

Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

Friday 8 February 2019

PRESENT:

Councillor Croad (Devon County Council), Chair
Councillor Batters (Cornwall Council), Vice Chair
Councillors Atherfold (Cornwall Council), Barker (Teignbridge Council), Derrick (Plymouth City Council), Excell (Torbay Council), Fairman (Cornwall Council), Hackett (Torrige District Council), Haydon (Plymouth City Council), Mathews (North Devon District Council), Nelhams (Isle of Scilly), Rule (Cornwall Council), Sanders (West Devon District Council), Mrs Squires (Mid Devon District Council), Harvey (Exeter City Council) substituting for Councillor Sutton (Exeter City Council), Towill (Cornwall Council), Wright (East Devon District Council).

Co-opted Representatives: Emily Macaulay (Independent Member Devon).

Apologies for absence: Councillors Wingate (South Hams District Council), Sutton (Exeter City Council) (Councillor Harvey Substituting) and Sarah Wakfer (Independent Member Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly).

Also in attendance: Nicky Allen (Chief Executive, OPCC), Fran Hughes (Chief Executive, OPCC), Alison Hernandez (Police and Crime Commissioner), Ross Jago (Lead Officer), Jamie Sheldon (Democratic Advisor).

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 12.20 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.

73. Minutes

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 05 October 2018.

74. 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	76 - Consideration of the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed level of Precept for 2019-20	In receipt of a pension from Devon and Cornwall Police	Personal

75. Public Questions

No questions had been received from members of the public.

76. **Precept Proposal for 2019/20, Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan Update / Police and Crime Plan**

The Panel considered the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal to increase the precept by 12.75% and the reasoning behind that proposal, was presented by Alison Hernandez the PCC, Fran Hughes the OPCC Chief Executive and Nicky Allen the OPCC Treasurer.

In addition to the report, the Panel received a presentation which set out a detailed budget analysis.

In response to questions, the Panel were advised that –

- (a) There was a budget requirement for 2019/20 of £312m;
- (b) Staffing was the main area of expenditure – 83% of the overall budget;
- (c) £24 increase (Band D) equated to 12.75%;
- (d) Overall increased funding of £22m; 7.5% overall increase;
- (e) There was a Police Officer pension pressure of £7.7m;
- (f) Pay awards and wage growth pressure of £7.5m.

The panel agreed

1. not to exercise the Panel's veto in respect of the Police Crime Commissioners (PCC) proposal for a £24 increase in the Band D equivalent for the police element of the council tax for the 2019/20 financial year.
2. to note:
 - a. That the Reserves Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and the Capital Strategy have been published online to enhance transparency.
 - b. That it is intended that the level of General Balances held will be no more than 5% or no less than 3% of the net annual budget at the end of the financial year.
 - c. Police Officers and Police Staff will be receiving an overall 2% increase in pay for the year to August 2019, in accordance with national pay settlements.
3. that the Chair, on behalf of the panel write to the Government to outline that a Fairer Funding Settlement for Policing, in particular for communities in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly must be established through the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review.

The letter should note the panel's view that –

- a. Whilst the extra flexibility for Police and Crime Commissioners to raise more funding locally has enabled our local Police and Crime Commissioner to secure growth in policing next year, it has and will continue to have a negative impact on the poorest communities who are most likely to be a victim of crime;

- b. It should be recognised in any future settlement that Devon and Cornwall has an increased population over the summer months which the panel does not believe is captured in base funding formula for policing the peninsula;
- c. Devon and Cornwall with complex rural, urban and coastal policing demands does not receive a fair funding when compared to large metropolitan areas;
- d. Whilst accepting that local taxation will always play a part in police funding, the Panel calls upon the Government to halt the trend of significant increases to local taxation, and to resource the Police Service adequately through a funding settlement.

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

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

- (a) 'Public Confidence – Police do a good/excellent job' was 62% and rated amber due to the percentage being below the 68% baseline which meant more scrutiny was required;
- (b) A new Repeat Victimization measure which focused on individual people and organisations as victims, not offence levels provided a better reflection of the true impact on individuals and businesses. This figure was reported at 24% at the October Panel Meeting and based on the latest available data remained relatively static at 25% - this meant that a quarter of victims (people and organisations) of crime had also reported at least one offence in the previous 12 months.

The Panel noted the report.

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

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

Councillor John Mathews welcomed the PCC and Chief Constables decision to adopt the use of spit and bite guards which will protect police officers and other front line staff from these serious assaults.

Councillor Sally Haydon welcomed the opening of the new Plymouth Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).

The Panel noted the report.

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

Fran Hughes (OPCC Chief Executive) advised the Panel that one formal complaint against the Police and Crime Commissioner had been received during the period 20 September 2018 - 9 January 2019

The Panel noted the report.

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

The Panel noted the work programme and agreed to schedule the following items –

1. Forensic Operations
2. Under Reporting of Rural Crime – Rural Affairs officers to attend and provide a presentation
3. Future of Policing Technology
4. Road Closures

81. **Future meeting dates**

The Panel noted the future meeting dates.