

Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

Friday 6 February 2015

PRESENT:

Councillor Croad, in the Chair.

Councillors Barker, Batters, Brown, Eddowes, Eginton, Excell, Penberthy, Rennie, Saltern, Sutton, Watson and Wright.

Independent Members: Ms Yvonne Atkinson and Ms Sarah Rapson.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Rule and Sanders.

Also in attendance: Sarah Hopkins, Community Safety and Partnerships Manager, Jo Heather, Democracy and Governance Officer, Cornwall Council, Pete Aley, Head of Neighbourhoods and Communities, Katey Johns, Democratic Support Officer, Andrew White, OPCC Chief Executive, Duncan Walton, OPCC Treasurer, Lady Jan Stanhope, OPCC Senior Advisor and Karen Mellodew, OPCC Performance and Customer Services Manager.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 2.40 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.

41. **Welcome and Vote of Thanks**

The Chair welcomed Councillors Derris Watson and Clive Eginton to their first meeting as members of the Panel and asked that a vote of thanks be recorded in respect of former Panel member, Councillor Sue James, in recognition of her previous commitment and contribution to the Panel's work.

42. **MINUTES**

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2014, subject to the following amendment –

Minute 32, second bullet point to read ... “anyone living in south-east Cornwall ...” rather than Cornwall as a whole.

43. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declaration of interest was made in respect of items under consideration at the meeting –

Name	Minute No.	Reason	Interest
Councillor Excell	43 – 52	Executive Lead for Torbay's Safer Communities Partnership and Vice-Chairman	Personal

44. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

45. **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 'PROACTIVE SCRUTINY ITEM' ON "HOW IS THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS AND SHOWING LEADERSHIP IN PARTNERSHIP WORKING?"**

Further to the scrutiny review undertaken at its meeting on 19 December 2014, the Community Safety and Partnerships Manager submitted a draft report setting out the Panel's findings and recommendations, along with the Police and Crime Commissioner's response.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's refusal to accept the Panel's recommendation in relation to funding for CCTV was noted with concern.

In the absence of any further observations or comments, the Panel agreed –

(1)	the report as a final version in respect of its findings and recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner;
(2)	to review the Police and Crime Commissioner's response and progress and consider items for inclusion in its work programme.

46. **CONSIDERATION OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PLANS FOR REFRESHING THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2014-2017**

The Panel considered the Police and Crime Commissioner's plans for refreshing the Police and Crime Plan for 2015-16, as presented by the OPCC Chief Executive.

Members were informed that the Commissioner was currently seeking views from partners and the public on his proposals to make a number of adjustments to the Plan and that the consultation process would close on 16 February 2015. Attention was drawn to the report's highlights which included that –

- (a) the Commissioner intended to retain the six priority areas previously identified in his 2014–17 Plan, namely –
- cutting crime, keeping Devon and Cornwall safe
 - reducing the harm caused by alcohol related crime
 - efficiency and long-term financial security

- an improved criminal justice system
 - high quality, accessible help for victims of crime
 - greater public involvement in policing
- (b) in addition to the above, as a result of developments over the past 12 months, a number of areas of focus had emerged – four key ones being –
- child sexual exploitation
 - sexual offences
 - cybercrime
 - the strategic alliance with Dorset

In response to questions raised, Members heard further that –

- (c) with regard to data sharing, whilst working relations with partners were much better there was still work to be done, particularly in relation to the transfer of information between health and the Police – a pilot scheme which had been operating in Torbay had brought forward some excellent results;
- (d) domestic abuse was an important issue and something that the Police and Crime Commissioner took seriously. Although it was not one of the PCC's headline priorities, it was being taken forward in other areas of work such as safeguarding;
- (e) work was ongoing into resolving the problem of repeat offenders of domestic abuse and moving them away from persistent offending. A short report on progress with that would be provided to the Panel in due course but, in the meantime, a response would be made direct to Councillor Watson on her query regarding use of two different reporting systems;
- (f) with regard to the mistakes made at Rotherham, all partner agencies, as well as local authorities, had a responsibility to learn from what had happened and ensure that appropriate actions were taken;
- (g) the closure of Truro Police station had resulted in a substantial capital receipt. Staff were now located in a more appropriate building in Truro and feedback received to date had not indicated that the perception of police response or presence had been weakened;
- (h) there was little difference between the view of the PCC and local authorities on the value and role of CCTV. Whilst the PCC would continue to look at it and keep his mind open he would reiterate what had been said previously in that it was not solely his responsibility and therefore all Community Safety Partnerships should invest in it too. However, with £29m of savings to be identified from his budget, CCTV was not considered a priority;

- (i) the breathalyser pilot in Torbay had been very successful but it was acknowledged that Plymouth was a very different both in terms of geography and demographics. Any clubs not willing to engage in the scheme would become a magnet to those refused entry elsewhere and those would then become the target of police surveillance through covert operations;
- (j) there was evidence to demonstrate that alcohol was a significant contributory factor to violent crime - appearing to be as prevalent in domestic abuse as it was in incidents of violence outside of the home;
- (k) where funding had been provided by the OPCC to safeguarding boards across the force area there should be police representation. Any concerns over lack of engagement by the Police in multi-agency safeguarding work should be brought to the attention of the Chief Constable;
- (l) the neighbourhood definition is one of a more functional approach and within Devon and Cornwall Police there was currently a clear functional delineation between neighbourhood teams, crime investigation and response which operate as three separate units. The Chief Constable has asked for a review of this current arrangement to see whether such a clear delineation was required and, if so, where should neighbourhood policing sit if a more integrated policing approach was required. That report would be expected within the forthcoming months.

Agreed that -

(1)	the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel approve the Police and Crime Commissioner's plans for refreshing the Police and Crime Plan 2014-17, subject to the comments made above. These comments and any recommendations arising therefrom to be finalised by the Host Authority, in liaison with the Chair of the Police and Crime Panel, and sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner;
(2)	domestic abuse is given distinct and greater prominence and focus in the refresh of the Plan, given that it is one of the main priorities in the Peninsula Strategic Assessment;
(3)	the comments and recommendation outlined above are taken into account by the Police and Crime Commissioner before publication of the draft refresh of the plan by not later than 31 March 2015;
(4)	in future, the actual draft Plan is provided to the Panel, rather than a report of plans for refreshing it in order for the draft plan itself to be fully scrutinised in public.

47. **CONSIDERATION OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED LEVEL OF PRECEPT FOR 2015/16**

Having regard to discussion undertaken on the previous item (minute 46), the Police and Crime Panel considered the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal to increase the precept by 1.99% and the reasoning behind that proposal, as presented by the OPCC Chief Executive, OPCC Treasurer and Chief Constable. On behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Executive offered his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting in person.

In addition to the report, Members received a presentation which set out –

- the PCC's main financial priorities over the next four years, against a gap in funding of £29m over four years, with £9.8m of that remaining, as yet, unidentified beyond 2016/17
- the forecast for Government departmental expenditure and unprotected departmental reductions
- the PCC's assumptions for price increases
- the PCC's budget requirements for 2015/16 to 2018/19
- details of the grant settlement for 2015/16 and how the gap would be funded
- savings achieved to date and forecasted savings, including risk
- a potential loss of 792 staff up to 2018/19
- the impact of the Council Tax freeze grant
- underlying financial risks
- details of the PCC's revenue reserves
- the case for a 1.99% increase for 2015/16 and what that would mean to the Council Tax payer –
 - 6.4 pence per week (at Band D) - £3.31 per annum
 - 5.6 pence per week (at Band C) - £2.93 per annum
- precept comparisons with other regional forces such as Avon and Somerset

In response to questions raised, Members were advised further that –

- (a) an amended presentation with detail of the percentage saving against each item would be circulated to members after the meeting and that, when providing details of proposed significant future savings reports would include what each saving represents in percentage terms of the overall budget line;
- (b) vehicle licensing enforcement was still a major part of the policing role however the abolition of the tax disc had resulted in no significant impact in terms of cost;
- (c) a referendum had been considered and hadn't been ruled out for a future year, however, it had not been though appropriate for this year given that there was a strong and stable budget for 2015/16;
- (d) £792,000 of staff savings had to be achieved, however, information on where exactly staff cuts would fall was not currently available;

- (e) £1.2m had been confirmed from Government for counter-terrorism measures and there was ongoing discussion between the south-west region and central office to identify where any cuts would fall. However, the Chief Constable was not willing to lose any of his current firearms sites;
- (f) with regard to the PCC's estate management, proposals were currently being considered around income generation and a number of sites had been identified as having potential. However, due to sensitive commercial and legal reasons, no further information could be provided at this time;
- (g) with staffing reductions being called upon year on year, outsourcing had been explored and now amounted to 15% of the budget. A contract had just been signed with BT for the OPCC's ICT provision;
- (h) it was the intention of the OPCC to report back to the Panel with a detailed, longer-term, strategy on how the policing landscape would look in four years' time and how savings will be realised.

Having considered the evidence presented by the Chief Executive Officer for the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Constable and their support staff, the Police and Crime Panel –

(1)	<u>agreed</u> unanimously the proposal to increase the precept by 1.99% (15 members present out of 20).
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(The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.15 pm and reconvened at 1.52 pm).

(Councillor Excell was absent from this point for the remainder of the meeting).

The Chair welcomed everyone back to the meeting and took the opportunity to ask that the Panel's disappointment at the non-attendance of the Police and Crime Commissioner be formally recorded. He then asked Sarah Hopkins, Community Safety and Partnerships Manager to read out some of the possible recommendations which had arisen from the morning's discussions.

Subject to refinement of the exact wording of the recommendations after the meeting, having been moved on block by Councillor Saltern and seconded by Councillor Wright, it was agreed to -

(2)	<p>recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When providing details of proposed significant future savings, to include what each saving represents in percentage terms of the overall budget line. ○ Provide the Panel with a report which details options for giving primacy to non-staff savings as opposed to resorting to staff
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		<p>reductions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Undertake a review of procurement options to maximise on efficiencies and report back to the Panel upon completion. ○ With the Chief Constable, provide a report to the panel on the viability of introducing initiatives and options for the scrapping of untaxed/abandoned vehicles and the potential for income generation. ○ Provide a report to the Panel detailing options for maximising capital receipts, commercialisation and leasing options, joint initiatives with partners, as methods of income generation and maximising return on estates in revenue terms that will minimise reliance on the use of reserves and increase in police precept in the future. ○ Provide the Panel with a detailed report clarifying where staff reductions will be made as a matter of priority. ○ Lobby the Home Office against making cuts to the grant provided to Devon and Cornwall Police of £1.2M for tackling terrorism and allied matters in the South West. ○ Provide the Panel with a report of initial details and proposals for income generation in the autumn 2015. ○ Report to the Panel a detailed longer-term strategy of how the policing landscape will look in four years' time and how savings will be realised. ○ Provide the Panel with a more detailed report to enable them to scrutinise 'earmarked' reserves. This detail should be routinely provided as part of budget/precept-setting reports.
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48. **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Further to minute 37, the OPCC submitted an update on the performance measures set out in the Police and Crime Plan 2014-17 in a revised format. Highlights of the report included –

- (a) trends in sexual abuse continued to rise and a detailed understanding of what was driving this trend was needed before it could satisfactorily be assumed that this reflected an increased confidence to come forward among victims. In order to inform future debate on how much trends could be relied upon, the OPCC was engaging with third sector support agencies to seek their view on how effectively the police and their partners were supporting victims of sexual abuse;
- (b) a 'deep dive' exercise had been undertaken into domestic abuse and safeguarding, the results of which would shortly be placed on the PCC's website;
- (c) that within the 'areas for improvement' -
 - the long-term trend in victim-based crime continued to be down, particularly in regard to serious acquisitive crime and there was an emerging downward trend in shoplifting;

- Police officer establishment continued to meet the attainment required to maintain current good levels of performance, with officer numbers above 3,000;
- (d) that within the 'areas of significant challenge' violence without injury remained a particular challenge and the Chief Constable had been asked to report back with an action plan to the next Performance and Accountability Board.

Concern was raised over the 'red' rating given to the number of recorded hate crimes without having any further mention within the report. Whilst it was appreciated that there were differences across the force area, incidents of hate crime in Plymouth were rising and this ought to warrant a commentary or analysis.

Other comments/queries raised included –

- (e) whilst the revised format of the report was an improvement on previous submissions, it would be easier to understand if two additional columns were added to the table; one showing what the current measure was and the other showing the direction of travel;
- (f) that the bi-annual staff survey would capture whether staff were aware of how their performance on the street contributed to the PCC's strategic priorities.

The OPCC took on board the points raised and offered to revise the report further with a draft being put before the Chair for comment prior to submission to the next meeting.

Members noted the report.

49. **THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROGRESS REPORT ON COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS/PROPOSALS FOR VICTIMS SERVICES**

The OPCC Chief Executive reported that, as the Panel had received a report on the overall commissioning intentions document at the December meeting, he would focus his verbal update on Victim Services. Members were advised that –

- (a) in November 2013 the OPCC undertook a comprehensive needs assessment of victims in order to obtain a clearer picture of their needs and requirements;
- (b) as a result of that piece of work, a network of 57 service providers had now been established, comprising Victim Support and two consortiums which had links to a further set of charitable organisation, all of whom will provide support to victims;
- (c) a new victim care unit would be created comprising 10 full-time staff, victim care advocates as well as a number of specialists in services such as

mental health. From 1 April 2015 the unit would be open 365 days a year and operating an extended telephone service;

- (d) a needs assessment would be undertaken on every victim of crime and that information would be passed through to the victim care unit. It was anticipated that of the 80,000 victims in the force area each year the victim needs assessment would generate additional activity on approximately one third of those;
- (e) a process for dealing with victims of business-related crime was also being developed;
- (f) a further element of this work was that the victim care unit would also manage the process of direct liaison with restorative justice and the OPCC was confident that they would see an improvement in how that was managed as a result;
- (g) Devon and Cornwall Police had been fully engaged in the process and had undertaken an enormous amount of training to bring everyone up to date with the changes and tribute was paid to the Chief Constable for his support in the matter;
- (h) the service would be run at a cost of just under £2m, the majority of funding for which had come from central government;
- (i) a further, more detailed, report would be brought back to the Panel later in the year.

In the absence of any questions or comments being made in respect of this item, the verbal update was noted.

(Councillor Brown was absent for this item and for the remainder of the meeting).

50. **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL WORK PLAN FOR 2015/16**

The Chair suggested that members give consideration to one item of 'reactive' and one item of 'proactive' scrutiny for inclusion in the Panel's Work Plan for 2015/16. In the meantime, it was suggested that, in response to concerns raised at the last meeting, a 'reactive' scrutiny into establishing whether the drop-off in neighbourhood watch in Plymouth was reflected across Devon and Cornwall was undertaken at the next meeting in April.

Agreed –

(1)	the updated and proposed work plan;
(2)	that the Panel's next 'reactive' scrutiny topic is into the decline in neighbourhood watch and that this is scheduled for consideration at the next meeting in April 2015.

51. **HOME OFFICE GRANT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF POLICE AND CRIME PANELS**

The Chair invited Pete Aley, Head of Neighbourhoods and Communities, to provide an update in respect of the Home Office grant for administration of Police and Crime Panels. Members were advised that funding for 2015/16 had been confirmed, however, information on the amount of funding was still to be released.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Sarah Hopkins, Community Safety and Partnerships Manager, for her support to the Panel and the way meetings were organised and conducted.

Members noted the verbal update.

52. **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT**

The OPCC Chief Executive submitted the update report. As it had only been six weeks since the last update had been presented to the Panel no additional commentary was provided.

With regard to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Public Engagement programme, it was –

- (a) highlighted by Councillor Wright that Mr Hogg had attended two events which were not listed, namely the East Devon Crime Scrutiny Panel and a meeting with Exmouth Town Council at which he had been very well received;
- (b) reported that Mr Hogg would be able to attend the Bodmin Community Network Meeting on 9 February 2015;
- (c) requested that –
 - a link to the new OPCC website be circulated to the Panel to enable them to make comment on its development;
 - the Panel have sight of the Joint Strategic Delivery Board action plans.

The update report was noted.

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

The OPCC Chief Executive reported that one complaint had been received during the period 27 November 2014 and 20 January 2015. This complaint had been referred to the Chair of the Police and Crime Panel, Councillor Croad, and was currently awaiting comment.

54. **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 10 April 2015, with the meeting scheduled for 20 February no longer being required. The Democratic Support Officer to canvas members for dates for the 2015/16 municipal year.