



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL  
HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2024 IN THE CIVIC SUITE, HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Members Present:** Claire George (Co-opted, Independent Member) (Chair)); and Councillors Bradnam, Gowing, Hogg (substituting for Councillor Barkham), Jones (Vice-Chair), Leeming and Baiju Thittala Varkey.

**Officers Present:**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Rachel Edwards | Head of Constitutional Services, Peterborough City Council            |
| Colin Sweeney  | Interim Senior Democratic Services Officer, Peterborough City Council |

**Others Present:**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Darryl Preston  | Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner                                       |
| Jim Haylett     | Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, OPCC (Office of Police Crime Commissioner) |
| Nicky Edwards   | Director of Commissioning, OPCC  |
| John Peach      | Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner   |
| Philip Trussell | Chief Finance Officer, OPCC  |

**35. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barkham (with Councillor Hogg substituting), Beuttell, Ferguson and Wallwork.

**36. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

**37. Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 November 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2023 were agreed as an accurate record, subject to references to "Mr Fenton" being amended to read "Mr Fulton" where these appeared under Minute No.29 (Public Questions and Statements).

**38. Review Actions and Recommendations from the Previous Meeting**

There were no updates.

**39. Public Questions/Statements**

There were no public questions or statements received.

#### 40. Precept Report 2024/2025

The Panel considered a report, which notified it of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (the "Commissioner") proposed Net Budget Requirement (NBR) and precept for 2024/25 and to enable the Panel to review the proposed precept.

It was reported that under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the "Act") it was the Commissioner's responsibility to decide the budget, to allocate assets and funds to the Chief Constable, and to set the precept for the force area. It was also for the Chief Constable to have day to day responsibility for financial management of Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the "Constabulary") and to decide on the configuration and organisation of policing resources.

It was further reported that the Panel had to be notified of the precept which the Commissioner was proposing to issue for the financial year, by 1 February, following which, the Panel then had to review the proposed precept notified to it by 8 February, and produce a report to include a recommendation.

The Commissioner provided the introduction and background to the report and the rationale behind the request to seek an increase in the Police Precept for 2024/2025.

He said that Cambridgeshire was one of the five lowest funded Constabularies in the country and that a new formula for funding was being produced and would be published for consultation in due course. He then deferred to the Chief Constable to provide the detail behind the proposed increase.

The Chief Constable said that the proposal would enhance service provision in respect of the following:

##### a) Crime

The Chief Constable said that the Government set baseline figures in respect of reduction in crime-related incidents and that Cambridgeshire had recognised significant successes, which included:

- i) 25% reduction in neighbourhood crime
- ii) From 26% to 40% reduction in burglaries and thefts

He said that whilst crime overall had increased nationally, Cambridgeshire had remained relatively static but had welcomed the positive reductions in crimes.

##### b) Demand

The Chief Constable said that demand had increased, with the Constabulary having received 171,000 999 calls over the last year, as opposed to 150,000 the previous year.

##### c) People

The Chief Constable said that a significant amount of funding and resources was invested in Police Officers and staff, and he mentioned the Constabulary's Uplift Programme.

He said that 40 to 49 officers had been over target, which had consequences on increased budget constraints and pressures. He highlighted the five intake lines within policing for people to join.

d) Operational Success

The Chief Constable spoke on “Operation Tsunami”, whereby 44 arrests had been made, 28 of which had been formally charged and £250k worth of illegal drugs had been seized. He also spoke on the Constabulary’s continued stance against violence against women and girls.

Members debated the matter, during which, the following points and questions were raised:

- The need to ensure that the cost of providing extra police officers was money well spent.
  - Pathways into policing (e.g. academic).
  - Reasons for leaving, such as personal circumstances and frontline supervision.
  - Continuous Professional Development (CPD) units established.
  - What was the Constabulary doing regarding retention?

In response, it was reported that this whilst retention figures within the Constabulary were low (particularly amongst younger officers), this was part of a wider package, and that the Constabulary was looking at keeping the right people in the right jobs.

- Whether the reduction in staffing levels would mean trained officers carrying out the roles of civilian officers.

In response, it was reported that the Constabulary did not want police officers undertaking the roles of civilian posts.

- Operational support and firing range and whether options with the military to use their facilities, had been explored.

In response, The Commissioner confirmed that the military had been consulted and that the firing range was an operational requirement.

- Does the Commissioner regularly review staffing office requirements?

In response, the Commissioner confirmed that he did and that there were good officers in post that supported partners.

- Was there anything the Commissioner could do to bring in further funding?

In response, the Commissioner said that income generation was both difficult and divisive.

- Safer Peterborough Partnership and several small pots of funding for community groups – was there anything from the grants that the Commissioner could bid for further funding.
- Recognition of the Commissioner’s work and projects, particularly dealing with domestic abuse and violence against women.

In response, the Commissioner said he was passionate about these areas, and he also thanked his team and office for their hard work.

- Crimes that related to highway offences, bike thefts, shoplifting etc. and whether the Commissioner had any funding to support these smaller areas and detainees in police stations, collected from Kings Lynn, Huntingdon and then to Cambridge (significant costs – was there financial support to collect from each station or was this a problem area for funding?)

In response, the Commissioner said he was looking at a balanced budget. He said that whilst bike crime had been reduced, this could not be about policing alone. He added that a task group had been set up with partners.

The Chief Constable said that the movement of detainee's was not a police job and was undertaken by a private company and therefore did not waste police time.

- No mention of Kings Lynn custody suite.

In response, the Commissioner said it was not the Constabulary's estate but that it paid for a service.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed policing precept element of the Council Tax precept for 2024/25, be agreed, the effect of which being that the proposed Council Tax was an increase of 25p per week, which brought the policing element of Council Tax (Band D equivalent) to £285.48 (an increase of £12.96 per year, compared to 2023/24).

#### 41. Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan

| DATES   | ITEMS   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>(Wednesday)</b><br/> <b>13 MARCH 2024</b><br/> <b>1:30pm</b><br/> <b>Reception Room</b><br/> <b>Town Hall, Peterborough</b></p> | <p><b>Review Actions &amp; Recommendations from the previous meeting</b><br/> <b>Public Questions</b><br/> <b>Commissioner's Annual Report</b><br/> <b>Complaint Guidance</b><br/> <b>Meeting Dates and Agenda Plan</b></p> |

The meeting began at 1:30pm and ended at 3:26 pm

CHAIR