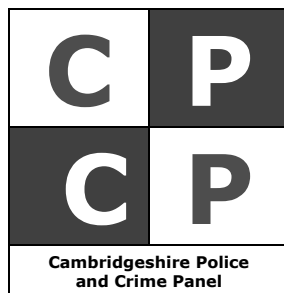
2. PANEL MEMBERSHIP

In Cambridgeshire the number of members from each authority and each political party was agreed by council leaders as follows: -

- 3 members from Cambridgeshire County Council
- 3 members from Peterborough City Council
- 1 member each from the remaining 5 Councils
- 2 independent, co-opted members

In 2019-20, Panel members were:

Peterborough CC:	Councillor Scott Warren (Conservative) Councillor Chris Wiggin (Lib Dem) Councillor Ansar Ali (Labour)
Cambridgeshire CC:	Councillor Mike Shellens (Lib Dem) Councillor Steve Tierney (Conservative) Councillor Derek Giles (Independent)
Huntingdonshire DC:	Councillor Simon Bywater (Conservative)
South Cambs:	Councillor Claire Daunton (Lib Dem)
Fenland DC:	Councillor Susan Wallwork (Conservative)
East Cambs:	Councillor Alan Sharp (Vice Chair) (Conservative)
Cambridge City Council:	Nicky Massey (Labour)
Independent Members:	Edward Leigh (Chair) Claire George



3. GOVERNANCE

The host authority for the Police and Crime Panel is Peterborough City Council.

Jane Webb	Secretariat/Senior Democratic Services Officer
Fiona McMillan	Monitoring Officer
Claire Osborne	Democratic Support Officer
Claire Cameron	Accounts
Amanda Rose	Communications

4. THE PANEL'S CORE WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel's statutory scrutiny responsibilities constitute its core work programme:

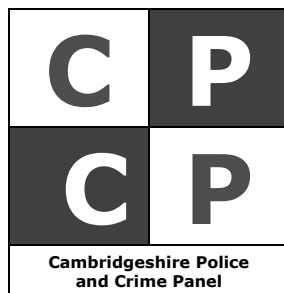
- Review annually the Commissioner's proposed council tax precept, with powers to veto once.
- Review annually the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan and Annual Report.
- Scrutinise the Commissioner's proposed appointment of a Chief Constable, with the power to veto once.
- Scrutinise the appointment of any deputy commissioner and the Commissioner's senior executive staff, with the power to recommend against an appointment.
- Consider non-criminal complaints against the Commissioner.

In addition to the above, the Panel can engage in further scrutiny reviews on any topic relevant to its role. It can make submit reports and make recommendations to the Commissioner, and it can carry out investigations as it sees fit into the Commissioner's decisions and delivery of his or her duties.

Apart from the two instances where the Panel has a veto (the level of the police precept and the appointment of a chief constable) it achieves its impact by influence, by examining reports and draft policy documents, questioning the Commissioner and/or external witnesses, and then making recommendations. These are communicated to the Commissioner in writing and are publicly recorded in the Panel's minutes.

5. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITY IN 2019/20

The year commenced with some changes in Panel membership. Since its establishment, a constantly changing membership has been a feature of the Panel in Cambridgeshire. Whilst it is recognised that elections will change the representation and make-up of local authorities, Panel Members have regularly expressed the view that a stable membership would be beneficial in ensuring the effective discharge of its responsibilities in holding the Police and Crime Commissioner to account. The Panel is hopeful that the party leaders (who typically make the appointments) will recognise the value of consistent membership in providing effective scrutiny and informed decision making.



During 2019-20 the Panel met physically on four occasions to scrutinise a number of key areas of the Commissioner's work. These included:

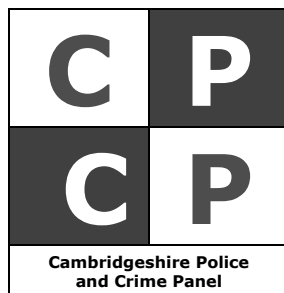
- Reviewing the Commissioner's performance reporting procedures which sets out what the police are expected to achieve and how the Commissioner holds the police to account.
- Requesting, receiving and scrutinising further detailed information regarding Cambridgeshire Constabulary's estates.
- Monitoring 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 and scrutinising the decisions taken by the Commissioner
- Understanding and keeping up to date with regard to the possible 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

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](#).

26 June 2019 – Annual General Meeting of the Panel - Training session: As part of the Panel's development, Frontline Consulting – who are leading experts in the field of Police and Crime Panels – came to deliver a session for Members around the Panel's key powers and responsibilities, the national context of policing and crime and what the Panel could do to develop its work programme for the coming year. The session built on the induction for new Members and provided existing Members with some ideas on how to make best use of the powers they have to scrutinise and support the Commissioner. AGM - Frontline were also invited to observe the Panel meeting in order to give their feedback on how the Panel operated.

The Panel endorsed the Annual Report for 2018/19 and also made the following recommendations:

- To include a form of geographical visual representation under "My Year at a Glance"
- To provide diversity in examples of best practice around the increase of public involvement to improve community understanding and resilience
- Provide hard copies of the Annual Report in libraries, council offices, police stations and partner agencies' offices
- Include number of police sickness days to support the wording on p35
- Provide an explanation as to where the proceeds of crime monies go
- Clarify in the infographic on p10 that '399 incidents recorded' is unconnected with method of reporting
- Add narrative to the graphic '46 violent crimes' to include some detail around domestic violence
- Add narrative around statistics that are unexpected or counterintuitive (e.g. fall in drugs offences and large increase in robberies)
- Include the total of all crime figures for each year
- Define 'frontline police officers'



11 July 2019 – Panel Members attended an LGA Police and Crime Panel Workshop which provided an opportunity to network with other Panels, pick up on the latest proposals from the Home Office and share best practice.

11 September 2019 – Cancelled – The meeting was cancelled at short notice by the Commissioner: ‘Due to other personal commitments, the Police and Crime Commissioner asked that this [the 11th September] Panel meeting is cancelled with scheduled business transferred to the October Panel meeting. He has sent his apologies to the Panel for any inconvenience caused and appreciates the Panel being able to accommodate this’.

20 September 2019 – The Vice-Chair attended the Eastern Regional PCP Network meeting which provided an opportunity to share information; which is beneficial as the Eastern police forces work together.

9 October 2019 – Main theme: Victims and Offenders. Supplementary report on County Lines drug dealing. Recommendations were made:

- For deep-dive thematic reports that have been published before coming to the Panel (e.g. originally for the Business Coordination Board), please include:
 - Annotations to explain abbreviations and acronyms;
 - Relevant updates since the original report was written;
 - Data and interpretation (or qualitative assessments) for each of the Business Intelligence Information metrics set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

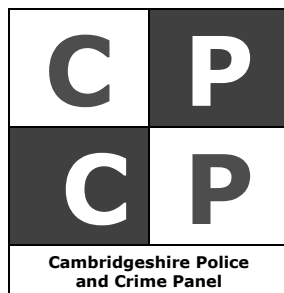
19 November 2019 – The Panel was represented by the Chair and Vice-Chair (and Panel Support Officer) and other Members at the Ninth Annual PCP Conference in Warwick facilitated by Frontline Consulting. The event was very well-attended with Panel representatives from across the UK. Further information on the work to support Police and Crime Panels can be found here - <https://www.pcps-direct.net/>

The Conference covered key national issues relevant to Police and Crime Panels, including those who have already taken on responsibility for Fire and Rescue Services. The afternoon saw thematic, topical and practitioner-led workshops where experience was shared around a range of topics including: Collaboration, Complaints handling, Performance monitoring, public engagement, Budget scrutiny, Police and Crime Plans etc.

11 November 2019 – The Panel were informed that the Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite, had resigned from his position of Cambridgeshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner.

13 November 2019 - Cancelled – Panel meeting cancelled due to the Commissioner’s resignation.

27 November 2019 – Extraordinary Meeting – The Panel considered an appointment of an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner had been put forward due to Home Office guidance stating “In the event of a PCC vacancy arising, either temporarily (eg through illness) or permanently, the Police and Crime Panel appoints someone as Acting Commissioner. Where in place, the Deputy PCC is the obvious person to appoint in such cases.” Therefore the Panel agreed to appoint Ray Bisby to the role of Acting Police and Crime Commissioner.



6 February 2020 - Commissioner Budget Precept - The Commissioner proposed that for 2019/20 there would be £9.99/year (4.49%) increase in the precept for a Band D property. 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:

- Local Policing Review
- Increase in future precepts
- Policing Frontline
- Disposal of sites
- Future Savings and efficiencies

The Panel endorsed the Commissioner's proposed precept.

12 March 2020 - Eastern Regional PCP Network meeting – Meeting cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

25 March 2020 –Cancelled – Panel meeting cancelled due the COVID-19 pandemic.

April 2020 – Informal Virtual Telecon – It was decided due to the cancellation of several meetings that a telecom would take place that involved the Chair, Vice Chair, Support Officer, Monitoring Officer and the Acting Commissioner, Chief Executive and support staff. This involved sending prepared questions from Panel Members to the OPCC that were discussed at the meeting. These were then published onto the website.

More generally

Governance – the role and responsibilities of the Panel and the Commissioner's own governance framework in holding the Chief Constable to account, can be a challenge. However, work continues supported by the host Authority and Frontline Consulting to ensure the Panel has the skills, knowledge and support to the very best it can be.

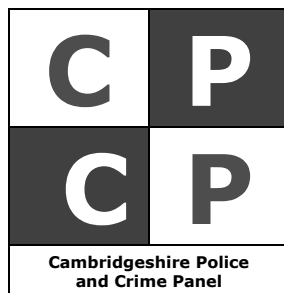
6. THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AND THE PUBLIC

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel has a website here
<https://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=543>

and this is where you can find copies of the agenda papers and minutes for the Panel meetings.

There is information about Members of the Panel, its spending, how to make complaints and other useful documentation.

Police and Crime Panel meetings are open to members of the public and **Rules of Procedure** for submitting and asking public questions are on the Police and Crime Panel's Website.



7. THE YEAR AHEAD 2019/20

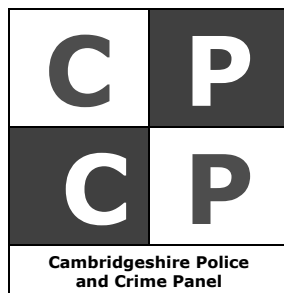
Panel Members and substitutes throughout 2019/20:

Edward Leigh
Claire George
Councillor Mike Shellens
Councillor Ansar Ali
Council Alan Sharp
Councillor Claire Daunton
Councillor Steve Tierney
Councillor Nicky Massey
Councillor Simon Bywater
Councillor Susan Wallwork
Councillor Chris Wiggin
Councillor Derek Giles
Councillor Scott Warren

Councillor David Connor
Councillor Lucy Nethsingha
Councillor Lynne Ayres
Councillor Ed Murphy
Councillor Julia Huffer
Councillor Hazel Smith
Councillor Hamish Masson
Councillor Andrew Lynn
Councillor Rosy Moore

Previous Police and Crime Panel Members who left in 2019/20

Councillor Christian Hogg
Councillor John Palmer
Councillor Carla McQueen



8. WORK PROGRAMME

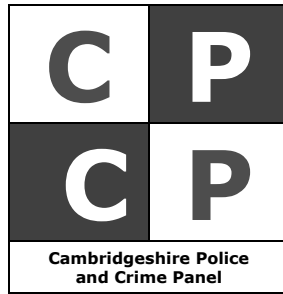
The Panel have a work programme that is reviewed regularly. In addition to the statutory responsibilities of the Panel, it covers key issues of importance to the public of Cambridgeshire. For example, the Panel has received reports on County Lines as its important this issue is discussed with the Commissioner so that elected representatives can provide reassurance in their own communities.

Going forward, it is hoped to align the Panel's work programme with that of the Commissioner's Business Coordination Board, to ensure that reports submitted to the Panel are timely, and issues being discussed are of equal importance to the Commissioner, Chief Constable and the elected Members serving on the Panel.

The Panel is also working to strengthen links with the Community Safety Partnerships. They look after all issues concerned with the safety in our towns and villages, and it's important the Panel are aware of the issues they're discussing. Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel will continue its commitment to support, and to scrutinise the decisions of the PCC in order to secure an efficient and effective Police Force for the people of Cambridgeshire

Over the next twelve months the Panel will focus on the following key areas:

- Review the APCC's Annual Report.
- Hold the APCC to account for the delivery of his precept commitments.
- Undertake a programme of proactive scrutiny across a range of areas.
- Maintain a work programme in consultation with the OPCC.
- Have regard to the Policing and Crime Act and the legislative changes, including emergency services collaboration.
- Continue to monitor progress on improving crime data integrity.
- Ensure that the APCC and Chief Constable recruit, retain and progress a workforce which reflects the communities it serves.
- Support the APCC to maximise opportunities for joint working.
- Liaise with HMICFRS to improve the Panel's understanding of Cambridgeshire Police's performance.
- Provide ongoing Panel Member learning, development and support.



9. CONTACT DETAILS

For any further information, contact details and web address, please see below.

The Panel can be contacted via the below:

Police and Crime Panel Secretariat

Democratic Services
Peterborough City Council
Town Hall
Bridge Street
Peterborough
PE1 1HF

Telephone: (01733) 452281

Email: jane.webb@peterborough.gov.uk

Website: Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel

The Acting Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire is Ray Bisby.

He can be contacted via his office:

Office of the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner

Cambridgeshire Police Headquarters
Hinchingsbrooke Park
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE29 6NP

Telephone: (0300) 333 3456

Email: cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk



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