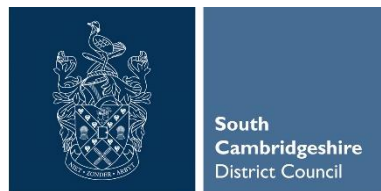
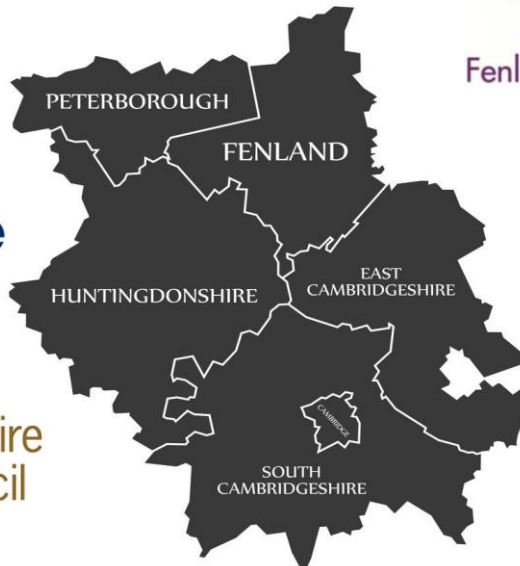


Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel



Scrutinising and Supporting the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



FOREWORD

Welcome to the **NINTH ANNUAL REPORT** of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel covering the municipal year 2021–22.

Police and Crime Panels were established by central government in November 2012. This report covers yet another challenging year for the Panel, which has worked hard to fulfil its statutory responsibilities and develop its role to scrutinise and support the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The current Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is Darryl Preston, who was elected to serve in this role in May 2021.



[Darryl Preston - Commissioner](#)

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, appointed by the Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2022, is John Peach.

The Panel is made up of eleven councillors from across the seven Local Authorities – Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, together with two co-opted independent members.

In 2021/22, the Chair was co-opted independent member Edward Leigh and the Vice Chair Councillor Alan Sharp, from East Cambridgeshire District Council.



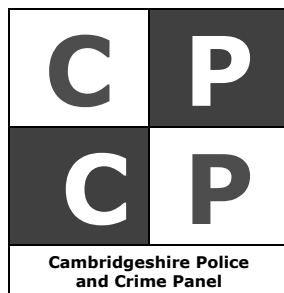
[Edward Leigh – Chair](#)



[Alan Sharp – Vice-Chair](#)



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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.

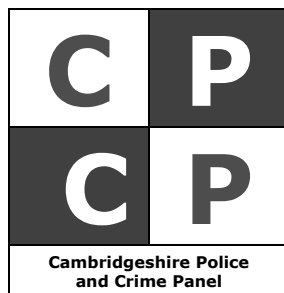
2. PANEL MEMBERSHIP

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 2021-22, Panel members were:

Peterborough City Council:	Councillor Scott Warren (Conservative) Councillor Christian Hogg (Lib Dem) Councillor Ansar Ali (Labour)
Cambridgeshire County Council:	Councillor Anna Bradnam (Lib Dem) Councillor Steve Tierney (Conservative) Councillor Stephen Ferguson (Independent)
Huntingdonshire District Council:	Councillor Simon Bywater (Conservative)
South Cambridgeshire DC:	Councillor Claire Daunton (Lib Dem)
Fenland DC:	Councillor Andrew Lynn (Conservative)
East Cambridgeshire DC:	Councillor Alan Sharp (Vice Chair) (Conservative)
Cambridge City Council:	Alex Collis (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	Clerk/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.

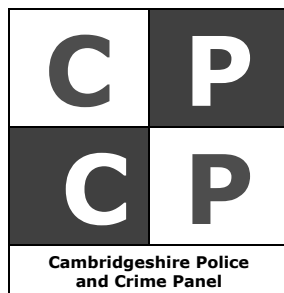
In addition to the above, the Panel can engage in further scrutiny reviews on any topic relevant to its role. It submits reports and make recommendations to the Commissioner, and it can carry out investigations as it sees fit into the Commissioner's decisions and delivery of his or her duties.

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 and can be viewed live, 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 THE PANEL'S ACTIVITY IN 2021/22

The Panel's membership underwent a slight change at the beginning of the year, with three new Panel members and several new substitutes.

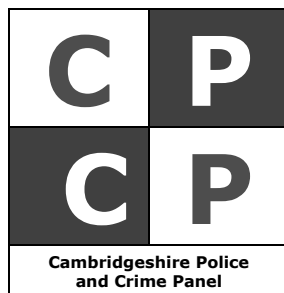
Since its establishment, the Panel has often seen a notable change in its membership year on year. The stability provided by the pandemic helped the Panel build on its knowledge and collective scrutiny and support of the Police and Crime Commissioner, which has - in turn - improved governance and decision-making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

Panel Members have regularly expressed the view that a more stable and committed 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.

During 2021-22 the Panel met physically on six occasions to scrutinise several key areas of the Commissioner's work. These included:

- Understanding what the impact of COVID had on Policing in Cambridgeshire
- Reviewing the Commissioner's budgetary monitoring outturn
- Reviewing the Commissioner's reporting procedures which sets out what the police are expected to achieve and how the Commissioner holds the police to account.
- Monitoring the overall performance of the Constabulary, including against the priorities set out in the Plan alongside reports on other areas of business that deliver towards the objectives within the Plan.
- Understanding the Commissioner's approach to Commissioning and Grants.
- Understanding the Commissioner's approach to Communications and Engagement.
- 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](#). Copies of the agenda and minutes are available to view [here](#).



[21 July 2021 - Annual General Meeting - Minutes](#)

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

[Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Panel - Annual Report 2020/21](#) 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. The Panel endorsed the report.

[Panel's letter to Kit Malthouse MP - Minister of State](#)

[Kit Malthouse MP - Response](#)

[Panel's Decisions](#)

[Commissioner's Response](#)

[15 September 2021 - Minutes](#)

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

Panel's Decisions – This meeting focused on the Budgetary Monitoring Outturn 2020/21 for the Constabulary and the OPCC (Office of Police and Crime Commissioner). After much discussion, the Panel noted the report.

[Commissioner's Response](#)

[2nd November 2022 - Annual Police, Fire and Crime Panels Conference](#)



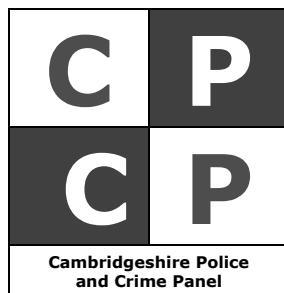
The Panel was represented by three Panel members who found it extremely interesting and great for networking with other panel members from across the county.

The Conference covered key national issues relevant to Police, Fire and Crime Panels such as:

- Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Crimestoppers
- Scrutinising the Commissioner/Performance Frameworks
- Funding and Future Direction
- Complaints Handling

And keynote speakers included:

- Christine Goldstraw OBE JP DL, Independent Member and Chair of the Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Panel
- Dr Rick Muir, Director of Police Foundation
- Paul Grady, Grant Thornton's Director, and Head of Police
- Jonathan Evison, Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner



[8 November 2021 - Extrordinary - Proposed Appointment of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner - Confirmation Hearing](#)
[Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording](#)
[Panel's Recommendation - Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner](#)
Commissioner's Response

[15 November 2021 - Minutes](#)
[Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording](#)
[Panel's Decision - Police and Crime Plan](#)

The Panel AGREED to APPROVE the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.

The Panel recommended clarification of the wording of the following points in the Plan:

- *P15 "I will always support the police when they act lawfully." This needs nuance to acknowledge there is a grey area in the interpretation of the law and discretion in its application, with respect to the proportionality of police actions and the public's perception of those actions (e.g., stop & search, management of protests and out-of-court disposals).*
- *"When standards fall short of expectations" on page 15 of the Plan should also include that the Commissioner would oversee changes that would assure that standards would not fall below expectations in the future.*
- *P34 "The capital budget is usually for spending in relation to the purchase, construction, or improvement of assets such as buildings. It is a legal requirement to set a balanced budget, so that spending cannot be more than income." The two parts of the paragraph appear contradictory, since capital spending does not have to balance within a financial year, unlike revenue spending.*

The Commissioner agreed to provide the Panel with the following information:

- *Current court times*

[Commissioner's Response](#)

[2 February 2022 - Minutes](#)
[Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording](#)
[Panel's Recommendation - Precept](#)

In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and following consideration of the information submitted to it, the Panel AGREED NOT to exercise its veto power over the precept proposed by the 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.

[Commissioner's Response](#)

23 March 2022 – minutes
[Police and Crime Panel - YouTube Recording](#)
Panel's Decision
Commissioner's Response



Eastern Network Regional Meetings



Regionally, the Panel's Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Support Officers 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 October 2021 and March 2022 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. This has led to a good network of support officers who have come to rely on one another when in difficult and unusual circumstances, as the support officer role of the Panel can tend to be an "isolated" role.

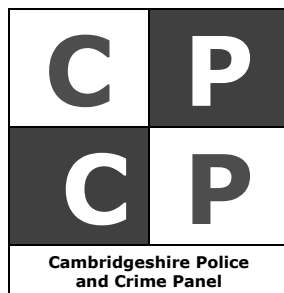
National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels



Cambridgeshire Police and Crime are members of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels. This Association was 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 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.



Task and Finish Group - The Panel agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to review how effectively and efficiently it carried 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 would lead to generating challenging and constructive scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

CfGS (Centre of Governance and Scrutiny) were 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 session took place on 27 September 2021 led by the Task and Finish Group, the OPCC (Office of Police and Crime Commissioner) and the CfGS, which focused on the outcomes and needs of the Panel. The session was extremely useful and built a good relationship between Panel members and the OPCC. Discussions took place regarding work programming with items being finalised and agreed. Including the OPCC in the session ensured that the Panel remained focussed on statutory and key areas of the Commissioner's responsibility, whilst agreeing briefing sessions to take place, for all Members five weeks before all meetings to enable questions to be asked, in order that reports can be tailored to the specific requirements of the members. The event was so successful, that it will now be repeated yearly in hope that the same results can be achieved.

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

6. THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AND THE PUBLIC

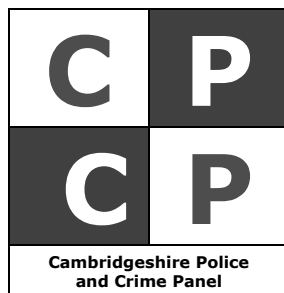
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel has a website here
<https://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=543>

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 2021/22:

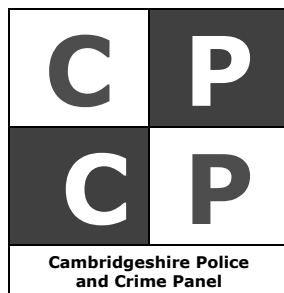
Edward Leigh	Councillor David Connor
Claire George	Councillor Sarah Baigent
Councillor Alex Collis	Councillor Lynne Ayres
Councillor Ansar Ali	Councillor Ed Murphy
Council Alan Sharp	Councillor Julia Huffer
Councillor Claire Daunton	Councillor Fiona Whelan
Councillor Steve Tierney	Councillor Hamish Masson
Councillor Anna Bradnam	Councillor Graham Wilson
Councillor Simon Bywater	Councillor Tom Sanderson
Councillor Andrew Lynn	Councillor Chris Wiggin
Councillor Christian Hogg	
Councillor Stephen Ferguson	
Councillor Scott Warren	

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 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 PCC's Annual Report.
- Hold the PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner) 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 PCC and Chief Constable recruit, retain and progress a workforce which reflects the communities it serves.
- Support the PCC 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 Clerk

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 & Crime Commissioner can be contacted via his office:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Cambridgeshire Police Headquarters
Hinchingsbrooke Park
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE29 6NP

Telephone: (0300) 333 3456

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

Website: www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk