



Dorset Police and Crime Panel

Minutes of a meeting held at Dorset County Council, County Hall, Dorchester,
DT1 1XJ on 3 June 2013

Present:

Members

Borough Poole

Judy Butt

Co-opted members:

Phil Goodall

Ann Stribley

Bournemouth Borough Council

Co-opted members:

Malcolm Davies

Dennis Gritt

David Smith

Dorset County Council

Ian Gardner

Christchurch Borough Council

Bernie Davis

West Dorset District Council

John Russell

Independent members

Iain McVie

Mike Short

Weymouth & Portland Borough Council

Geoff Petherick

Officer advisers to the Police and Crime Panel:

Andy Frost, Strategic Manager DAT & Community Safety, Dorset County Council

Adam Richens, Finance Lead Officer to the Dorset Police and Crime Panel, Borough of Poole

Robin Taylor, Senior Policy and Performance Manager, Dorset County Council

Fiona King, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Dorset County Council

Also in attendance:

Richard Bates, Treasurer to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Martyn Underhill, Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Martin Goscomb, Chief Executive to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Debbie Simpson, Chief Constable

Dan Steadman, Interim Chief Executive

Election of Chairman

Resolved

29. That John Adams (Bournemouth Borough Council), be elected Chairman for the remainder of the year 2013/14.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved

30. That John Russell (West Dorset District Council), be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the year 2013/14.

Apologies

31.1 Apologies for absence were received from John Adams (Bournemouth Borough Council), Malcolm Birr (East Dorset District Council), Fred Drane (Dorset County Council) and Ali Patrick (Purbeck District Council).

31.2 In the Chairman's absence the Vice-Chairman chaired the meeting.

Code of Conduct

32. There were no declarations by members of any disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

Minutes

33. The minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2013 were confirmed and signed.

Terms of Reference

34. Members noted the Terms of Reference for the Dorset Police and Crime Panel.

Noted**Annual Report**

35.1 The Panel considered the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report in accordance with Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

35.2 The Commissioner highlighted several areas of his report to members including Early Intervention, Restorative Justice and Neighbourhood Watch.

35.3 Following a question from a member from Bournemouth Borough Council about the difference between Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch, the Commissioner advised that there was little difference between them. Home Watch was started in the 1990s and there was about a 50/50 split across the county. He was unable to dictate to groups to change their name and felt that if it went to the vote there would be a 50/50 split vote. There would be a cost to amalgamating the two groups with regards to the changing of signs etc.

35.4 In response to a question from an independent member about progress with the Police Funding Formula, the Commissioner advised that he had recently received notification that PCCs would now be invited to sit on the Government's Funding Review Panel.

35.5 In relation to Special Constable and Volunteers, the Commissioner advised that 80 had already been recruited. The advertising campaign for rural special constables had not been particularly successful and the Chief Constable was looking at removing some of the national barriers to recruitment within rural areas. Work was still on-going with regard to training in relation to the differences between rural and non-rural areas.

35.6 Members were advised that the number of hours for Special Constables had been dropped from 20 to 16 hours a week due to austerity measures and the fact that people who wanted to take up this role were unable to commit to 20 hours.

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35.7 In response to a question from a member from Poole Borough Council about recent public engagement meetings, the Commissioner advised that the reaction from the public had been very positive but noted there was a lack of clarity about the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner in the eyes of the public. The Commissioner was exploring ways to engage further with the public e.g. street surgeries, web-based interaction, local newspaper columns and possibly some sort of 'battle bus'.

35.8 Following a question from a member from Christchurch Borough Council about the appointment of advocates, the Commissioner undertook to provide members at the next meeting of the Panel details of the appointments.

35.9 The member from Weymouth and Portland Borough Council asked the Commissioner for his views on street pastors as they were working successfully within his Borough. The Commissioner commented on their success in Bournemouth, Poole and Weymouth and added that he would like to see them operated across Dorset as he felt they were a good way forward for the community.

35.10 In response to a question from a member from Bournemouth Borough Council about a review of the powers of Special Constables, the Chief Constable explained the different powers between Police Officers, Special Constables and PCSOs and noted the Force's obligation to support national policing as well as the local police force.

35.11 The Commissioner highlighted to members that a Volunteers Board had been created since his election and that there was a debate on-going nationally about the possibility of volunteer PCSOs. He also noted that PCSOs were barred from becoming Special Constables.

35.12 In response to a question from a member from Bournemouth Borough Council about Restorative Justice, the Commissioner advised that there had been 2 pilots that had operated in Dorset, one in North Bournemouth and one in Bridport. The Commissioner undertook to email members with a fuller update on the outcome of both of the Pilots.

35.13 The Chief Executive advised members that the next steps would be for the report to be published on the website and in hard copies.

Noted**Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 2017**

36.1 The Panel considered a report by the Police and Crime Commissioner which included his final Police and Crime Plan April 2013 – 2017 and also listed the main changes that were made to the draft plan following comments from members at their meeting on 7 February 2013.

36.2 Following a question from the Chairman about IT, the Commissioner advised that the police website did need to be upgraded and this had been budgeted for next year. He was also looking to include podcast and webcast functionality to the website.

36.3 In response to a question from a member from Christchurch Borough Council about sponsorship, the Commissioner advised that if fairer funding was achieved he would not be looking for sponsorship but if a further 10% cut was experienced then he would actively look at sponsorship.

36.4 The Chairman commented that with regard to regional procurement there was a need to be sharp when using the benefits of the procurement unit, but it was important not to lose sight of equipping the force appropriately. The Treasurer to the Police and Crime Commissioner advised that every business case was looked at and it was then decided if it was appropriate for Dorset.

Noted

Quarterly reporting against the Police and Crime Plan

37.1 The Panel considered a report by the Chief Executive, Dorset County Council which set out members' duty to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other actions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of his functions. Now the Police and Crime Plan had been published, the Panel would need to direct its attention towards this particular duty.

37.2 Members discussed at length the particular areas of interest or concern that they would wish to discuss in more depth and agreed that the 'spotlight' area should be one of the plan's key priority areas. It was agreed that priority 2 should be the 'spotlight' area for the next meeting as it would also include the numbers killed and seriously injured in road traffic accidents.

37.3 The Panel was also reminded that scrutiny should be a supportive and constructive activity, carried out on behalf of Dorset's communities to enhance the Commissioner's performance.

37.4 Following a question from a member from Bournemouth Borough Council about including emerging legislation within a presentation to members, the Commissioner advised he was content to do this but that it might be more appropriate to include it with the seminar planned for December 2013.

37.5 In response to a question from a member from Bournemouth Borough Council about the prospect of further funding cuts, the Commissioner advised that he had scalable plans in place to accommodate either a 6% or a 10% funding cut. Her Majesty's Inspectorate also felt it was a workable plan.

Resolved

38.1 That the proposed format and content of the Commissioner's reports to the Panel on progress against the Police and Crime Plan be agreed.

38.2 That the long term data trends in crime data as a baseline for interpreting future data be noted.

38.3 That the 'under the spotlight' item in the next report against the Police and Crime Plan be 'Reduce the number of people seriously harmed in Dorset'.

Reason for Decision

39. To ensure that the Panel met its duties to scrutinise decisions made or other actions taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner's functions.

Complaints Monitoring Protocol

39.1 The Panel considered a report by the Chief Executive, Dorset County Council which included proposals to manage non-criminal complaints and conduct matters as set out in their terms of reference.

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39.2 Members were advised that officers were in receipt of one complaint at the present time and therefore there was a clear need to appoint members to a sub-committee to consider this.

39.3 It was felt that as meetings would need to be convened at relatively short notice to consider complaints it would be useful to also appoint substitutes.

Resolved

40.1 That the complaints protocol attached to the officers' report be adopted.

40.2 That the responsibility for initial handling and recording functions be delegated to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer as allowed under Regulation 7.

40.3 That the membership of the complaints sub-committee be agreed as follows:

- Ian McVie (substitute: Mike Short)
- Bernie Davis (substitute: John Russell)
- Phil Goodall (substitute: Ann Stribley)
- John Adams (substitute: Dennis Gritt)
- Ian Gardner (substitute: Geoff Petherick)

40.4 That the terms of reference of a complaints sub-committee be agreed.

40.5 That the complaints protocol be published on both Dorsetforyou.com and on the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner's website and agreed that officers from both Dorset County Council and the Office of the PCC be asked to undertake any further communication of the protocol they feel would be effective.

Reason for Decision

41. To ensure that the Panel met its duties to deal with non-criminal complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Dates of Future Meetings and Programme of Future Business

42. The Panel considered and agreed its work programme for the remainder of the year 2013.

Resolved

43.1 That the next meeting of the Panel be held on Thursday 7 November 2013 at 10.00am.

43.2 The remaining meeting date in **2013** be agreed as follows:

- Thursday 12 December 2013, 10.00am

43.3 That the dates for meetings in 2014 be agreed as follows:

- Thursday 6 February 2014, 10.00am
- Friday 21 February 2014, 10.00am (Reserve date)
- Thursday 5 June 2014, 10.00am
- Thursday 11 September 2014, 10.00am
- Monday 10 November 2014, 10.00am
- Thursday 11 December 2014, 10.00am

Questions

44. No questions were asked by members.

Exclusion of the Public**Resolved**

45. That in accordance with Section 100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting in relation to the business specified in minute 46 because it was likely that if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

Police and Crime Commissioner (Paragraph 1) – Staffing Matter

46.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner presented a prepared statement on a staffing matter that had come to light affecting his Office. Regrettably, he was unable to furnish the Panel with further details at this stage. The Commissioner explained the contingency arrangements he was proposing to address the issue.

46.2 He advised members that senior officers supporting the Panel had been informed as soon as the issue came to light. He also assured the Panel that the Chairman of the Panel would be kept updated on the matter, and leave the Chairman, supported by relevant officers, to update members in a suitable way.

46.3 The Chairman expressed the Panel's disappointment and wished the Commissioner well with his endeavours to resolve this difficult situation.

46.4 The Commissioner advised members that this would be the last meeting for his current Chief Executive and wanted to record his thanks to Mr Goscomb for his support and friendship since his election.

46.5 The Chairman, on behalf of the Panel, also thanked Mr Goscomb and wished him well in his retirement.

Noted

Meeting Duration: 10.00am – 12.30pm

