

Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

Friday 20 December 2013

PRESENT:

Councillor Croad, in the Chair.

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

Independent Representative: Yvonne Atkinson.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Geoff Brown, Dyer, Rule and Sutton and Mike Firbank (Independent Representative).

Also in attendance: Sarah Hopkins, Community Safety Partnership Manager, Lynn Clark, Police and Crime Panel Coordinator, Katey Johns, Democratic Support Officer, Tony Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner, Andrew White, OPCC Interim Chief Executive, and Duncan Walton, OPCC Treasurer.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 2.55 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.

Welcome

The Chair welcomed Councillor Wright to his first meeting as a formal Panel Member, having replaced Councillor Diviani, and Andrew White, the Police and Crime Commissioner's recently appointed Interim Chief Executive.

21. **MINUTES**

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2013.

22. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were made in respect of items under consideration at the meeting –

Name	Minute No.	Reason	Interest
Councillor Excell	Minute No. 26 and 27	Executive Lead for Torbay's Safer Communities Partnership	Personal
Yvonne Atkinson	Minute No. 26	Trustee of Devon Rape Crisis	Personal

23. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

24. **SCRUTINY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S STAFF AND CONSULTANCY APPOINTMENTS, AND EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES**

In accordance with its agreed work programme, the Panel welcomed the Police and Crime Commissioner who, prior to commencement of the scrutiny process –

- made a brief statement on the departure of his former Chief Executive who had left to pursue new opportunities;
- announced that a joint project team would be created to explore how Devon and Cornwall and Dorset Police Forces could collaborate effectively across all areas of policing.

The Police and Crime Panel Co-ordinator first outlined the process to be followed for this item of reactive scrutiny, following which the Police and Crime Commissioner provided an overview of his report.

Issues raised by Members for the Commissioner's consideration and response included –

- the number of consultants which transferred directly from the former Police Authority;
- how many staff had been appointed directly by the Commissioner since and at what cost;
- the total number of staff now employed by the Commissioner and his total salary bill;
- the policy/procedures used by the Commissioner to recruit staff and consultants, including that of his new Chief Executive;
- how his commissioning intentions had been reflected in his staffing and office structures;
- details of how the Commissioning Board had been established, together with allowance entitlements;
- sight of the terms of reference and membership details for the Commissioner's various Boards;
- discrepancy between consultancy costs detailed in the report and the response provided as a result of a freedom of information request;
- whether the Police and Crime Commissioner represented value for money.

The Police and Crime Commissioner extended an invitation to the Panel to visit his offices and observe his team in action

Following lengthy consideration and questioning of the Police and Crime Commissioner on this matter, it was agreed that –

- (1) he would provide details concerning the Boards that sit under the

auspices of the Police and Crime Commissioner, including –

- how many Boards there are;
 - who sits on them;
 - how Board members are appointed;
 - terms of reference;
 - recruitment and selection process;
 - allowances entitlement of Board members;
 - how long the Boards sit;
 - a breakdown of how Board members are made up in terms of Protected Characteristics;
 - a forecast of where the Boards are going in terms of scrutiny;
- (2) he would provide the Panel with clarification / a breakdown of expenditure on use of consultants, particularly an explanation of the discrepancy between figures quoted in the report and those provided in the response to the freedom of information request;
- (3) further to (1) and (2) above, the Panel take the opportunity to consider the information presented to them and make recommendations in the form of a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner in respect of his staffing and consultancy appointments and expenses and allowances.

Note: A detailed report setting out the findings of this scrutiny review would be produced by the Police and Crime Panel Co-ordinator and circulated to panel members for their comment prior to submission of any recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner who would then have one month to respond. A copy of that report, together with the Police and Crime Commissioner's response, will be published on the Police and Crime Panel's website in due course.

25. **REPORT FROM THE OPCC IN RESPECT OF THE STAGE 2 TRANSFER**

The Police and Crime Commissioner updated the Panel on the Stage 2 Transfer and associated implications, outlining which staff and assets would be retained by him and which would transfer to the Chief Constable. Panel Members were advised that –

- (a) the final division of responsibilities and the development of new governance, scrutiny, public engagement and commissioning arrangements required different staff functions to those of the former Police Authority;
- (b) the Commissioner and the Chief Constable had been working closely together to develop a scheme to ensure as smooth a transition as possible;
- (c) this scheme had been submitted to the Policing Minister and subsequently to the Home Office for evaluation whom had given it in principle approval in a letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner

dated 6 December 2013.

The Panel noted the report with thanks and welcomed the Commissioner's intention to keep the Panel informed on future progress.

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

The Panel heard from the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding activities undertaken and decisions made to date, as well as details of forthcoming planned events. The Commissioner drew Members' attention to one of the more challenging aspects of his report, namely the 101 non-emergency enquiry service, and sought the Panel's assistance in gauging public perception.

Councillor Batters raised concerns with the 101 service and the fact that his call could only be progressed once he had classified it as a complaint, despite the fact that he was only calling to arrange a meeting with officers at his local police station.

Other issues raised by Members for the Commissioner's consideration and response included –

- maintaining the high level of support required for tackling domestic abuse given the ongoing budget cuts;
- how he was measuring the effectiveness of policing in terms of safeguarding vulnerable people from harm;
- responsibility for the Independent Custody Visitor team.

The Panel noted the report with thanks.

Agreed that the Police and Crime Commissioner will look into the concern raised by Councillor Batters relating to the classification applied to the 101 service.

27. **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Police and Crime Commissioner presented an update on his objectives and the Force performance against the four-year, high-level improvement targets, as set out in the Police and Crime Plan. He highlighted the following two issues of concern –

- an increase in reporting of incidents of domestic violence;
- the spike in crime in genera as a result of the influx of visitors to the region during the summer period.

The Commissioner also commented on his concerns over the supply of cheap alcohol and sought the Panel's support in lobbying MPs to tackle the supermarkets over this issue.

Members welcomed the report, which was noted, and requested information in respect of the following be included in a future report –

- detail of the needs analysis produced in respect of domestic violence;
- detail of the victim code.

28. **REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR RULE IN RESPECT OF HER ATTENDANCE AT THE COPACC CONFERENCE "PCCS AND PANELS: MAKING THE RELATIONSHIP CRITICAL, FRIENDLY AND EFFECTIVE" - ON 16 OCTOBER 2013, IN LONDON**

The Panel considered the report of the Vice-Chair following her attendance at the COPACC Conference in October 2013. In the absence of the Vice-Chair, the Chair offered his thanks to her and Jo Tellam, Cornwall's Overview and Scrutiny Officer, for producing the report.

Councillor Sanders had also attended the Conference and reported that one of the things that had struck him was the many different ways in which the offices of the Police and Crime Commissioner went about their role and their relationships with their Chief Constables. He also welcomed the networking opportunity that the event had provided, which had been invaluable.

The Panel noted the report and took the opportunity to accept the offer of the Police and Crime Commissioner to visit his offices and observe his team in action which had been extended under minute 24.

Agreed that the Police and Crime Panel Co-ordinator would liaise with Panel Members and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on a suitable date for a visit.

29. **REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (OPCC) IN RESPECT OF ANY NON-CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Interim Chief Executive reported that, during the period 25 September and 25 November 2013, four complaints had been received.

The Panel noted the report with thanks and agreed that the Police and Crime Commissioner will amend the complaints reporting table Appendix A to show that the 'outcome' is recorded and that it is duly recorded in any future reports.

30. **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The Panel noted that the next meeting would take place on 7 February 2014 when consideration would be given to the Police and Crime Commissioner's precept.

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