



## Dorset Police and Crime Panel

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall, Dorchester  
on 9 June 2015

### **Present:**

#### Members

##### Borough Poole

Karen Rampton

##### Co-opted members:

Phil Eades

Ann Stribley

##### Bournemouth Borough Council

Norman Decent

##### Co-opted members:

Bobbie Dove

David Smith

##### Christchurch Borough Council

Bernie Davis

##### Dorset County Council

Fred Drane

Ian Gardner

##### East Dorset District Council

Barbara Manuel

##### North Dorset District Council

Andrew Kerby

##### Purbeck District Council

Bill Pipe

##### West Dorset District Council

Ronald Coatsworth

##### Weymouth & Portland Borough Council

Francis Drake

#### Independent Co-Opted members

Mike Short

#### Officer advisers to the Police and Crime Panel:

Debbie Ward, Chief Executive, Dorset County Council

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

Fiona King, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Dorset County Council

#### Also in attendance:

Martyn Underhill, Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

#### Officer adviser to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Dan Steadman, Chief Executive to the Police and Crime Commissioner

(Note: These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the meeting and of any decisions reached. They are to be considered and confirmed at the next meeting of the Dorset Police and Crime Panel on **10 September 2015**.)

### **Election of Chairman**

16.1 Following the nomination of the Independent Member to be Chairman of the Panel, the Chief Executive, Dorset County Council, advised that the procedure rules, adopted in October 2012 only allowed for 'councillors' to take the chair. Members felt this was unfair as this decision was taken over two years ago and highlighted a precedent that had been set at Norfolk whereby they had appointed an Independent Chairman to their Police and Crime Panel.

16.2 The Chief Executive (Dorset County Council) undertook to produce a report, in order for the Panel to review the rules of procedure in relation to this point, in readiness for the next meeting of the Panel in September 2015. Therefore it was agreed to elect a Chairman and appoint a Vice-Chairman for this meeting only.

**Resolved**

17. That Bill Pipe (Purbeck District Council), be elected Chairman for this meeting only.

**Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

**Resolved**

18. That Karen Rampton (Borough of Poole), be appointed as Vice-Chairman for this meeting only.

**Apologies for Absence**

19. Apologies for absence were received from David Kelsey (Bournemouth Borough Council) and Iain McVie (Independent Member).

**Code of Conduct**

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

**Minutes**

21. The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2015 were confirmed and signed.

**Matters Arising**

**Minute 9.5 – Precept Approval**

22.1 Following a question from the Independent Member about the Commissioner's appointment to the Government Funding Panel, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) advised that a change of Policing Minister had led to a slight change of position. He was now part of the consultation group but he had written to state that he had been offered a seat under the former Minister.

22.2 In relation to proposed bids for £4.4m to the Police Innovation Fund (PIF), the PCC advised that these had not been successful. Whilst this was expected it was still disappointing. He was in the process of requesting feedback as to why the bid for the strategic alliance work had been unsuccessful. The PCC confirmed that this did not change the projected savings and advised that there would be a new round of applications to the Police Innovation Fund later this year which he would be applying for.

**Public Participation**

**Public Speaking**

23.1 There were no public questions received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(1).

23.2 There were no public statements received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(2).

**Petitions**

24. There were no petitions received in accordance with the County Council's petition scheme at this meeting.

**Terms of Reference**

25. Members received the Dorset Police and Crime Panel's Terms of Reference.

**Noted****Appointment of Members to the Complaints Sub-Committee**

26.1 The Panel considered a report by the Chief Executive, Dorset County Council which set out the need to appoint 5 members to the Police and Crime Panel's Complaints Sub-Committee following the local elections, which were held in May 2015.

26.2 Members of the Sub-Committee, as well as meeting to consider any complaints, would also review the current Complaints Protocol which would then be considered by the full Panel.

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

**Resolved**

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

- Bernie Davis
- Ian Gardner
- Iain McVie
- Barbara Manuel
- Bobbie Dove

27.2 That the Complaints Sub-Committee oversee work to review the current complaints protocol.

**Reason for Decision**

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

**Progress against the Police and Crime Plan (Quarter 4)**

29.1 The Panel considered a report by the Commissioner which informed members of the progress against the Police and Crime Plan and Priorities 2013 – 17 for Quarter 4. Members noted that the main data in the report related to April 2014 – March 2015.

29.2 The PCC provided commentary for members on a few key areas of activity and highlighted the priorities in the Plan. The Panel was also updated on the other sections of the plan and how performance in those areas was being managed.

29.3 Following a question from a member from Bournemouth Borough Council regarding neighbourhood policing and whether it was becoming more reliant on PCSOs, the PCC advised that historically yes it was. The member then expressed his view that PCSOs should be given the full range of powers that he considered they needed to do the job that was required of them. The PCC advised that the role of the PCSO was purposefully non-confrontational in order to enable them to be a vital community link between the Police and the public. The Chief Constable had reviewed the operational issue of PCSO powers on two occasions and it was her decision not to increase the powers for PCSOs at this time.

29.4 The PCC reminded members that in 2012 he was elected for a specific term of 4 years during which time he pledged to ring-fence PCSOs but if he was elected for a further 4 years he would be unable to continue with explicit ring-fencing of any part of policing delivery. He added that he was not confirming that the numbers of PCSOs would be reduced in the

future, he was just reserving the necessary right to look at the totality of policing delivery in the face of government funding reductions. The PCC reminded members that Dorset was one of the safest places in the country and Dorset Police were a high performing Police Force and in Dorset there were more PCSOs than anywhere else.

29.5 The Chairman asked if the PCC could see a further drift and if so what the impact on the community would be. The PCC advised members that his Force planned a 'Big Conversation' project in September 2015 which involved informing and engaging with the public in which direction crime was going and would also highlight the real change in the demand for policing as society evolved and life was enacted more and more online. The PCC stated that it was vitally important that the public were engaged in the debate around the potential impact of further cuts to police funding, and how that could manifest itself in the style and level of policing in Dorset.

29.6 The PCC reminded members of the infographic that the Chief Constable presented to them at the previous meeting of the Panel in February 2015 which showed what Dorset Police did on a daily basis. He undertook to circulate a copy to members outside of the meeting to ensure all new members were sighted.

29.7 One member from Dorset County Council highlighted that cyber-crime appeared to be taking the priority which he felt created an issue of public satisfaction by not having a police presence. He also made reference to issues with the 101 call service. The PCC confirmed that the 101 issue was continually in his inbox and he was not complacent about it.

29.8 One member from the Borough of Poole relayed her experience of using the 101 service and felt that it might be helpful to have signposting information available. The PCC advised that 20% of calls to the 101 service were not police related and they were struggling at present to cope with the demand and felt additional demand from partners for the police to be a signposting service was unfair and unreasonable to the police service.

29.9 One member from Bournemouth Borough Council asked for an update on the Genesis project (a review into neighbourhood policing). The PCC noted that this had been a very useful piece of work which had been recently concluded. Whilst this project was completely operational he undertook to send a briefing note to all members for their information.

29.10 In relation to the policing of Child Sex Exploitation cases the PCC advised it was a hugely complicated area and a national crime problem that every force, public sector partners, and society had to have a response to. He confirmed that extra funding had been allocated to it through funds secured.

29.11 An Independent Member made reference to a table contained in Section 3 of the document and asked for consistency for future reports for ease of reference. He also made reference to the slippage of the capital reserve to which the PCC advised this was mostly allocated reserves for expenditure relating to IT changes but still anticipated spending the money by 2018/19.

29.12 The Chief Executive to the PCC informed members they now had a database of all councillors in order to update them with events and newsletters. He also brought to members' attention that the Police and Crime Commissioner's website had been shortlisted for the public sector website of the year.

29.13 One member from the Borough of Poole asked how reactive the Police could be if figures increased from cyber-crime to other types of crime. The PCC advised that whilst this issue was an operational one he would endeavour to resource it and resources could be moved fairly easily to where the demand was.

### **Noted**

#### **Draft Annual Report 2014/15**

30.1 The Panel considered the Draft Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2014/15, in accordance with Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The report was an important summary document of the PCC's activity over the course of the previous financial year.

30.2 The Chief Executive advised members that the draft plan referred to figures when it was last published and would be updated when it was published at the end of April 2015. He welcomed feedback from members via Andy Frost by Friday 26 June 2015 in order for them to be fully considered ahead of the finalisation and publication of the Annual Report 2014/15.

30.3 The Independent member asked if the PCC had considered, following the success of his work with mental health, turning his financial focus to public place violent crime which has had 4000 victims, as opposed to a reduction to 75 people in mental health. The Commissioner advised that one of the reasons for getting involved with mental health was that 20% of police work involved mental health and he noted that the 75 people who remained were just the tip of the iceberg. He added that Dorset Police piloted a lot of work nationally for mental health.

30.4 One member from the Borough of Poole asked about the community remedy scheme and whether this prevented a person from having a criminal record. The PCC explained how this worked in relation to the multi-agency hub and that those involved in the hub would include a person from his office, a police officer and a detective sergeant along with links to the probation team. He undertook to update the councillor further outside of the meeting but added that if cautions were given, they were kept for life.

30.5 In relation to the failed restorative justice pilot that had taken place in Bournemouth, one member from Bournemouth Borough Council asked if this would be run again. The PCC advised that one was being launched in Poole, one in Weymouth and Portland shortly, and he had offered this to Bournemouth again, with funding, but had been advised that the Authority preferred to wait and see how the pilot in Poole progressed.

30.6 Following a question from the Chairman about when this would be rolled out to more rural areas, the PCC advised that West Dorset was now complete and Purbeck, East and North Dorset areas would be next.

30.7 With regards to the Pan Dorset CCTV scheme, one member from Bournemouth Borough Council asked who else had contributed to the funding of the consultancy work. The PCC advised that the £20K funding had come from his office for the consultant to advise on a model for the future of CCTV in Dorset.

### **Noted**

#### **Strategic Alliance**

31.1 For the benefit of the new members to the Panel the PCC highlighted the work that had been undertaken so far in relation to the Strategic Alliance with Devon and Cornwall. He advised that the initial agreement had not included neighbourhood policing

and that this was the first PCC led Strategic Alliance in the country. It was not simply a response to cuts in funding but the urgency to act had been driven by them. Detailed business cases agreed so far had exceeded previous savings expectations whilst providing the opportunity to re-look at how Dorset Police conducted its business and delivered services to the public. The savings would be shared at a ratio of 70/30 as Dorset was the smaller force. He welcomed the Panel's approach that had been taken previously whereby three members (Bernie Davis, Fred Drane and Ian Gardner) continued to work with him in this regard.

31.2 The Chief Executive to the Commissioner presented the current picture of the Strategic Alliance work to members and explained that this project had given them the opportunity to do things differently and to seek the best ways of delivery. He advised that they were looking at it in a whole business sense and to date had identified 27 business cases on which to deliver, with 10 detailed business cases being agreed so far. He added that some fundamental issues including HR, Pay and conditions and IT had also had to be looked at and that a detailed IT conversion strategy was now in place.

31.3 In relation to a national convergence, the PCC advised that there was a lack of direction on mergers and noted that it was a very confusing landscape. He felt a Minister need to be appointed for Emergency Services.

31.4 Following a question from a member from the Borough of Poole in relation to mergers similar to that of the Fire Authority and whether that route had been considered, the PCC advised that the direction of travel for the Police would need a legislative change. If a merger did take place the 2 PCCs would remain but there would be just one Chief Constable and one Deputy Chief Constable. He stressed to members that this was not on his agenda at the present time.

### **Noted**

### **Dates of Future Meetings and Programme of Future Business**

32.1 The Panel considered and agreed its Work Programme for 2015.

32.2 Members were reminded of the dates for future meetings during 2015, as follows:

- Thursday 10 September 2015, 10.00am
- Tuesday 10 November 2015, 10.00am
- Thursday 10 December 2015, 10.00am, Training and Development Session for all members

### **Resolved**

33.1 That the Work Programme be agreed with the addition of a report on the Procedure Rules for the Dorset Police and Crime Panel (including any other governance matters), an update on the complaint and an update on cyber-crime for the next meeting in September.

33.2 That at the November meeting there would be a focus on violent crime.

### **Questions**

34. No questions were asked by members of the Panel.

Meeting Duration: 10.00am – 12.10pm