



DORSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 JULY 2019

Present: Mike Short (Chairman), Bobbie Dove (Vice-Chairman), Colin Bungey, Les Fry, Barry Goringe, Rachel Maidment, Iain McVie, Bill Pipe, Molly Rennie and David Taylor

Apologies: Cllrs Mark Anderson and Julie Bagwell

Also present: Cllr Mohan Iyengar

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Simon Bullock (Chief Executive, OPCC), Alexis Garlick (Chief Finance Officer), Adam Harrold (Director of Operations), Martyn Underhill (Police and Crime Commissioner), Jonathan Mair (Corporate Director - Legal & Democratic Service Monitoring Officer), Kate Shelley (Communications Officer), Mark Taylor (Group Manager - Governance and Assurance) and Fiona King (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

1. Election of Chairman

Resolved

That Mr Mike Short be elected Chairman of the Panel for the remainder of 2019/20.

A Petition was served on the Chairman by the members of the public who were in attendance.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved

That Cllr Bobbie Dove be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the remainder 2019/20.

3. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Anderson and Julie Bagwell from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

Mohan Iyengar attended as a substitute for Mark Anderson.

4. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the Panel were noted.

Noted

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7 February 2019 were presented to members for their information. No specific actions outstanding for the Panel to address.

Noted

6. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

However, Cllr Molly Rennie declared that the complainant referred to in Agenda Item 13 was known to her.

7. Public Participation

There were no statements or questions submitted from Town and Parish Councils at this meeting.

There were no public statements and questions submitted for this meeting.

Following a disturbance by members of the public the meeting was adjourned and reconvened at 10.55am.

The Monitoring Officer, Dorset Council, thanked the members of the public whom he had spoken with during the recess and he recognised the seriousness of the concerns that had been expressed to him. As the concerns and allegations raised were not within remit of the Panel the Monitoring Officer explained that the Police and Crime Panel was not the right forum in which to air them. He undertook to meet separately with some of those who had raised concerns and on this basis the meeting went ahead without any further interruption.

8. Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure for the Panel were noted.

Noted

9. Confirmatory Hearing for the PCC's Statutory Post of Chief Financial Officer

The Panel considered a report by the Chief Executive, OPCC which outlined the appointment process for the selection of the Chief Finance Officer (Treasurer).

The Chief Executive, OPCC explained that the confirmatory hearing for the appointment of the Chief Financial Officer was required by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The Chairman thanked the current Chief Financial Officer for her all her hard work during her time with OPCC. The PCC also took the opportunity to express his thanks publicly.

The Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel had acted as a silent observer during the appointment process and confirmed that it had been clear, honest, unbiased and transparent and he was satisfied that the marking system was fair.

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced his preferred candidate to members, Ms Julie Strange. This vacancy had been advertised during December 2018 and January 2019 and interviews were arranged for 5 February 2019 but unfortunately an appointment could not be made at that time. The post was then re-advertised in April 2019 and three applicants out of the five applications received were interviewed. References had now been taken up for Ms Strange and vetting completed.

The Chairman invited Ms Strange to share her career to date with members.

Ms Strange explained that she had worked for the past 5 years with the Dorset Councils Partnership within Dorset. She was the Head of Financial Services and Deputy 151 Officer for all three of the councils within the Partnership. Her team had been awarded a financial innovation award in 2018.

Following a question from a member about where she sat with the economics of a police force, Ms Strange advised that Police operated in the same legal regime as the local authorities although the pension scheme arrangements were slightly different. She would be meeting shortly with the current postholder for a briefing and appreciated that there would be areas specific to policy that she would need to learn about. Nevertheless, she was confident she would readily familiarise herself with these areas. Ms Strange confirmed that this would be her only employment. The Chief Executive re-affirmed to the Chairman that all references for the successful applicant had been checked.

Resolved

1. That following full and comprehensive discussion the Commissioner's preferred candidate of Ms Julie Strange for appointment to the post of Chief Financial Officer (Treasurer) be supported unanimously.
2. That the Chairman would write to the PCC stating that the Police and Crime Panel supported the appointment.

Reason for Decision

To assist the Panel in conducting a fair review of the process followed by the Commissioner and the suitability of the preferred candidate.

10. **Police and Crime Plan Monitoring Report**

The Panel considered a report informing them of the progress against the Police and Crime Plan and Priorities 2017-21. The report provided information on the financial outturn position for the year ending 31 March 2019, including updates on the following items:-

CEO talked members through the report explaining the pillar themes and highlighted the headlines for each pillar.

The PCC highlighted areas of work related to each of the pillar themes with members of the Panel who were leading on each of the themes in the Plan were also invited to provide updates.

Pillar 1 - Protecting People at Risk and Harm - Cllr Julie Bagwell

The PCC highlighted the work with county lines and the recruitment for the Police Cadets Scheme. He noted that in reality 1 in 3 calls related to people with Mental Health concerns with potentially 1 in 10 calls related to people in crisis. In respect of police resources regarding cases of Mental Health crisis, the PCC advised they were working with partners to help reduce this. He highlighted the work in different areas to help with this which included community retreats and the 24/7 crisis line.

Following a question about CCTV, the PCC confirmed he is both funding and co-ordinating this work. It was around £300k capital and revenue funding, he hoped it would ultimately become a pan Dorset project and he was currently in conversation with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP). Towns that currently didn't have CCTV would need to raise funds to enter into a partnership with the PCC who would also consider contributing some resource to the project.

The PCC anticipated that the Bobby Van in the future would be self-funding and completely sustainable. The van was being procured and the post was currently being graded. The aim was to launch in December and the governance of this would be through the Innovation Board.

Following a question from the Vice-Chairman regarding how success was measured in case of domestic violence and hate crime, the PCC advised firstly that there was a direct correlation between domestic violence incidents and crime with the decrease in one category being linked to the increase in another. With hate crime it was difficult to benchmark but he confirmed that hate crime remained a big priority for him.

In respect of knife crime awareness, the PCC advised there was still work to be done on this but had commissioned Safewise to provide some intervention training in schools. This was a clear priority area for him and noted that the majority of incidents of knife crime usage were domestic abuse related. He added that there was a very different profile in Dorset to what was happening in London and Bristol, for example, in relation to knife crime.

Pillar 2 - Working with our Communities - Cllr Les Fry and Cllr David Taylor

The PCC reported they were still seeing reductions in killed and seriously injured on our roads but there was no room for complacency. A dedicated police camera operator to work alongside community speed watch volunteers had now been appointed and had recently been deployed in Pimperne. The aim was to give teeth into the local speed watch system.

He had also funded a fly tipping co-ordinator post and a co-ordinator for county lines and child exploitation work which was currently being advertised.

One member highlighted the Cyber Crime Prevention officer role that had recently had a change of postholder, and queried whether there could be some sort of commitment in place to ensure they stayed in place for say a minimum of a year to offset money spent on training the individual? The PCC undertook to look into this but was aware that a minimum amount of money had been spent on training in the past. The Chief Executive commented that the majority of resources were around equipment rather than training.

In respect of benchmarking success in cyber safety, the PCC advised that originally this was done crudely by numbers, as it was hard to measure outcomes in this area. However, he had received good feedback from schools and communities.

The PCC 's blogs on Mental Health awareness were highlighted.

In respect of GPS tagging, the PCC advised he had now introduced a second trial contract in Dorset, allowing for a comparison to be made between the effectiveness of tags from two different manufacturers. He reported seeing tremendous results in Dorset with the Government now confirming they had finally extended the provision of the usage of GPS tags, in some circumstances.

Pillar 3 - Supporting Victims, Witnesses and reducing Reoffending - Cllr Bill Pipe and Molly Rennie

The PCC reported that a couple of commitments in this pillar were marked red due to the constant changes in government policy, as a result of the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda.

In response to a question regarding the Collingwood wing at HMP Verne (scoping the introduction of a possible veterans wing within the prisons estate), the PCC advised he was due to meet with the Minister later in the week. He felt that policy was not likely to be changed with the onset of a new Prison Minister. He confirmed that the wing would not just be for veterans, but also for vulnerable people.

One member noted that data showed that 94% of people felt safe in Dorset, and asked about the variability of this data, whilst noting that this represented a good feeling of safety within the county. However, he was concerned about the detail around scams and fraud and considered if the RAG rating was based on historic data. The PCC agreed that he was also concerned by the variability of confidence of people in Dorset, he was seeing fluctuations which were worrying. The Chairman asked for details of where Dorset stood in the

national ratings and the PCC undertook to provide this at the September meeting.

Pillar 4 - Transforming for the Future - Iain McVie and Cllr Barry Goringe (including Customer Service Panel)

The PCC advised they were starting the recruiting process for 50 police officers. The roll-out of body worn videos continued and they were now seeing a slight link between this and a reduction in complaints.

The Independent member felt it would be helpful to revisit body worn videos in the work programme. In respect of measuring success with this project the PCC advised that an internal review was being scoped at present. There would be an evaluation in the future as to its effectiveness, and noted there were clear instructions in place where body worn videos should be used. The Pillar Lead was considering the use of bail from a national perspective as the next area for him to scrutinise. The PCC welcomed the Panel deep diving into bail and had issued a challenge to the Chief Constable as he wanted to see bail percentages increase.

The Chairman made reference to the State of Policing – The Annual Assessment of policing in England and Wales 2018 by the HMIC Sir Tom Winsor which had recently been published. The Chairman focused on the reports third main issue which was that there was a mismatch between police funding and public expectations, seeking a view from the PCC. The PCC advised that this was a known issue (especially the aspect of short term resource planning by Central Government) and also made reference to the five former Metropolitan Chief Constables who had responded to the report, and in doing so had also asked for a Royal Commission on Policing, which he supported.

Following a question about dates/venue for PCC led scrutiny panels, the OPCC undertook to provide this information outside of the meeting.

Members also received a report on the scrutiny review of the remote access to Courts/Video Enabled Court Scheme. It was felt a decision needed to be made nationally for the balance of economics and being effective. Cost should be borne with the courts as they employed people to take people to courts and/or prison. Members of the Panel thanked the Pillar Lead for his work in this area.

The Chief Financial Officer presented to members her draft outturn report for Q4. The final accounts were still with audit but she was not expecting any changes to impact on the budget outturn report. Officers were making changes to the annual accounts in respect of pension liability. The accounts showed a positive outturn with the net revenue expenditure showing an outturn of £760k underspent. Capital expenditure was £6.7m with key spending areas including body worn videos, 60 new vehicles and transforming forensic expenditure. Closing balances showed £9.1m usable Reserves budget.

Members' asked the following finance related questions to the PCC:-

1. Total earmarked reserves for the original budget were £670k, yet the Draft Outturn (in one year) is now £4M. Can the OPCC please outline where this funding was obtained?

Earmarked reserves are a means of building up funds, to meet known or predicted future spending requirements; earmarked reserves are accounted for separately but remain legally part of the General Fund. They are therefore revenue funded reserves and are a method for smoothing the budget provision across years to meet uneven or fluctuating cash flows. The costs for which such reserves are held are generally, by nature, unpredictable, in terms of both timing and amount.

Since the original budget was set in February 2018, changes have been made to the reserves forecasts as a consequence of:

- i) The outturn position for 2017/18 - reported to the Panel in June 2018*
- ii) The Revised Estimate for 2018/19 – reported to the Panel in February 2019*
- iii) The outturn position for 2018/19 – now reported*

The protocol adopted for the explanation of variances is to the last reported forecast, on a cumulative basis, for ease of tracking and to avoid repetition. In this report, variance explanations have therefore been provided to the Revised Estimate as reported to the panel in February this year.

However, the main reason that reserves are higher than the original forecast is because of:

- a) Later timing of forecast expenditure, and*
- b) New predicted requirements. In detail:*

USABLE RESERVES				
	Original budget	2018/19 draft outturn	Variance	
Reported to Panel	Feb 2018	July 2019	higher / (-) lower	
Forecast closing balance at 31 March 2019	£000's	£000's	£000's	Funding source
Budget Management Fund	-	27	27	2018/19 underspent budget carried forward
Capital Financing Reserve	-	665	665	2018/19 underspent revenue contribution to capital carried forward
Major Operations Reserve	800	738	- 62	higher utilisation in 2017/18
Police and Crime Plan Reserve	-	1,063	1,063	2017/18 & 2018/19 underspent budget carried forward
Regional Collaboration Reserve	-	231	231	2017/18 & 2018/19 underspent budget carried forward
Workforce Change Reserve	910	1,333	423	Lower call on reserve in 2018/19 than budgeted
Total Earmarked Reserves	1,710	4,057	2,347	
Revenue Support Fund *	- 1,040		1,040	re-allocated to General Balances
Total	670	4,057	3,387	
General Fund Balance	5,413	3,957	- 1,456	2017/18 Lower closing balances
Total Revenue Reserves	6,083	8,014	1,931	
Capital Receipts Reserve	2,265	1,123	(1,142)	2017/18 Lower closing balances
Total Usable Reserves	8,348	9,137	789	

* this will be offset against General Balances as opposed to carrying a negative reserve

2. Can the Commissioner confirm why yet another “reserve” has been introduced?

The Chairman outlined that this may contradict the Reserve Policy and the Panel would prefer that this funding stayed within the Budget Management Fund. The Chief Financial Officer stated that the Reserves Strategy was set annually and that this new reserve was required in order to support the Dorset element of regional collaboration.

- The Regional Collaboration Reserve is a new funding line, sourced from the Budget Management Fund (BMF). The purpose of the BMF is to hold in-year underspends in order to carry forward “for use” funding to the following year; this ensures complete transparency with future underspends.

In setting the Reserves Strategy the relevant Home Office Police finance reserves guidance and CIPFA guidance is followed. The Strategy requires that reserves are kept under review to ensure the continuing relevance and adequacy. A review was conducted in the light of the draft outturn position and the Treasurer took a report through internal governance (Decision Making Joint Leadership Board) in April.

The Board approved the request from the Force for a new reserve for regional collaboration. A specific reserve is considered appropriate in order to transparently identify the resources set aside to cover future expected requirements.

The funding came from underspends in the annual revenue budget and relates to:

£194k brought forward for SW Forensics; £140.5k Capital allocation towards building work at Bristol and Devizes and £53.5k 17/18 underspend – transferred from the Budget Management Fund. £37k share of SWRF 18-19 underspend to fund one off digital imaging equipment.

In response to a question about whether other Forces in the unit put in an amount, the PCC advised although it was regional it was for every Force to set their own reserves and to determine any expenditure to be released from them.

The PCC confirmed that the same broad percentage funding formula for regional collaboration had been used since 2012. He noted the importance of having the right reserves strategy in line with the relevant guidance.

3. Can the OPCC please outline briefly the source of the Capital receipts in year?

The main capital receipt related to Bournemouth Police Station £3.2m, with the remainder coming from the sale of 3 police houses and a communications mast.

4. The OPCC and Dorset Police are congratulated on meeting the proscribed modest savings targets – can the OPCC please succinctly outline to the PCP on how these savings of £850k were obtained?

Savings targets were allocated to indicative budgets and closely monitored through Resource Control Board to ensure they were achieved. The £850k savings were achieved as follows:

- *£200k Estates – savings in maintenance/staffing/rents*
- *£350k IT Savings - licences /process re-engineering/staffing*
- *£100k Transport – restructure of Insurance arrangements*
- *£200k Procurement – force wide savings on new contracts let*

5. The original budget for “Equipment” was £720K – yet the outturn is only £83k – what equipment was not procured?

The original budget included provision for Digital Camera upgrades (£340k) and CCTV (£263k). The upgrades were re-profiled for 2019/20 and the CCTV expenditure has been included in the ICT line. There were other minor underspends on Drones and TSU equipment

The Chairman noted that the income achieved from the Chief Constable was positive and asked for further details. The Chief Financial Officer advised that the original budget of £14.1m which had been revised up to £27.6m, the outturn was £1.5m better. The most significant change had been in relation to Dorset Police now being responsible for managing the National Transforming Forensics programme which accounted for the majority of the increase in the Chief Constable’s income.

In respect of ICT being grossly underspent, the Chief Financial Officer advised that the Capital programme was now coming under more scrutiny and development and typically projects were across a number of years. She advised that there was an increasing need to be able to manage and plan the cashflow better.

As the budget outturn was more optimistic than anticipated one member wondered if the PCC was planning to be more ambitious with the projects earmarked for the coming year. The PCC advised that in year savings had been made but this did not necessarily mean there was more money to spend, given the impending costs the Panel had previously been made aware of, including increasing pay and pension costs, and the implementation of the Police Education and Qualification Framework. However, the in-year savings did allow the creation of a one-off Innovation Fund, to be used for pump priming innovative work within the force.

In respect of any potential cost implications in respect of the recent cyber attack to forensic providers, the PCC advised there might be huge cost implications but not for the Police. Contracts were being examined by the Information Commissioner and the PCC undertook to provide more detail on cost implications for the September meeting.

Resolved

That an update on the cost implications arising from a recent cyber attack be added to the agenda for the meeting scheduled for Tuesday 24 September 2019.

11. OPEC Draft Annual Report 2018/19

The Panel considered a report by the PCC's Chief Executive that presented the Draft Annual Report 2018-19 for consideration prior to publication in a months' time.

The Director of Operations informed members of the following information that was available via the PCCs website:-

- An electronic version of the police and crime plan
- An online tracker in respect of police and crime plan delivery; and
- An events calendar for information.

Resolved

1. That comments by the Panel on the Draft Annual Report are submitted to the Clerk by 19 July 2019; and
2. That the final Draft Annual Report be circulated to the Panel prior to publication.

12. Police Procurement - Vehicle Fleet Deep Dive

The Panel considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, OPCC which provided members with an update on the OPCC work to review Dorset Police's vehicle fleet.

The report identified assurances that were provided by undertaking this work but recognised there was still more work to do. This area now needed to be owned and accepted by the Force. The Chief Financial Officer was still seeking more transparency and had taken a report through the Resource Control Board with recommendations and undertook to report back to the Panel later in the year.

The Chairman congratulated the Officer on an excellent report and highlighted that the key issue now was strategic management. He asked for a report to come back to Police and Crime Panel on a vehicle replacement policy in order to assure the Dorset taxpayer they were getting value for money. The policy was detailed in the original PCC Vehicle Fleet report (June 2018) but had yet to materialise.

One member noted that whilst it was a police responsibility he was asking the PCC to ensure that the Policy was delivered. The PCC advised he was more concerned about old cars driving around and potentially putting police officers at risk but would continue to follow up on this.

In respect of the vehicle fleet, the PCC advised that there was a national transport consortium whereby the Government advised what vehicles could be used. He confirmed that Dorset Police had its own in-house vehicle servicing.

Resolved

That an update be provided to the Panel on the progress of the Vehicle Replacement Policy for the meeting scheduled for Tuesday 24 September 2019.

13. Complaints Update

Cllr Molly Rennie declared that the complainant referred to in this item was known to her.

The Group Manager – Governance and Assurance presented the minutes from the Complaints Sub-Committee meetings held on 18 March and 17 April 2019.

Members were also provided with a report from the Chairman of the Complaints Sub-Committee which covered all aspects of areas highlighted as a matter of concern by the complainant. This matter had now been dealt with by the existing complaints process and concluded. Any further issue regarding this complaint could be taken up with the Local Government Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO). A standard letter had been produced should any further communication be necessary. The Chairman of the Complaints Sub-Committee felt there were some lessons to be learned around transparency of the process which would be helpful to review at the next Complaints Sub-

Committee meeting. He asked the Panel to appoint 2 further members to the Complaints Sub-Committee to complete a committee of 5 members.

Resolved

1. That Les Fry and Barry Goringe be appointed to the Complaints Sub-Committee.
2. That a meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee be arranged to review the complaints process in order to bring back to the Panel in September.
3. That the Monitoring Officer issue the standard letter as discussed to members.

14. **Work Programme**

The Panel considered its Work Programme and noted the inclusion of the following items:-

- Further follow up of BW video
- Deep dive into Police Bail
- Further briefing around commissioning
- Vehicle Procurement

The Chief Executive, OPCC advised members there would be an opportunity to brief Panel members on Monday 9 September at the OPCC to talk about OPCC business and introduce members to the team.

The PCC advised members of the Police Open Day on Saturday 20 July 2019 and invited all members to attend.

The Chairman advised members that it was quite likely to be the last meeting for Mark Taylor, Group Manager - Governance and Assurance, and wished to thank him for all his help and support over the past 3 years. The PCC also conveyed his thanks and appreciation.

Resolved

That the work programme be updated accordingly.

15. **Questions from Panel Members**

There were no questions submitted by Members of the Panel.

16. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items of business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 1.50 pm

Chairman

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