



Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21



FOREWORD

Welcome to the eighth Annual Report of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel covering the municipal year 2020–21. 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 2020/21, 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 2020-21, 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/Councillor Andrew Lynn (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 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 submits 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.

The main Panel meetings are open to the public – albeit it since March 2020.

Meetings of the Panel can be viewed by following the link below –

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PboroughCityCouncil/videos>

The Panel's website is <https://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=543>



5. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITY IN 2020/21

Given the extraordinary challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Panel's membership remained unchanged, just one mid-year change from Fenland District Council.

Since its establishment, the Panel has often seen a notable change in its membership year on year. The stability provided by the pandemic helped the Panel build on its knowledge and collective scrutiny and support of the Police and Crime Commissioner, which has - in turn - improved governance and decision-making on behalf of the people of Cambridgeshire.

Panel Members have regularly expressed the view that a more stable membership would be beneficial in ensuring the effective discharge of its responsibilities, and it is hoped that the Cambridgeshire Leaders will recognise this when appointing to the Panel. Nationally, this view has also been expressed to the Home Office.

In this exceptional year, the Covid pandemic brought about some significant and unexpected changes both for our working practices and our work programme. The Panel's meeting in March 2020 was cancelled as the country moved towards national 'lockdown' and in adherence to national directives.

However, the Panel was able to respond proactively and positively to the challenges faced and quickly migrated to virtual meetings. More importantly, the local and PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner) elections scheduled for May 2020 were postponed for 12 months, which enabled the Acting Commissioner to continue in his role for an extended period.

The Panel outstandingly still managed to physically meet formally 7 times during 2020-21 and twice held two informal telecom meetings. Copies of the agenda and minutes are available to view [here](#).

During 2020-21 the Panel met physically on seven occasions to scrutinise several 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 regarding the probable 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](#).



[25 March 2020 – Cancelled due to COVID-19](#)

[15 April 2020 - Informal Telecon - Decisions](#)

Whilst the Panel is unable to meet while social distancing measures are in place, an interim arrangement has been agreed between the chair of the Panel and the Acting Commissioner. Monthly teleconference calls involving the Acting Commissioner and staff, including the Chief Executive, and the Panel chair, vice-chair and support staff provide a regular opportunity for the Panel to continue to scrutinise and support the Acting Commissioner.

A telecom was held with the Chair, Vice Chair, Support staff, Acting Commissioner, Chief Executive – OPCC (Office of Police Crime Commissioner) and senior staff. Questions were asked about the pandemic, the effect on policing, future meetings; answers were then published in letter format from the OPCC for panel members and public.

[14 May 2020 - Informal Telecon - Decisions](#)

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[11 June 2020 - Extraordinary Meeting - Minutes \(Virtual - via Zoom\)](#)

[Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording](#)

[Monitoring the Delivery of the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner's Response to the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

[22 July 2020 - AGM - Minutes \(Virtual via Zoom\)](#)

[Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording](#)

[Cambridgeshire's Police & Crime Panel - Annual Report 2019/20](#)

This report communicates to members of the public, partners, and other authorities the details of the Panel's activities across the year and what the Panel has achieved and carried out throughout the year.

[30 September 2020 - Minutes \(Virtual via Zoom\)](#)

[Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording](#)

[Panel's Report - Annual Report](#)



[Acting Commissioner's Response](#)
[Acting Commissioner's Response to Recommendations](#)

Having reviewed the Annual Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner the Panel AGREED to ENDORSE the Annual Report for 2019/20 and *made the following recommendations:*

1. Acting Commissioner to report back on how many readers have read/downloaded the Annual Report.
2. Recommendations for the Annual Report:
 - *On all graphics - Ensure legibility and accessibility is not overridden by the graphic design*
 - *Ensure compatible with web readers and assisted technology*
 - *Contents Page - Re-design contents page for improved legibility and accessibility*
 - *Foreword - Include by-line as to who is featured in the picture*
 - *Page 2: Does not include: elected by community, is the voice of the community and is answerable to the community*
 - *Page 4: Re-design infographic for improved legibility and accessibility*
 - *Page 5: Mention that precept has been raised to maximum level year on year because of limited government funding*
 - *Page 6: Footnote missing from grant spending. Would be more helpful to show start-of-year budget, funding received and spending figures/bars in way that facilitates visual of comparison*
 - *Page 7: Re-design for accuracy and clarity. Subtotals should not be shown as separate segments. Show FTE, not employee, figures (for part-time and collaborated staff). Would be useful to annual additions to officer and admin staff counts. Panel would like to review amended version before publication.*
 - *Page 8: Suggest adding: cycle thefts (if these are a considerable proportion across the county) and successful prosecutions.*
 - *Page 9–10: Show absolute numbers and percentages in all cases for consistency. Clarify categorisation (e.g., that drug offences fall within 'Other Crimes Against Society'). Include mention of fraud and cybercrime. Start intro with "Although" rather than "With." Expand 'ONS.'*
 - *Page 10: Include dropped calls, online reports, and time to completion of report [person who first picks up a call is typically not an officer ready to record an incident]*
 - *Page 11: Caption photo (Head of Victims & Witness Hub)*
 - *Page 12: Worth highlighting amazing work of 3 mental health nurses. Define 'County Lines.' Remove (here and elsewhere) superfluous text, such as paragraph beginning "Operators responding to both" not needed*
 - *Page 13: Highlight Modern Day Slavery to be highlighted. Expand on "73% of 246": what further support was provided to the 27% who reported that they were not coping better? Clarify why 112 of 170 victims did not report a crime to the police but self-referred.*
 - *As a general observation, reporting of grants should be linked to the positive outcomes achieved, and how these are monitored.*
 - *Page 14: Over the last 12 months 77.2% of victims of crimes were at least satisfied; what were the other levels?*
 - *Page 18: Explain what "out of court disposals" are, what role Peterborough's Outside Links Service has, what positive outcome(s) it has achieved, and how this is assessed.*
 - *Page 19: What has the £400k of funding from the government's Early Intervention Youth Fund been spent on and what the outcomes have been? What are the team of specialists and what are they doing?*



- *Page 22: Maybe use the title page picture to depict Stop Scams and dated due to covid19 and social distancing (picture shows people stood next to one another).*
- *Page 23: Mention work on raising awareness of scams. Highlight GoodSam.*
- *Page 25: More detail on Ethics Panel, and how members of the public get to be involved. Reference to more info on Think Communities more info should be p31*
- *Contact us page: Correct typo in web address and omit 'https:/' from other URLs*
- 3. Report to next meeting: How will the Acting Commissioner be engaging proactively and widely with the public over the next six months?
- 4. Future report: Monitoring outcomes and effectiveness of grant funding, in particular the £400k of funding from the government's Early Intervention Youth Fund.
- 5. Future Report: How effective does the Acting Commissioner feel the Prison Education and Employment Strategy 2018 has been, and will be in future years in which unemployment rates may exceed 10%?

[2 December 2020 - Minutes \(Virtual via Zoom\)
Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording
Panel's Decisions](#)

The Panel AGREED to Note the Acting Commissioner's Response to Questions from the Panel report and made the following recommendations:

- The Acting Police and Crime Commissioner to write to all the Community Safety Partnerships asking if they have any further questions, they wish to put to the Chief Constable at the extra-ordinary BCB meeting on the 8th of December regarding the reduction of PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers).
- Given the public interest in the extra-ordinary BCB meeting scheduled on 8th December; that the agenda be published at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

A Road Policing Paper to be brought to a future meeting

The Panel AGREED to NOTE the Early Intervention Youth Fund – Outcome Monitoring report and to provide a written response to the following:

- What was the reason for those being rejected?
- Why split was 90% and 10% female?
- How accurate is the feedback?
- How can this work be expanded?

[23rd – 25th November 2020 - Annual Police, Fire and Crime Panels
Conference](#)

The Conference was held virtually over three days and covered key national issues relevant to Police, Fire and Crime Panels such as:

- Policing 2020 - which covered the Police Force's response during the COVID19 pandemic.
- National Strategic Review of Policing being undertaken by the Police Foundation.
- Women in the criminal justice system.
- Tackling human trafficking and modern slavery.
- Working together: policing and mental health.
- Effective scrutiny (of Police, (Fire) and Crime Commissioners).



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And keynote speakers included:

- Greater Manchester Combined Authority Mayor and PCC, Andy Burnham
- <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/police-and-fire/>
- Frances Cook, Chief Executive, Howard League for Penal Reform – <https://howardleague.org/>
- Unseen - <https://www.unseenuk.org/>
- Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney QPM, MA, Hampshire Police Service
- Chief Fire officer Becci Bryant QFSM, MBA, MIFireE HonDPP, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service

[3 February 2021 - Minutes \(Virtual via Zoom\) – Commissioner’s Budget Precept Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording Panel’s Recommendations - Precept](#)

In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and following consideration of the information submitted to it, the Panel AGREED to SUPPORT the precept proposed by the Acting Commissioner. The Panel considered that the proposed precept was acceptable and necessary for the continued provision of effective and efficient policing across the area covered by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

[Acting Commissioner’s Response – Precept](#)

[Acting Commissioner’s Response - Actions](#)

[10 March 2021 – Confirmation Hearing - Chief Executive Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording](#)

[Panel's Report - Decision & Acting Commissioner's Response](#)

Due to the previous Chief Executive, Dorothy Gregson, having been seconded to Public Health at the start of the pandemic and then having taken on a permanent role; there was a need to fill a vacancy within the OPCC. Jim Haylett, who was successful in obtaining this position had been one of the two applicants for this role and had stepped into the role of acting Chief Executive when Dorothy had left for her secondment at Public Health. The Panel recommended that Jim Haylett be accepted for the position.

[24 March 2021](#)

[Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording](#)

[Panel's Decisions/Actions](#)

[Non-Crime Related Demand on Policing](#) - The Panel AGREED to NOTE the report and made the following recommendations:

- Re-request the breakdown of demand of incidents again, but with hoax/abandoned calls split, sexual harassment identified, and any errors corrected.
- Review how the information is presented to the public, particularly, the term ‘non-crime related demand’ to one less misleading.
- Explore with the constabulary how referrals to other agencies could be recorded and reported
- Explore with the constabulary how police time spent on non-police matters (e.g., covering for another agency) could be quantified and reported



Roads Policing – The Panel AGREED to NOTE the report and made the following recommendation:

- Receive regular updates/progress on Vision Zero and how the Commissioner is monitoring performance.

Eastern Network Regional Meetings

Regionally, the Panel's Vice-Chair and Support Officer are active members of the Eastern Police, Fire and Crime Panels Network. The Network is facilitated by Frontline Consulting, which runs the Annual National Police, Fire and Crime Panel Conference, and provides support to Police, Fire and Crime Panels across the UK. The Network met virtually in September 2020 and March 2021 and is made up of Panel Members and Support Officers who share information around good practice, support, and scrutiny for the Commissioner, learning and development, the use of the Grant from the Home Office, innovation, work programming and future plans etc.

National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels

A National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels has been established as a national 'voice' for Police and Crime Panels. It is led by Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel and the Local Government Association (LGA). The Association has met virtually during 2020-21 and continues to share information and documentation via e-mail. It is hoped the National Association will complement the work of the National Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and enable information to be shared to jointly influence and deliver the absolute best policing services for our communities. The Association will also be able to collectively assist the Home Office in their work with Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

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 best it can be.

Home Office - Fire Reform - the biggest challenge facing the Panel in 2021-22 is the Home Office consultation on Fire and Rescue Service reform. Legislation already allows for Police and Crime Commissioners to take on responsibility for fire and rescue where consultation has been undertaken. Some areas have a Mayoral model such as Greater Manchester and, following the elections in 2021 West Yorkshire.

As part of a review of the role of Police and Crime Commissioners undertaken by the Home Office, there was staunch support for the Government's ambition to increase the accountability of fire and rescue services by having a directly elected official taking on responsibility for the governance of the service(s) to strengthen and simplify provisions across England.



As a result, the Home office will consult publicly in the summer on whether to mandate the transfer of fire and rescue authority functions to Police and Crime Commissioners in England. This will form part of a forthcoming Fire Reform White Paper. The review findings also confirmed the Government's desire to see more combined authority Mayors with responsibility for both PCC and fire and rescue authority functions, and there will be a further White Paper on Devolution and Local Recovery which will set out the longer-term aim for achieving this. There are currently no timescales for the White Paper.

Thanks - Thanks are given to all Panel Members for their contributions over the past year.

6. THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AND THE PUBLIC

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

and this is where you can find copies of the agenda papers, minutes, and decisions 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.

All Meetings since March 2000 can now be found on Peterborough City Council's YouTube page [here](#).

7. THE YEAR AHEAD 2020/21

Panel Members and substitutes throughout 2020/21:

Edward Leigh
Claire George
Councillor Alex Collis
Councillor Ansar Ali
Council Alan Sharp
Councillor Claire Daunton
Councillor Steve Tierney
Councillor Anna Bradnam
Councillor Simon Bywater
Councillor Andrew Lynn
Councillor Christian Hogg
Councillor Stephen Ferguson
Councillor Scott Warren

Councillor David Connor



Councillor Sarah Baigent
Councillor Lynne Ayres
Councillor Ed Murphy
Councillor Julia Huffer
Councillor Fiona Whelan
Councillor Hamish Masson
Councillor Graham Wilson
Councillor Tom Sanderson
Councillor Chris Wiggin

Previous Police and Crime Panel Members who left in 2020/21

Councillor Mike Shellens
Councillor Derek Giles
Councillor Susan Wallwork
Councillor Lucy Nethsingha
Councillor Hazel Smith

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.

The Panel agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to review how effectively and efficiently it carries out its functions, and whether there was scope to explore improvements which could be embedded into the way it operated. It decided to set up the review to investigate how it might develop good practice that leads to generating challenging and constructive scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

CfGS (Centre of Governance and Scrutiny) was approached to conduct the review, to contribute an external perspective and independent authority to the process whilst providing additional help with any subsequent changes necessary.

CfGS undertook evidence gathering through conversations with Members of the Panel and Officers supporting the Panel in late January and early February 2021, observed Panel meetings online, and reviewed key documents.

A training day is now proposed led by CfGS and their findings, focusing on the outcomes and needs of the Panel. The proposal is also to include a Protocol for the Panel and a work programming session led by CfGS to ensure the Panel Members are focussed on statutory and key areas of the Commissioner's responsibility.

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 is important the Panel are aware of the issues they are discussing. Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel will continue its commitment to support, and to scrutinise the decisions of the PCC 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 (Association of Police and Crime Commissioners) 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.

8. 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 Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire is Darryl Preston.



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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