



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM
ON 22 JULY 2020**

Members Present:	Edward Leigh (Chairperson), Councillors A Sharp, A Ali, C Daunton, N Massey, M Shellens, D Giles, H Masson, S Warren, C Daunton, C Wiggin, and Claire George.	
Officers Present:	Jane Webb Fiona McMillan	Secretariat, Peterborough City Council Monitoring Officer, Peterborough City Council
Others Present:	Ray Bisby Nick Dean Christina Strood Nicky Phillipson OPCC	Acting Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner Chief Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary Head of Policy, OPCC Head of Strategic Partnerships and Commissioning, OPCC

1. Election of Chairperson

The Secretariat asked for nominations for the role of Chairperson. Edward Leigh was nominated by Councillor Ali and seconded by Councillor Sharp. There were no other nominations and therefore Edward Leigh was appointed Chairperson for the municipal year 2020-21.

2. Election of a Vice Chairperson

The Chairperson asked for nominations for the role of Vice Chairperson. Councillor Sharp was nominated by Edward Leigh (Chairperson) and seconded by Councillor Claire Daunton. There were no other nominations and therefore Councillor Sharp was appointed Vice-Chairperson for the municipal year 2020/21.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Tierney, Wallwork and Bywater. Councillor Mason was in attendance as a substitute on behalf of Councillor Bywater.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Chris Wiggin declared an interest by way of a member of his household being an employee of the Fire Service.

Councillors Mike Shellens and Derek Giles declared an interest by way of being members of the Fire Authority.

5. Minutes of the Meetings held on 6 February 2020 and 22 July 2020

Minutes of the meetings held on 6 February 2020 and 22 July 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

6. Public Questions/Statements

No public questions or statements were received.

7. Fire Governance Update

The Acting Commissioner, Ray Bisby, made the following statement

“What needs to be recognised in these exceptional circumstances, is that both I and my team have to focus on the three big areas of my role, that is police governance, community safety and criminal justice and in addition to adding our support to the constabulary and partners to save lives as part of the response to the COVID crisis. Equally, I must ensure that the aspirations set in the existing Plan continues to drive positive change for the county during these uncertain times. Delivery of the Plan and the governance of the force must be both sustainable and proportionate during the foreseeable future to take account of and response to this public health emergency. This requires dynamic leadership, not only to get through the current crisis but also regarding the normal operation of policing that has continued during this crisis. The constabulary has undertaken a considerable amount of proactive work and had some excellent results especially around drug arrests. I would therefore like to thank the Chief Constable and his senior team and all the constabulary’s officers, staff, special constabulary and other volunteers who have dealt with this COVID crisis and worked tirelessly to support the communities and to keep them safe and at the same time still continuing to undertake normal and everyday policing work, provide support for the vulnerable and victims and tackle offending. I would like to thank the Panel as well, for providing me with your areas of questioning prior to this meeting and giving me the opportunity to respond to these within the reports that you find before you. However, whilst the Chief Constable is willing to attend the Panel meeting today, given the interest that the Panel has shown through their questions on operational policing matters, I would like to remind the Panel that they do not hold the Chief Constable to account for operational policing. If there are any questions where we are not able to provide a full response today, we will get back to you with the information.”

The Panel received a report to update them regarding the position following the approval from the Home Secretary of the previous Police and Crime Commissioner’s proposal to take on responsibility for governance of Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and to note the letter of the 18 June 2020 from the Minister of State for Crime and Policing to the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Acting Commissioner introduced his report stating that the Panel were aware of the background following the series of legal challenges made by the Fire Authority which has delayed the transfer of the fire governance to the Police and Crime Commissioner since the Home Secretary’s decision in March 2018. The judicial review was thrown out by the High Court last year and earlier this year by the Court of Appeal. Unfortunately, owing to the passage of time, the Home Office has decided to pause and revisit the issue after the next Police and Crime Commissioner elections. It is important to note that the Home Office still feels the original decision was the right one and it has been upheld in the courts, it also reiterated its commitment to supporting Police and Crime Commissioners to take on Fire Governance where a case is made. The Acting Commissioner was keen to progress Police and Fire collaboration whether that is on estates or other matters. Unfortunately, the Monkswood site

has not been proved possible at this time but there are other proposals that are being considered operationally and these are being worked on.

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

Edward Leigh, Chairperson, echoed the thanks that Ray Bisby had made on behalf of the Panel to the Constabulary and staff for the excellent work that had been done through these extraordinary challenging times.

Edward Leigh asked for clarification that the Home Office would not be able to consider a business case on this until after the next election of the Police and Crime Commissioner 2021 and would the OPCC start work on a business case now or wait until a new Commissioner was in place. The Acting Commissioner, Ray Bisby explained that the Home Office would not be in a position to consider any updates until after the elections; this would be a matter to be revisited after the elections by whoever is in the role of Police and Crime Commissioner and there are no plans to start a new business plan before this.

Councillor Nicky Massey asked if the operational collaborations would still go ahead. The Acting Commissioner, Ray Bisby responded stating that they will be collaborating with the Fire Service on several items where there is an opportunity in the future.

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

8. Acting Police and Crime Commissioner's Responses to Questions from the Police and Crime Panel

The Panel received a report to provide them with responses to questions they had raised both on reports submitted to the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner's Business Co-ordination Board meeting and on other matters.

Councillor Nicky Massey – 5.1.1. – Still no mention of Think Communities in the response; therefore, does the OPCC work with the thread, including Think Communities, that the council and city council are working on? The Acting Commissioner responded with yes.

Councillor Nicky Massey – 5.1.4 – Are there any plans to increase the number of victims that we are helping in a restorative justice way? Nicky Phillipson, OPCC, explained that every request is responded to from victims to explore restorative justice for intervention and proactively contact victims to offer this opportunity. There is a single post holder working in the Victim and Witness Hub and it does take a long period of time to explore each case as there are many risk assessments to be carried out. Would love to engage in far more victims but are being responsive to what victims want, it is offered and is there if victims wish to take it up. Resource currently matches demand.

Councillor Nicky Massey - 5.1.5. – Funding for these services must be kept at this level rather than accepting a lower level as these services are vitally important. The Acting Commissioner stated that domestic Violence should be supported wholeheartedly. Nicky Phillipson, OPCC, agreed, stating the amount of funding going into supporting victims/survivors of domestic abuse remains constant or even increases in future years. There is a finite pot of resources and the OPCC is doing its best to bid for additional pots of funding from central government and in the last 6 months an additional £623,000 funding has been secured for domestic abuse and sexual violence in Cambridgeshire.

The Acting Commissioner stated his staff were constantly looking for funding and he deemed it as an area that needed to be constantly looked at and he would be asking for funding in all the meetings he attended. Edward Leigh asked what the current shortfall of funding was for the current and next financial year. Nicky Phillipson, OPCC, explained Cambridgeshire had a model of victim support

services where the Police and Crime Commissioner, funded all the generalist services and funded the majority of all the sexual violence support services and the local authorities, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough funded the majority of all the domestic abuse services, which was about £1million. However, the rest of the services, eg outreach services and refuges were topped up significantly by government grants, some of which the panel will be aware would be ending; this would be where the significant gaps in funding would come. Currently there is no figure but the gaps emerging would be surrounding the outreach work.

Councillor Nicky Massey – 5.2.2. – Any reports to the Panel, could the OPCC spell out acronyms and abbreviations for members of the public to understand.

Councillor Masson – 8.2 – Asked for assurance that officers of the IMU (Investigation Management Unit) are being supported give examples of how possible errors are being addressed given that just one error could have a significant impact on an investigation and subsequent prosecutions. The Chief Constable responded by stating that these are rapidly addressed within the IMU, a new detective inspector within the IMU has been appointed and following on from the wider demand hub review, which contains the IMU within, there are various learning points contained within regarding how to progress integration of the IMU. The Chief Constable gave his assurance that mistakes were minimal and were treated seriously and the review and screening process was extensive within the IMU to ensure that the 69,000 crimes per year are dealt with.

Councillor Claire Daunton – 11.1 – Asked about longer-term planning as this was not really answered within the response. The Chief Constable responded by explaining that the Police work across the agencies under the Strategic Co-ordination Centre, a range of partnerships under the Local Resilience Forum; one of the main streams of that work is a recovery angle; this is led and co-chaired by Jo Lancaster and Liz Watts from Huntingdon District Council and South Cambs District Council respectively and the Police are an active part with that recovery process. In addition, The Police are linked into the national work under the National Police Chief Council; there is a member of staff and small team dedicated to looking at the long term effects of COVID across policing nationally and the Police are linked into that research. Also, early next month a recovery workshop will be held at Headquarters to look internally at the Constabulary at their response and recovery coming out of COVID, part of which will be with HMICFRS to ensure there is independence over what has been done. Several steps have already been implemented to make the premises COVID secure, such as agile working, tactically interviewing people, bringing people into custody, the performance of the organisation has been remarked good. The Acting Commissioner added how incredibly proud he was of the Chief Constable and his staff for their leadership over this period and how proud he was of the force and he thanked them all.

Councillor Massey – 12.1 – What is the role of the Independent Office of Police Conduct? And how many racially motivated complaints have been made against police officers in the past 5 years as this had not been answered in the report? The Acting Commissioner responded by stating that in response to the group he had spoken to the Chief Constable and he was satisfied that there were measures in place to keep the community safe however the discussions between the Chief Constable and the Acting Commissioner were about how they could have a scrutiny group with a wider remit on integrity issues such as complaints, which aims to create greater transparency, community involvement and ensure there is transparency in everything they do. The aim of this group is to ensure greater transparency, community involvement and bring the community perspective into these areas and for the group to be representative of the communities that the constabulary serves. There is a need to understand to the extent of local concern of truly independent group which communities can have confidence in. It is hoped that this will restore the trust, bring about improvement and makes sure that when something does go wrong that we learn from that. The IOPC is independent and they are there to test any allegations and who should be investigated from any of the complaints. It is not for the Chief Constable or for the Acting Commissioner to decide who to investigate; the IOPC take on those investigations and can undertake those investigations themselves or direct the force to investigate under their supervision or for the force to investigate anyway.

The Chief Constable added the incidents of Black Lives Matters and the events seen internationally and, in the UK, have sparked the question around disproportionality, which must be welcomed within policing. The Chief Constable stated he had made it very clear about the values and standards he expects within the organisation. He welcomed the opportunity to speak to the OPCC in terms of the wider scrutiny around transparency, not just about disproportionality but about use of force, stop and search, to make sure public's confidence is high and use these important powers that play an important part in crime prevention and crime detection. The number of allegations during that 5-year period have been 66 against 132 staff and officers made by 71 (28 female/42 male/1 unknown) (11 Asian/ 20 Black / 4 Other/ 20 White/ 16 Unknown) complainants. The number of upheld cases is remarkably low at 2 and these are ongoing with the IOPC. Councillor Nicky Massey asked where the Constabulary had been in contact with the IOPC and how many cases were deemed not serious and were therefore dealt with by the police themselves. The Chief Constable replied stating that they were in regular contact with the IOPC but they are independent therefore it would be unwise for the force to join together or work with the IOPC about any scrutiny panel. The force's scrutiny panels are made up from the community rather than the IOPC. There are mandatory categorisations of crime, not necessarily the seriousness of the crime, as to whether it is referred to the IOPC for further direction. If there was death, serious injury or failure in demand or serious safeguarding concerns for the public this would be referred voluntarily to the IOPC. The professional Standards Unit across the Beds/Herts/Cambs are professional investigators and if investigations are directed back to them to investigate, they are under the Police Discipline Regulations which go through to a Police Discipline Hearing which is now chaired by a legally qualified chair where previously it was chaired by a police officer; independence has again be brought into play in the police misconduct proceedings, which are public hearings.

Councillor Ansar Ali – 12.1 - Stated he was shocked and disturbed by the recent incidents that received a lot of attraction on social media; he welcomed the response from the Chief Constable but there was a need to reassure the communities that these were isolated incidents as there was concern amongst the communities. The Chief Constable agreed that this needed to be carried out and he was committed to this.

Councillor Nicky Massey – 14.1 - Thanked the Acting Commissioner for the extra date given for Cambridge City Councillors due to a clash of dates previously and highlighted that a consultation on the police station that would be remaining in the city would be preferred sooner rather than later, City Councillors did not want it to be an afterthought. The Acting Commissioner responded stating that there would be a consultation on what would be in the city centre. The current consultation ends on 31 July 2020.

9. Decisions by the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner

Councillor Nicky Massey asked why the extra funding for road incidents victims had not been included in the decision-making report as it was an extra funding given to road traffic accidents? Nicky Phillipson, OPCC responded stating that a decision notice is not completed for every single grant, these are covered in a main decision notice that is done annually.

Edward Leigh, Chairperson, asked for clarification regarding the sexual assault referral centre; the bidding process was difficult to follow, could the Acting Commissioner confirm what the net effect of this was? Is it secure until April 2023 with more funding required after that date. Nicky Phillipson, OPCC, responded stating the funding was awarded on a five-year contract.

10. Rules of Procedure Update

The Chairperson introduced the report which provided the panel with an opportunity to review the Rules of Procedure, which were adopted by the Police and Crime Panel at its meeting on 7 February 2013 and updated on 29 June 2016, 30 July 2018 and 26 June 2019.

Virtual Meetings – Public Questions/Statements - Member of the Public can, if they wish, join a virtual meeting, to ask their question as they would if it were a public meeting/

ACTION

Following a review of the Rules of Procedure and a proposed amendment, the Panel **AGREED** to approve the amendment to the Rules of Procedure.

11. Cambridgeshire Police Crime Panel's Annual Report

The Chairperson introduced the report which provided the Panel with a draft of the Annual report for consideration and approval.

Councillor Nicky Massey thanked the Secretariat for the hard work involved in drafting the report as it was very well written, clear and succinct.

ACTION

The Panel **AGREED** to approve the report for publication.

Edward Leigh took the opportunity to suggest a review on how the Panel reviews and commissions reports, background research, uses the budget, training, briefings, site visits and agenda planning. Edward Leigh suggested panel members support a task and finish group and make suggestions for Terms of Reference, contribute ideas of good practice, feelings about member allowances.

It was **AGREED** that:

- officers bring an agenda item to the next meeting setting out the Terms of Reference for a Task and Finish Group to review how a Panel works
- Secretariat to send out questions asking for Terms of Reference and asking for volunteers
- Councillors Massey, Wiggin, Warren, Sharp, Daunton and Claire George would be volunteers

12. Membership of Frontline Consulting and Conference attendance - Verbal

Members discussed that any training should be an “intense” course due to Members now having been in the role for some years. Specifically focussing on Task and finish groups.

It was **AGREED** that the renewal of the annual membership of £500 be paid to Frontline Consulting.

It was **AGREED** that four tickets would be purchased for the Conference; these would be for four of the following Councillors Massey, Daunton, Wiggin, Warren and Sharp.

13. Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan 2020-2021

It was decided that the 10th September 2020 be cancelled to take the pressure off the Acting Commissioner's Office and that the 7th October 2020 would instead be used for the next public meeting.

14. Administrative 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

The meeting began at 2:30pm and ended at 4:00pm

CHAIRPERSON

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