

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2023

Present: Cllrs Mike Short (Chairman), Iain McVie, Bobbie Dove (Vice-Chairman), Pete Barrow, Les Fry (Left the meeting at 13:45), May Haines, Mark Howell, Sherry Jespersen, Toby Johnson, Chris Rigby and David Taylor

Apologies: Cllrs Andrew Kerby

Also present remotely: Cllr Graham Carr-Jones

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

Simon Bullock (Chief Executive, OPCC), Marc Eyre (Service Manager for Assurance), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer), Elaine Tibble (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Adam Harrold (OPCC Director of Operations), Julie Strange (OPCC Chief Finance Officer) and David Sidwick (Police and Crime Commissioner)

34. Statement from the PCC

35. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2022 were confirmed and signed.

The Service Manager for Assurance updated the panel on the following actions from the previous meeting:

Action: PCC to report back as part of the Q3 report with the response to the issues raised relating to theft outside of the home;

The PCC encouraged members of the public to come forward with any concerns.

Action: PCC to send further details relating to the summer safety survey to panel members.

The PCC gave an update of the results of his survey. From 2650 respondents, 58% felt Dorset one of safest/the safest county and the data corresponded with the aims of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan

Action: PCC to report back on the force's Gold Group findings on 101 and emergency response.

The PCC was still in dialogue and would report back at next panel meeting.

Action: PCC to provide panel members with the measures of success and a slide would be sent in advance of the next meeting.

The PCC explained that this was in context of the local implementation of the “From harm to hope drug strategy” There were additional meetings scheduled in February and March and he would report back at the next Panel meeting.

Action: A paper on the value of the Restorative Justice Service had been added to the Forward Plan.

Action: PCC to provide details of funding for speed cameras.
The PCC reported back with installation and ongoing maintenance costs.

Action: PCP Complaints Sub Committee to hold an informal virtual meeting to review the protocol.
Outstanding.

36. Declarations of Interest (00.17.00 on the recording)

The Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer confirmed that Councillors on the Panel were able to take part and vote on the Budget Precept.

37. Public Participation

There were no statements or questions from Town and Parish Council or members of the public.

38. Budget Precept Financial Year 2023/24 (00.18.45 on the recording)

The Chairman reminded the Panel Members of the voting rules for the Budget Precept and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) presented the report.

The PCC gave an update on the reduction in crime in various areas and the continued work to ensure every penny counted. This included the lobbying of Central Government over the unfair funding formula. The recommendation to the panel was to approve a £15 (Based on Band D property) increase to ensure that the Force could continue delivering for Dorset and recruit an extra 15 officers in addition to those secured via the national Police Uplift Programme.

The Chief Constable was invited to address the Panel (00.23.45 on recording). He expressed his gratitude for the support of the Panel on the 2022/23 Precept and the achievements made with the support of the PCC.

He explained that Anti-Social Behaviour had reduced by 30% in Dorset. Nationally violence against a person had increased following Covid but Dorset’s percentage increase was around half the national increase in percentage terms.

The crime rate in Dorset was the 6th lowest in the country, having improved from 10th in the last 18 months and there had been a 65% reduction in County Lines.

The Chief Constable set out some headlines in relation to inflationary pressures. Dorset was 42nd out of 43 forces when it came to national funding and national work was ongoing to address the funding formula.

Attached as appendix 1 2022/23 Precept letter from Chief Constable to PCC.

The PCC invited the OPCC Chief Finance Officer to give a detailed outline of the financial paper (44:05 on recording).

The Chief Finance Officer set the scene for the current financial challenges. The settlement contained within the report had been confirmed and the Panel was given an update on the recent changes to the budget together with an explanation of the report contents. The Chief Finance Officer was able to confirm positive assurance on both reserves and robustness of the budget.

The PCC had undertaken a public survey to see how the residents felt about the precept. The Director of Operations detailed the results of the survey (50:15 on recording).

The Panel Members were given the opportunity to put forward their questions to the PCC. (54:47 on the recording).

In summary Panel Members were advised that:

A lower precept increase would result in a reduction in the number of officers and inability to maintain the uplift numbers.

It was important to maintain the safety of the Dorset residents and the PCC clarified that over half of the properties in Dorset were Band C or below and would have a proportionately lower increase than the Band D £15 increase. The precept also comprised a small part of the Council Tax bill. Dorset was one of the lowest funded forces in the country and the PCC had been working hard to address this with the National Funding Formula Group.

The biggest risk assumption for 23/24 was the pay award. The Chief Finance Officer had attended the Force Efficiency Board meetings to look at how financial savings could be made, and noted that all options were being considered.

Efficiencies in savings were an ongoing process and efficiencies in procurement would be looked at when contracts came up for renewal. In response to the PCC's comments regarding the unfairness of the National Funding Formula and his ongoing lobbying to Government, the Panel agreed to write a letter of support to the PCC's requests.

ACTION: PCC to share his letter with the Chairman.

Following Panel questions the PCC summarised the discussion and the Chairman put forward the recommendation. (01:36:35 on the recording).

Proposed by Mr Mike Short, seconded by Cllr Dove.

Decision: That the recommendation to increase the precept for 2023/24 to £83,406,053 equivalent to a Band D charge of £280.58, an increase of £15 per annum or £1.25 per month was unanimously approved by the Panel.

Both the PCC and the Chief Constable voiced thanks to the Panel and the residents of Dorset. (01:41:25 on recording).

39. Adjournment (1:48:36 - 2:04:21 on recording)

40. Confirmation Hearing - Chief Constable Appointment (02:04:17 on recording)

The Chairman welcomed Temporary Assistant Commissioner Pearson (T/AC Pearson), the preferred candidate for the position of Chief Constable and outlined the process of the confirmation hearing.

The PCC introduced T/AC Pearson and played the video used for the recruitment process.

The Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer of the OPCC – outlined the process, the post criteria and background to the appointment (02:14:36 on recording), and thanked those officers of the OPCC who worked very hard across the Christmas period to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

T/AC Pearson was invited to introduce herself to the Panel Members. T/AC Pearson gave the panel some information about herself, why she wanted to be Chief Constable for Dorset and what had brought her to the county. She was keen to assure that Dorset was in a good place with solid foundations which she wanted to work and improve on (02:26:01 on recording).

Panel Members were then given the opportunity to put forward questions to the PCC and T/AC Pearson (02:29:42 on recording).

The Chief Executive (OPCC) confirmed that the candidate met the criteria for the post as set out in the role profile.

T/AC Pearson responded to questions confirming that she had the professional competence together with the personal independence to carry out the role.

41. Exempt Part of Confirmation Hearing - Chief Constable Appointment

Proposed by, Mr Mike Short, seconded by Cllr Bobbie Dove

Decision: That the press and the public be excluded for the following item(s) in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The Panel members retired to make their decision.

Proposed by: Cllr Bobbie Dove, seconded by Cllr May Haines

Decision: That the appointment of Ms Amanda Pearson to the role of Chief Constable was approved.

Cllr Howell abstained from the vote.

42. **LUNCH BREAK 13:10 - 13:45**

Cllr Les Fry left the meeting

43. **Election of Chair/Vice Chair for June 23/24 (Afternoon Recording)**

Proposed by Cllr Bobbie Dove, seconded by Cllr David Taylor

Decision: that Mr Mike Short be elected as Chairman for the June 2023/24 year.

Proposed by Cllr Sherry Jespersen, seconded by Cllr May Haines

Decision: that Cllr Bobbie Dove be elected Vice-Chairman for the June 2023/24 year.

44. **Q3 Monitoring Report Overview (00:02:20 on recording)**

The PCC provided an overview of progress against the Police and Crime Plan (PCP) and reported that crime and incidents were going down.

Together, with the Priority Leads, updates on the 6 priorities were discussed and scrutinised.

- **Cut crime and anti-social behaviour**
- **Make policing more visible and connected**
- **Fight violent crime and high harm**
- **Fight rural crime**
- **Put victim and communities first**
- **Make every penny count**

Actions from discussions:

ACTION – For the PCC: Update on Operation Soteria Bluestone at the next meeting and deep dive into Domestic Abuse later in the year. (Workplan)

ACTION – For the Police and Crime Panel: Consider adding the new Serious Violence Duty legislation to the Forward Workplan

ACTION – look at encouraging male victims of Domestic Violence to come forward.

45. Complaints Update (01:19:36 on recording)

The Chairman of the PCP Complaints Sub-Committee advised that there was one complaint that had originally been dealt with by the Chief Executive. The complaint had been re-written and included other forces. The Service Manager for Assurance (Dorset Council) and the Chief Executive (OPCC) were dealing with this.

46. Forward Plan (01:20:36 on recording)

The Service Manager for Assurance updated the Panel on changes identified in the workplan.

47. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

48. Exempt Business

There was no additional exempt business.

Appendix 1 - 2022/23 Precept Letter from CC to PCC

Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 3.10 pm

Chairman

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