

Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

Thursday 11 July 2013

PRESENT:

Councillor Croad, in the Chair.

Councillor Rule, Vice-Chair.

Councillors Barker, Boyd, Duncan, Dyer, Excell, Hare-Scott, James, Penberthy, Saltern, Sanders, Sutton, Williams and Wright (substitute for Councillor Diviani).

Independent Member: Yvonne Atkinson.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Geoff Brown and Diviani and Mike Firbank (Independent Member).

Also in attendance: Pete Aley, Head of Safer Communities, Sarah Hopkins, Community Safety Partnership Manager, Lynn Clark, Police and Crime Panel Co-ordinator, Katey Johns, Democratic Support Officer, Tony Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner, Sue Howl, OPCC Chief Executive, and Duncan Walton, OPCC Treasurer.

The meeting started at 1.15 pm and finished at 4 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

Agreed that Councillor Croad is appointed Chair of the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

Agreed that Councillor Rule is appointed Vice-Chair of the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel.

3. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed all newly appointed members to their first meeting of the panel and introduced Tony Hogg, Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), who was in attendance for agenda item numbers seven, eight and nine, along with his Chief Executive, Sue Howl, and Treasurer, Duncan Walton.

4. **MINUTES**

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2013 subject to an amendment to reflect the submission of apologies from Councillor Sanders.

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations made by members in respect of the items under consideration.

6. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

7. **REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER IN RESPECT OF ANY NON-CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

Prior to consideration of the report, the Chair reminded members that at the last meeting of the panel it had been agreed that –

- (a) the Chief Executive of the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner would receive, record and categorise complaints and be responsible for the informal resolution of complaints;
- (b) a summary document about complaints received and resolved would be presented at each panel meeting.

The OPCC Chief Executive reported that during the period 9 April to 25 June 2013 one complaint had been received which had not been upheld.

Agreed that in future reports the matrix at Appendix A would include a recommendation column detailing the proposed method for dealing with each complaint for the panel's consideration.

8. **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) presented his Annual Report, as required under Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The report –

- provided a summary of how the PCC had carried out his statutory duties to date, following his election in November 2012;
- detailed progress made in meeting the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan;
- included an update on other work-related activities demonstrating how the PCC intended to 'do better' and 'do more';
- outlined budget provision, spending plans and the challenges ahead for the next three years.

Having considered the report and heard from the PCC, the Chair invited questions from panel members and discussion took place on a number of issues, including –

- low detection rates, particularly in respect of sexual offences;
- how the budget had been spent and whether or not any of it was ring fenced;
- the PCC's use of consultants;
- problems with the 101 non-emergency contact number;
- recent press coverage relating to Serco and G4S contracts;
- details of the PCC's performance framework;
- use of volunteers;

- time taken to re-open roads following RTAs where there has been a fatality;
- management of the new probation service;
- the PCC' commissioning and governance arrangements;
- the PCC's proposals in respect of the Stage 2 transfer scheme.

With regard to the above discussion points, the following actions were agreed -

- (1) a formal public response in respect of detection rates will be sought from the Chief Constable at the PCC's next performance board meeting;
- (2) concerns over problems encountered with the 101 number will be raised with the Chief Constable and a response reported back to the panel;
- (3) a copy the PCC's performance framework will be made available to panel members;
- (4) the Chair, working with officers and the PCC, will lobby government with concerns about Stage 2 of the staff transfer scheme and seeking assurances that by transferring responsibility for employment of staff to the Chief Constable, the PCC will not lose overall control of those staff or the budget.

(A copy of the presentation notes and a webcast of the entire meeting can be found on the council's website: <http://plymouth.gov.uk/modgov> and <http://www.plymouth.public-i.tv>).

9. **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AND DECISIONS**

The panel noted the regular report of the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the activities and decisions he had made to date, including details of forthcoming planned events.

10. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

Sarah Hopkins, Community Safety and Partnerships Manager, reminded members that a series of scrutiny topics had been agreed for inclusion in the panel's work programme at the last meeting. However, having agreed what the panel wanted to do it was now necessary to –

- establish an order of priority for each of the topics identified;
- consider what criteria would be used to determine future scrutiny topics;
- determine how the scrutiny would be undertaken.

The report referred to South Cambridgeshire's criteria for scrutiny and suggested that they be adopted as a set of principles upon which the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel could scrutinise the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

It was pointed out that as it was the intention of the Police and Crime Commissioner to publish his commissioning arrangements later this month, it would only be proactive scrutiny if he was willing to delay publication or publish in draft form pending the outcome of scrutiny. Otherwise scrutiny of this topic could only be reactive.

Agreed that the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel –

- (1) endorses the criteria and process for undertaking scrutiny, as set out in the report;

- (2) limits itself to one proactive and one reactive scrutiny topic per year;
- (3) undertakes its first topic for proactive scrutiny on 'How the Police and Crime Commissioner is making his commissioning decisions and what are his future commissioning intentions, subject to the PCC being prepared to publish his proposals as draft pending the outcome of the scrutiny process (for the purposes of the first scrutiny task group, membership to comprise the whole panel);
- (4) looks at 'the Police and Crime Commissioner's staff and consultancy appointments' as the first topic for reactive scrutiny;
- (5) makes performance against the Police and Crime Plan a standing item on future agendas to assist with identifying reactive scrutiny topics;
- (6) asks the Host Authority to develop guidance covering the role of Task Group Chairs and the involvement of witnesses and co-opted representatives in the scrutiny process.

11. **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Agreed the dates of future meetings as follows –

- Friday 11 October 2013
- Friday 20 December 2013
- 7 February 2014 (to consider precept)
- 21 February 2014 (provisional meeting should veto be used on 7 February)

All meetings to commence at 10.30 am.