

Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

Friday 20 June 2014

PRESENT:

Councillor Croad, in the Chair.

Councillor Rule, Vice-Chair.

Councillors Hare-Scott, James, Rennie, Saltern, Sanders, Kate Taylor (substitute for Councillor Penberthy), Toms (substitute for Councillor Brown) and Wright.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Brown, Batters, Duncan, Eddowes, Inch, Penberthy and Sutton and Yvonne Atkinson (Independent Member).

Also in attendance: Sarah Hopkins, Community Safety Partnership Manager, Tony Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner, Andrew White, Chief Executive OPCC, Dr Karen Vincent, OPCC Performance Management and Customer Services Manager, and Katey Johns, Democratic Support Officer.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 1.30 pm.

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. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

Vote of Thanks and Welcome

The Chair took the opportunity to record a vote of thanks to former Panel members Nicky Williams, Tony Boyd and Mike Firbank and to welcome the newly appointed Panel members, Councillors Rennie and Inch.

4. MINUTES

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2014 and the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2014, subject to the inclusion of apologies from Councillor James.

5. **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	6 - 12	Executive Lead for Torbay's Safer Communities Partnership	Personal

6. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

7. **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S REPORT ON THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN DELIVERY MECHANISMS**

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced his report setting out how the Police and Crime Plan would be delivered. The report also explained the delivery mechanism that had been agreed with the Force, how progress would be tracked and published, and set out the approach adopted in the Plan to performance measures for 2014 – 2017.

Current areas of concern highlighted to the Panel included –

- alcohol and sex crimes;
- problems with the Force's archaic computer system, although this was in the process of being renewed and would greatly improve data capture and sharing capabilities;
- funding cuts of £14m over 4 years combined with numerous challenges including –
 - having to send resources to other areas of the Country when required (e.g. the forthcoming NATO Conference, Northern Ireland etc.);
 - job evaluation;
 - legal challenge to forced retirement after 39 years' service

A lengthy debate followed the detailed presentation of this item during which a number of issues were raised by Panel Members and responded to as follows –

- (a) problems with the I01 system were being looked at and it had been noted in the Plan as an issue to address in the form of an extensive review. However, part of the problem was that many of the calls coming through were not of relevance to the Police or within their gift to address. Another area of concern was lack of information being shared with the public but this was often due to media and operational controls;
- (b) a new single data source system, UNIFY, would be coming on-line shortly and this would greatly improve the quality and consistency of the data captured, shared and presented by the Force. Members were invited to

visit the Offices of the Police and Crime Commissioner for a demonstration of the new system;

- (c) specific performance data relating to hate crime had not been included in the report however it would be one of the measures to come out of the new UNIFY system;
- (d) a significant amount of work was being undertaken to tackle alcohol-related crime and harm including –
 - engaging with retailers and other parts of the industry around the sale of 'super' strength ciders and beers e.g 'Stop the Strength' Campaign;
 - lobbying the Home Office to take greater steps to address the sale of cheap super strength alcohol;
 - development of pilot projects to work with young people around pre-loading as well as liaison and engagement with licensees;
- (e) members raising local issues should do so direct with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner outside of the Panel meeting;
- (f) Mutual Aid and the requirement to provide personnel in other areas when required was an area of concern. Clarification had been sought for a distinction to be drawn between genuine security issues so that when numbers were low a way could be found to politely say no.

The Panel noted the report.

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

The Panel received an update on the Police and Crime Commissioner's objectives as set out in the Police and Crime Plan to the end of the performance year 2013/14. The report advised that –

- (a) overall total crime had increased by 0.2 per cent compared to the 12 months to 31 March 2013;
- (b) it had been a particularly challenging year for the Force which had been stretched due to –
 - increased visitor numbers over the summer period;
 - severe storms and flooding during the winter months;
 - marked changes in criminal behaviour;
- (c) with regard to (b) above, three key improvements had been put in place to help address the situation namely, understanding crime, performance measurement and strategies for balancing demand and resources.

In response to a questions raised, Members heard that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner did undertake dip-sampling of customer complaints. However, complaints about the quality of policing should be referred to the Chief Constable and should the situation not be resolved to the complainant's satisfaction taken up with the IPCC.

9. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2014/15**

The Panel considered its work programme for 2014/15 and agreed that –

- (1) the next topic for 'reactive' scrutiny to be considered as part of the Panel meeting scheduled for 17 October 2014 is the Police and Crime Commissioner's joint announcement with the Chief Constable in respect of Devon and Cornwall Police Public Contact Strategy – Station Enquiry Offices Rationalisation;
- (2) the next topic for 'proactive' scrutiny to be considered as part of the Panel meeting scheduled for 19 December 2014 is 'How is the PCC strengthening relationships and showing leadership in partnership working'.

10. **RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY**

The Panel considered the report of the Community Safety Partnerships Manager outlining recruitment proposals for a new Independent Member following the resignation of Mike Firbank.

Agreed –

- (1) that a formal vote of thanks is recorded to Mike Firbank for his commitment and contribution to the Police and Crime Panel during his time in office;
- (2) the timeline for the recruitment process as set out in Appendix I to the report;
- (3) the advert attached at Appendix 2 to the report as being suitable for recruitment of the Independent Member to represent Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly;
- (4) members of the Selection Panel as Councillors Rule (Chair), Croad, James and Toms.

11. **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY REMEDY**

Under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Police and Crime Commissioner was responsible for determining a list of remedies available for taking restorative action in instances of low level crime and anti-social behaviour, thereby offering victims a far greater say in how offenders made amends. In May 2014 the Commissioner launched a consultation on how those arrangements should operate in Devon and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and, to date, over 1,000 responses had been received. Members heard that the closing date for the consultation was 30 June 2014, at which point the Commissioner would be discussing the various options with the Chief Constable and how the Community Remedy would be implemented across Devon and Cornwall.

The Panel noted the report.

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

The Police and Crime Commissioner submitted an update on his office activities over recent weeks. The Panel heard that following feedback, the format of the report had been changed to provide that a clearer delineation between issues and referencing the Police and Crime Plan priorities.

In response to a query about changes to victim support, Members were advised that, with effect from April 2015, the Police and Crime Commissioner would have responsibility for delivery of victim services. There were a significant number of groups who felt they would like to obtain support from alternative service providers and part of the project would be to identify who those suppliers could be and then develop a network and directory. Expressions of interest had been sought across Devon and Cornwall and, to date, a number had been received.

The panel noted the report.

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

The Panel noted that one complaint had been received against the Police and Crime Commissioner during the period 13 March to 6 June 2014. The PCC's Chief Executive reported that he had taken the decision not to record the complaint because the complaint referred to the alleged failure to allocate resources to a police investigation. The allocation of resources to an investigation is not something that the PCC has any control over and is at the discretion of the Chief Constable. The complaint against the Chief Constable was being progressed.

14. **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The dates of future panel meetings were confirmed as follows –

- 17 October 2014
- 19 December 2014
- 6 February 2015 (Precept)
- 20 February 2015 (only required if Precept veto'd)
- 10 April 2015 (Provisional)

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