

Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

Friday 3 February 2017

PRESENT:

Councillor Croad, in the Chair.

Councillor Batters, Vice Chair.

Councillors Barker, Mrs Bowyer (substitute for Councillor Downie), Brown, Hurley (substitute for Councillor Boundy), Martin, Mathews, Penberthy (substitute for Councillor Philippa Davey), Sutton, Toms, Watson and Wright.

Independent Members: Yvonne Atkinson and Sarah Wakfer.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Boundy, Philippa Davey, Downie, Excell, Moulson, Saltern and Squires.

Also in attendance: Alison Hernandez (Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner), Ross Jago (Senior Panel & Partnerships Adviser, Plymouth City Council), Shaun Sawyer (Chief Constable, Devon and Cornwall Police), Duncan Walton (OPCC Treasurer), Andrew White (OPCC Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer) and Lynn Young (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 10.38 am and finished at 1.32 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.

40. **Declarations of Interest**

The following declaration of interest was made in accordance with the code of conduct –

Name	Minute Number and Item	Reason	Interest
Councillor Mathews	44 - Consideration of the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed level of Precept for 2017-18	In receipt of a pension and a widower's pension from Devon and Cornwall Police	Personal

41. **Minutes**

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2016.

42. **Public Questions**

Three questions had been received from a member of the public. Mr Gareth Derrick attended the meeting to put his questions. Councillor Croad (Chair)

responded as follows (a copy of the responses were given to the questioner following this item) –

Question by Mr Gareth Derrick
<p>As a Panel you reviewed a draft Police and Crime Plan at your previous meeting on 12th December. At that meeting the Panel agreed that a further draft should be brought to today's meeting, that was to have addressed concerns raised by the Panel for their further consideration today. Yet without further open scrutiny by this Panel, and to the surprise of its Members, the Commissioner launched her Plan in the media on Thursday 26th January. Do Panel members consider that due process has been followed?</p>
Response by Councillor Croad (Chair)
<p>The Panel have undertaken their obligations in line with Section 28 of the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 Para. 3 (a)(b) having made recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner on a draft plan. The Commissioner is required to have due regard to those recommendations.</p> <p>With regard to the Police and Crime Plan the Panel is a statutory consultee and does not have powers to formally sign off the Plan.</p>
Question by Mr Gareth Derrick
<p>The Commissioner has often stated that she knows (through her public consultation) that PCSOs are highly valued by the public, operating as they do at the front-line of community relations. Are members of the Panel content that the Police and Crime Plan based around an as yet undefined Local Policing Promise but mirrored by a significant reduction by the Chief Constable of PCSO presence on the streets is robust in its ambition to reconnect Policing with our communities?</p>
Response by Councillor Croad (Chair)
<p>This is a matter for members of their Panel to consider during their scrutiny of the revised Police and Crime Plan and the finance report.</p>
Question by Mr Gareth Derrick
<p>At your last meeting, Councillor Saltern declared an interest (understood to be financial in nature but yet to be clarified) relating to consultancy services he provides to the Commissioner. Do the Panel consider it appropriate for a Member of this scrutiny Panel to have been engaged by the Commissioner in this way and /or for Councillor Saltern to continue as a Member?</p>
Response by Councillor Croad (Chair)
<p>All members are aware of the requirement of conformity with the Seven Principles of Public Life. One of these is the principle of integrity – that 'Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work.</p> <p>Councillor Saltern has declared a Personal Interest in relation to unpaid consultancy work undertaken for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p>

Order of business

With the permission of the Chair, the order of business was amended, as set out below in the minutes.

43. Police and Crime Plan

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Chief Constable presented the Police and Crime Plan for 2017-2020 for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly which sets out the strategic priorities for policing in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly for the next three and a half years.

The PCC published the Police and Crime Plan on 27 January 2017. This Plan had been developed jointly with the Chief Constable and had been informed following an extensive period of consultation with the public and partners.

The full Police and Crime Plan was submitted to the Police and Crime Panel on 9 December 2016, following the submission of a report in October 2016 setting out the PCC's intended focus for the Plan following the summer consultation. In finalising the Police and Crime Plan the PCC has taken account of the comments made by the Police and Crime Panel at the 9 December 2016 meeting.

The PCC met with members of the Police and Crime Panel in early January 2017 to discuss the further refinements that had been made to reflect the Panel's feedback.

In response to questions, the Panel were advised that –

- (a) the PCC was investigating the possibility of opening a number of police stations, manned by volunteers;
- (b) the style of crime was changing, and the traditional approaches to policing also needed to change;
- (c) it was acknowledged that whilst PCSOs were at the forefront of dealing with crime (prevention, community intelligence etc), assets were needed to conduct the complex investigations which followed;
- (d) a 'postcode lottery' existed in rural areas in terms of 'keeping people safe' in high risk matters. In 2010 approximately 80% of 999 calls were responded to within the target time of 20 minutes. In 2017 this figure was approximately 80% in Plymouth and Exeter, however this figure was 45% in rural areas;
- (e) policing was a Crown Service, and it was the responsibility of the Chief Constable to configure the workforce to the best of his ability;
- (f) the Chief Constable was fully aware of the importance of protecting communities within the peninsula, and acknowledged that he had lost, and would continue to lose, police and police staff if the current level of PCSOs remained the same;

- (g) the Police and Crime Bill (due to receive Royal Assent in the near future) could enable the delegation of powers to Community Wardens;
- (h) an improvement in the budget could result in the mitigation of the impact of this Plan on PCSOs;
- (i) the Chief Constable acknowledged that he was faced with making difficult decisions surrounding the future of PCSOs, recognised the dangers involved, and would not implement any changes without the full consultation of local communities;
- (j) a wide range of people were keeping the residents of the peninsula safe, and it was acknowledged that in some areas a PCSO was the only face of policing;
- (k) the PCC reiterated that the intention of the Plan was to keep people safe, and not to abolish PCSOs;
- (l) the PCC expressed her concern at a possible over-reaction from members of the public to the content of this Plan;
- (m) the new Community Wardens would not replace PCSOs, however it was not yet clear what powers they would be given or what training and equipment they would require, however it was possible that their powers would equal those given to a PCSO;
- (n) various indices would be used to highlight areas which justified extra assets, and those areas not to remove assets from. If a spike of crime occurred resources would be moved across the peninsula accordingly;
- (o) the number of police officers in the force had reduced by 656 since 2010;
- (p) it was acknowledged that cities had a higher incidence of crime per head of population, and a part of the allocation of the new police officers would be given to the Plymouth area which was part of a national strategic assessment around firearms and terrorist related areas. However it was pointed out that the intention was to improve response times and increase the presence of police officers in rural areas;
- (q) various pilot schemes were being investigated involving the use of Specials as an Auxiliary force;
- (r) it was the aim of the Chief Constable to put every available officer back on patrol in order to increase the visibility of the police;
- (s) the introduction of bi/tri-service PCSOs was being investigated, and discussions had been held with Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust;
- (t) 350 police officers would be lost due to retirement and 450 new officers needed to be recruited (a number of whom would be existing PCSOs) and

these extra officers would be deployed in local policing;

- (u) the PCC was very supportive of the Citizens in Policing strategy and money had been allocated to the project in order to re-energise it;
- (v) there were no plans to close Barnstaple Custody Centre, however the existing shift patterns at that location were currently under review;
- (w) the PCC was planning to commission a survey across the peninsula by a professional organisation, and would be looking to engage Local Authorities in similar consultations;
- (x) the PCC recognised the importance of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and would allocate more money to the initiative if possible;
- (y) the PCC acknowledged the help that Street Pastors provided to ensure a safe and successful night-time economy, and was keen to ensure that the scheme continued to be successful.

The Panel agreed –

- (1) to note the Police and Crime Plan;
- (2) to direct the lead officer, in consultation with the Chair and Panel members, to consider how the plan will inform the work programme for the coming year.

44. **Consideration of the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed level of Precept for 2017-18**

The 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 Chief Constable, the PCC and Duncan Walton, OPCC Treasurer.

The PCC advised the Panel that this was her first budget since taking office and she had attempted to ensure that it was progressive, modernising, sustainable and financially balanced. She was determined to maximise the resources available to the Chief Constable to deliver the Police and Crime Plan. Her vision for policing was set out in the Police and Crime Plan – Safe, Resilient and Connected Communities.

In addition to the report, the Panel received a presentation which set out a detailed budget analysis as contained in the attached –

[Precept presentation](#)

In response to questions, the Panel were advised that –

- (a) the proposed reduction in PCSO numbers was confirmed as 194;
- (b) the OPCC only had a one year position on grants from the Government, and the position for the remaining three years was an 'educated guess';

- (c) this budget tried to maximise the use of reserves, and spending plans could be adjusted as necessary;
- (d) money was earmarked in the reserves to deal with any large-scale or unplanned incidents, however in these cases the Home Office could assist with extra finance if required;
- (e) the recent High Court decision on the use of Regulation A19 (which required police officers with more than 30 years pensionable service to retire), having ruled that the use did not amount to age discrimination, had eased pressure on reserves.

The Panel agreed -

- (1) unanimously the proposal to increase the precept by 1.99% (15 members present out of 20);
- (2) to note the budget.

45. **Evaluation of the Victims Care Model**

The Panel were provided with a report on the Evaluation of the Victims Care Model.

The OPCC Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer advised members that –

- (a) Dr Jacki Tapley (Institute of Criminal Justice Studies, University of Portsmouth) had been commissioned to write the report in order that care and services for victims could be improved;
- (b) the report was very positive, and had been commissioned to provide the learning points and recommendations around police officer awareness and skills around victim care;
- (c) work was now under way between the OPCC, Devon & Cornwall Police and the Victim Care Network to implement the full range of recommendations contained within the report to ensure that victim services and victim care in Devon and Cornwall remain the best in the UK.

In response to questions, the Panel were advised that -

- (d) the PCC had commissioned a range of work to investigate looking across the whole of the witness and victim experience of the wider criminal justice system;
- (e) the service that had been delivered before the creation of the Victim Care Unit had been extremely uneven, and in some parts of the Force area this had been provided by PCSOs, without the knowledge and ability to pass through victims to where specialist and generic services could be provided;
- (f) Devon & Cornwall had a very strong Victim Care Network with 82

organisations able to offer a range of support that victims could choose from;

- (g) the PCC aimed to look at the Victim's Strategy (with the Chief Constable) by September and aimed to introduce the online 'Track my Crime' service by the end of the year;
- (h) the service was being re-launched both within the Police Force and externally to highlight the work they do and the support offered.

The Panel noted the report.

46. **I01 Update**

The OPCC Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer provided the Panel with a I01 service update.

The Panel were advised that –

- (a) the performance for the I01 service continued to be strong, with average waiting times of three minutes, with 90% of these calls being transferred within 10 minutes;
- (b) the I01 service would be part of a discussion between the PCC and the Chief Constable with service standards to be set as part of the connectivity plan. More information would be provided in due course;
- (c) the OPCC and Chief Constable acknowledged the fragility of the service, but hoped that the performance of the service would continue to be strong.

In response to questions, the Panel were advised that -

- (d) the service standards would cover all forms of contact with the Force;
- (e) no statistics were available for e-mail contact, although anecdotal feedback was good, with response times between 24-48 hours;
- (f) more comprehensive statistics for waiting times would be provided at the next meeting.

The Panel noted the report.

47. **Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance Report**

The OPCC Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer provided the Panel with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance Report. The Panel were advised that –

- (a) this was the last time that the OPCC would present against the previous plan measures;

- (b) there was little to report since the last report provided in December 2016;
- (c) there would be a new baseline in the new plan for measuring performance.

The Panel noted the report.

48. **Police and Crime Commissioner's Update Report**

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) presented the Police and Crime Commissioner's Update Report.

Highlights of the report included –

- (a) the OPCC were in the process of submitting bids for Violence Against Women and Girls Transformation Fund that was available from the Government, working with partners to produce three bids;
- (b) the full implications of the Police and Crime Bill would be known by the next meeting;
- (c) the OPCC and Chief Constable had been successful in three bids – including a national bid to support the transformation of the policing response to modern slavery and a proposed pilot for a Delayed Charge and Diversion Scheme. Funding had also been made available for shared Command, Control and Public Contact with Dorset;
- (d) the OPCC welcomed the creation of a Care Offender Hub.

In response to questions, the Panel were advised that -

- (e) a number of the roles (for the modern slavery initiative) are not location specific;
- (f) the PCC was responsible for spending the Modern Slavery money, and the Chief Constable was responsible for the delivery;
- (g) the Chief Constable was the national lead for Modern Slavery (for Chief Constables);
- (h) the Delayed Charge and Diversion Scheme was currently being trialled by Durham Constabulary and positive results had been seen.

The Panel noted the report.

49. **Report from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in respect of any non-criminal complaints about the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Andrew White (OPCC Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer) advised the Panel that one formal complaint against the Police and Crime Commissioner had been

received during the period 27 November 2016 – 23 January 2017. The Police and Crime Panel Chair had dealt with this complaint through local resolution and had informed the Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner of the action which he had taken.

The Panel noted the report.

50. **Police and Crime Panel work programme**

The Panel noted the work programme.

51. **Future meeting dates**

It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 17 February 2017 was no longer required. It was agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for 7 April 2017. Future meeting dates would be circulated to Panel members once known.

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