



Dorset Police and Crime Panel

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ on Friday, 10 November 2017

Present:

Mike Short (Chairman) (Independent)
John Adams (Vice-Chairman) (Bournemouth Borough Council)
Norman Decent (Bournemouth Borough Council), Bernie Davis (Christchurch Borough Council), Mohan Iyengar (Borough of Poole), Janet Dover (Dorset County Council), Barbara Manuel (East Dorset District Council), Iain McVie (Independent Member), John Russell (West Dorset District Council), David Smith (Bournemouth Borough Council), Ann Stribley (Borough of Poole) and Byron Quayle (Dorset County Council)

Officers Attending:

Martyn Underhill (Police and Crime Commissioner), Alexis Garlick (Chief Finance Officer, OPCC), Adam Harrold (Director of Operations, OPCC), John Jones (Assistant Chief Officer, Dorset Police), Jonathan Mair (Head of Organisational Development - Monitoring Officer), Mark Taylor (Group Manager - Governance and Assurance) and Fiona King (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

(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 to be held on **Thursday, 1 February 2018.**)

Apologies for Absence

88 Apologies for absence were received from Bobbie Dove, Bournemouth Borough Council, David Brown, Borough of Poole, Andrew Kerby, North Dorset District Council, and Bill Pipe, Purbeck District Council. Substitute, Don McQueen attended for Bournemouth Borough Council.

Code of Conduct

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

Minutes

90 The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2017 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

Minute 81 – Police and Crime Plan Monitoring Report - Complaints handling update - The Director of Operations, OPCC advised members that some concerns had been raised that the implementation of the legislation was anticipated to be put back to 2019 which may have implications for the pilot. At the meeting on 1 February 2018 he hoped to be in a position to provide members with a briefing update.

Minute 82 – Grants and Commissioning – The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) undertook to share with members further information on monitoring and evaluation of major grants projects.

Minute 83 - Strategic Alliance – More briefings had been held on the proposed convergence and the PCC highlighted to members the history of the merge proposal. It was noted that already 20% of staff worked for the Alliance. A Routemap had now been discussed with the Policing Minister which included 1 Chief Constable and 1

Police and Crime Commissioner for the Dorset, Devon and Cornwall Alliance. A public consultation would be held during next Summer which the Dorset PCC would be leading. Should the work being undertaken across both forces result in a recommendation to pursue a merge, and this option be supported by both the public and the Government, in order for the merge to be completed by November 2019 the Government would need to be in receipt of the relevant paperwork by November 2018.

Following a question from the Chairman regarding consideration being given to harmonisation across the precepts, the PCC advised that an officer from the Devon and Cornwall Force had been tasked with this and it was being worked up in the business case. The Group Manager for Governance and Assurance, Dorset County Council advised that approaches had been made to colleagues on the Devon and Cornwall PCP seeking a meeting to discuss future arrangements and a response was awaited.

Public Participation

91 Public Speaking

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

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

Petitions

There were no petitions received at the meeting in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

Financial Report for the Police and Crime Panel - Quarter 2

92 The Panel considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer, OPCC which provided an update on the financial position at the end of September 2017 and the full year forecast compared with the revised budget.

The Chief Finance Officer advised that following the last meeting, income was now being shown separately in the report and as the report was developed, relevant benchmarking would be included in future reports.

Members asked the following questions, which the Chief Finance Officer responded to:-

1. The Quarter 2 finance report highlights that the forecast overspend, after the application of reserves, is now predicted to be £1m from the £885,000 reported at the end of the first quarter. Can the Commissioner provide the panel with reassurance around the mitigation strategy outlined to the panel at its September meeting?

The Force mitigation measures as previously described are continuing and consideration will be given in the review of the medium term financial strategy as to the ongoing measures that will be required.

2. Can the Commissioner verbally explain a little bit more about the role of the Independent Audit Committee and its work in delivering greater Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness?

The single audit committee (6 people) provides independent assurance to all 4 corporations sole (Dorset OPCC, Dorset Force, Devon and Cornwall OPCC and Devon and Cornwall Force). This is more economic than supporting three separate committees that were previously in place (one in each Force and one

specifically for the Alliance.

Being independent of all the entities they can provide advice to each Force either jointly or independently. This model has worked effectively for some time in Warwick and West Mercia Police Forces who are also in an Alliance. The terms of reference of the Audit Committee are drawn from CIPFA, and HM Treasury guidance. In fulfilling their function they support the work of the corporations sole in delivering economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

These committee positions were advertised and 18 applications were received, there was a shortlisting process and interview were held over 2 days. On completion of this process 6 positions were offered which had resulted in a balanced new committee. The funding for this was being shared between the 4 corporations.

Following a subsequent question about how the Independent Audit Committee would drive effective efficiency and economy, the Chief Finance Officer advised this Panel would provide a wide focus and there was a clear role within its terms of reference regarding value for money. The Director of Operations, OPCC undertook to circulate the terms of reference to members.

Members asked for an update from the Chief Finance Officer on the re-introduction of the Major Operations Reserve of £1.2m and the additional £1.8m in the Capital Cash Flow/Capital Reserves funding line. The Assistant Chief Officer advised that there had been an error in the precept report in respect of the Major Operations Reserve, which had been a genuine mistake between the Force and the then Treasurer. The general balances figures had now been changed and the money that was held there had not been included on a line in that particular report. Figures showed that the general balances were £3.6m in February 2016 and £7.5m in February 2017. The Assistant Chief Officer accepted that the reporting of reserves and balances could be improved upon to provide the required levels of confidence and assurance for the Panel and accepted that there had been inconsistencies in the past.

The Chairman highlighted the importance that members of the Panel had confidence and assurance that the figures were consistent and that an omission of £1.2m was of concern.

Following a detailed discussion the PCC undertook to convene an urgent meeting between himself, his Chief Finance Officer, the Chief Constable and the Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) to identify opportunities to improve financial reporting to the Panel and to then reconvene with members of the Panel to address these important issues.

One member from Bournemouth Borough Council made reference to the budget now showing a £2m overspend with reserves to be applied to it and that it appeared that the only mitigation action that had been identified was the use of reserves. The PCC highlighted that workforce management plans were based on assumptions about officer turnover rates but that officers had not been leaving with quite the same regularity as previously, a change in recruitment therefore was a specific mitigation to address the overspend. The forecast overspend was set out in the report along with detailed forecasts, although the pay award was double the amount anticipated when the budget was set.

Following a comment regarding the Net Revenue Expenditure chart in the report and the balance between maintaining the service and maintaining financial control objectives, the PCC noted that Dorset had always traditionally spent a small amount on agency staff. One member felt there was not as much control as there should be in this regard.

In response to a question regarding the minimum revenue provision and whether this would make the position worse in the next financial quarter's report, the ACO confirmed that during the last financial year it was intended to fully finance the capital requirement but, at the end of the year, they had looked to see what alternatives were available. They were currently working with their strategic alliance partners and an external firm experienced in this area. The PCC added that the current financial projections clearly demonstrated that if the proposed merger with Devon and Cornwall did not progress Dorset would have to cut police officers and PCSO numbers.

Resolved

That the PCC would meet with members of the Police and Crime Panel on Friday 8 December 2017, to report back to address members' concerns relating to finance.

Police and Crime Plan Monitoring Report 2017/18 - Quarter 2

93 The Panel considered a report which informed members of the progress against the Police and Crime Plan and Priorities 2017-21 in order to enable members to scrutinise activity and the achievement of outcomes. The quarterly monitoring report also provided further information and specific focus on protecting people at risk of harm; multi-agency working; Neighbourhood/Community Policing; and the levels of knife crime, which members had asked for further information on.

Following a question from a member from Bournemouth Borough Council about road safety and what actions and activities would contribute to less lives being lost on the roads, a new website or speed cameras? The PCC advised that his forward plan was to digitise speed cameras and had no plans to get rid of them. In respect of cost and maintenance, only a third of cameras were run as their partners said they could not afford to service more. Some cameras were in need of maintenance which was carried out by the Local Authority. In respect of fines, the PCC noted that he would be happy to lobby to keep fines in the County and as traffic units were being merged agreement would need to be reached on a consistent approach to speeds and fees. The money charged for the driver awareness schemes mostly stayed in Dorset and income of around £2m had been ringfenced by the PCC to be spent on road safety.

The PCC undertook to provide a brief update report on the digitisation of speed cameras, and wider funding arrangements for multi-agency road safety arrangements at the Panel's next meeting on 1 February 2018.

Following a discussion about the PCC's next problem solving forum it was felt the focus should be on fly tipping as this affected everyone in the County.

Members of the PCP who were Leads/Champions for each of the 'Pillar Themes' in the PCC's plan were invited to present their updates.

- i) **Pillar 4 - Transforming for the Future** – Iain McVie
 - A brief update on drone evaluation and bodyworn cameras be added to the Forward Plan.
 - Despite a significant top slice of police funding concern being expressed, the Police ICT company had not delivered many items for Dorset – although 2 projects would be delivered, web storage for bodyworn cameras and video being offered. The PCC undertook to write to the national lead PCC on this in order to provide a timely challenge using the figures referred to by the Independent Member.
 - Complaints – the PCC advised that with new legislation going through Parliament, the 2 bodies going forward would have to change. Changes would be coming in respect of measuring which would help address a more customer focus approach. He noted that a large percentage of complaints were bogged down in the mechanics and

work was ongoing to change public perception. An update on this topic to be included in the Panel's Forward Plan.

- Communication and engagement in respect of the merger and how comfortable was the PCC with this in covering such a wide area? The PCC made reference to an area where 1 PCC looked after 3 counties and he had been re-elected so people didn't feel he was too remote. With Devon, Cornwall and Dorset he didn't feel there would be a need for several deputies and that 1 PCC would be sufficient, but the PCC recognised the geographic challenges that this change would bring.

- **Customer Service Improvement Panel update** (Cllr John Russell)
Cllr Russell referred to the most recent meeting feeling overall that there was a positive direction of travel. It had been identified that there was one missing link and that was to get business representation on the Panel. An update on 101 performance was given, nearly half the calls received were judged as excellent and triage answers to calls were very snappy.
The PCC made reference to calls that were deemed as unacceptable and the action that was taken. There was still a need to understand the high percentage of abandoned calls. Some members expressed their continued dissatisfaction at the service, although feedback from other councillors elsewhere in Dorset was that the service had improved. The PCC undertook to share the action plan with members and invited Cllr Smith from Bournemouth Borough Council to join the Customer Services Improvement Panel.

- ii) **Pillar 3 - Supporting Victims, Witnesses and reducing Reoffending** – Cllr Barbara Manuel / Cllr Bill Pipe
Cllr Manuel applauded all the initiatives taken in the report but had some concern about how all the outcomes would be measured e.g. fraud. The PCC advised that he was about to launch a new website regarding fraud which hopefully would help this but accepted that some measures would be difficult to evaluate.

- iii) **Pillar 2- Working with our Communities** – Cllr Bernie Davis / Cllr Mohan lyengar
 - Road safety - different practices between the 2 forces highlighted in the report – is the balance of the work correct and is there a need to equate practices.
 - Cyber crime – thinking about how we can build on sharing awareness and competence in people understanding this area and perhaps move to people's champions in this area? The PCC felt the use of people champions was a good idea along with the use of family members.
 - In respect of other areas to be considered for future problem solving forums, Cllr lyengar undertook to speak with the PCC outside of the meeting.

- iv) **Pillar 1 - Protecting People at Risk and Harm** – Cllr Andrew Kerby / Cllr Byron Quayle
 - In the absence of Cllr Kerby brief reference was made to the recent Modern Slavery seminar and Domestic Abuse Inquiry day.

Following a comment from a member about metrics, benchmarks, risk levels and

measures being included in this report, the Chairman advised that this would form part of the next development stage of the report and had been discussed with the PCC. The Director of Operations agreed that the next version of the report would have updated key performance indicators. The PCC highlighted the potential difficulty of being signed up to a number of targets that the Police were not signed up to. However the PCC recognised the importance of additional information to assist in the evaluation and assessment to judge performance and undertook to make further progress by the Panels next meeting on 1 February 2018.

The Quarterly monitoring report also provided further information and specific focus on key topics that had been requested by the Panel; Protecting People at Risk of Harm; Multi-Agency Working; Neighbourhood/Community Policing; and the levels of knife crime.

Following a discussion about community policing in key town centre areas, the PCC advised that with a lower number of police officers and less funding it was important for people to speak with their MPs about the state of policing in Dorset, he felt it was clear that policing needed more investment.

In response to a question about the reduction of PCSOs and whether this was as a result of a cut in the budget, the PCC advised there was a slight reduction but if the cuts kept coming more police officers and PCSOs would be lost. One member asked if the PCC would encourage the Chief Constable to give additional powers to the PCSOs, which he undertook to review next year on behalf of the Panel.

In respect of the funding it was suggested that if members had improved sight of more detail on the costs taken out (e.g. top slicing) before the funding reached the OPCC it would give a better understanding. The PCC welcomed this suggestion and agreed to review the presentation of this within the precept report in February 2018. The PCC encouraged Panel members to lobby MPs to make the case of a need for increased funding.

Following a question from a member about an amnesty on knife crime, the PCC advised that this was an operational call but if knife crime continued to increase there could be a need to convene a scrutiny panel to investigate further. Knife crimes in dwellings in Dorset were higher than the national average and officers were continuing to look into this and domestic abuse in more detail and undertook to report back to members.

One member made reference to Stop and Search and how Dorset had one of the highest stop and search ratios in the country for black people. The PCC advised that he had recently taken over the chairmanship of the Stop and Search Panel to try to address this and would be issuing a press release on this area shortly.

The Chairman thanked the PCC for a very informative and detailed report.

Resolved

1. That the PCC undertook to raise with the Chief Constable next year the issue of giving additional powers to PCSOs.
2. The PCC undertook to share the action plan for the Customer Service Improvement Panel with members.
3. The PCC agreed to further development work to incorporate specific metrics, risk levels, benchmarks and measures into the future quarterly monitoring reports.
4. It was agreed to review the presentation of the precept report to highlight specifically the levels of funding 'top slicing' for national and other initiatives.

Work Programme

94 The Panel considered and agreed its Work Programme for the remainder of 2017 and

on into 2018.

Following discussion the following items would also be scheduled into the work programme:-

- Road Safety Activity and Speed Cameras
- Body Worn Cameras and Drone evaluation
- National ICT projects
- Domestic Abuse benchmarking in relation to knife crime.

Panel members were also updated on the content of their forthcoming training session on 8 December 2017. The Chairman encouraged all to attend in order to maximise the contribution and benefits that could be achieved from the session to support the Panels continuous improvement agenda.

Resolved

That the work programme be updated accordingly.

Questions from Panel Members

95 No questions were asked by members of the Panel.

Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 12.55 pm