

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2023

Present: Elizabeth Mytton, Mike Short (Chairman), Cllrs Pauline Batstone, Les Fry (Vice-Chairman), Patrick Canavan, Alasdair Keddie, Peter Sidaway and Tony Trent

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

Simon Bullock (Chief Executive, OPCC)
Marc Eyre (Service Manager for Assurance)
Chris Harrod (Senior Democratic Services Officer)
Adam Harrold (OPCC Director of Operations)
John Miles (Democratic Services Officer)
David Sidwick (Police and Crime Commissioner)
Julie Strange (OPCC Chief Finance Officer)

23. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pete Barrow, Graham Carr-Jones and Sherry Jespersen.

24. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023 were confirmed and signed.

The Service Director invited the PCC to give an update relating to the actions that had been raised in the minutes, the details of which can be found at appendix 1.

25. Declarations of Interest

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

26. Public Participation

There were no questions, statements or petitions received from members of the public or from Town and Parish Councils.

27. Q2 Monitoring Report 2023/23 (00:05:41 on the recording)

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman put three strategic questions to the PCC. These and the PCC's responses can be found at appendix 1.

The PCC gave an update on the quarterly monitoring report Q1 (00:13:38 on recording). He gave a brief overview of the report, highlighting some of the main points and progress to date before focusing on the 6 Priority areas in further detail.

Priority 1 Cut Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) (00:13:50 on recording)

The PCC highlighted the following points:

- A small uptick in dwelling burglary and plans for more prevention activity.
- ASB had continued to fall.
- The need to keep focusing on preventing road accidents in Dorset. Investment in preventing fraud.
- Supporting Young People

Follow on panel questions and responses from PCC (00:17:34 on recording) and at appendix 1.

Following a supplementary question that wasn't of a strategic nature, The PCC invited members to provide details of any individual cases to him outside of the meeting and advised that would follow up on them.

Priority 2 Make Policing More Visible and Connected (00:29:05 on recording)

The PCC highlighted the following points:

- The launch of Bournemouth "Town Teams", which had been put in place to ensure the safety of the public, particularly to support the nighttime economy.
- The reopening of three front-desks to the public, in Blandford, Swanage and Lyme Regis.

Additional Panel questions (00:31:55 on recording).

- Dorset Police needed to better explain how to use the single online home website and the PCC would work with the communications team at the force to communicate how best to use it.
- The 101 average response time was averaging at 15 minutes and the PCC aspired to reduce this average response time even lower. There had already been significant improvement in terms of response time.
- The single online home was designed to improve the quality of interaction between the police and the public.
- Dorset Police was working with BIDs, chamber of commerce's and businesses to develop a suitable reporting system for shoplifting and the PCC suggested he could bring this particular issue back to the panel at a future meeting.

Priority 3 Fight Violent Crime and High Harm (00:47:06 on recording)

The PCC highlighted the following points:

- Much violence can be linked to drug-related crime, progress being made across the county of Dorset.
- Bid submitted to home office for safer streets fund.
- He had commissioned domestic abuse charity to undertake a deep dive into the elements of domestic abuse pathways across Dorset.

Panel questions and responses from the PCC (00:50:37 on recording) and at appendix 1.

Additional Panel questions (01:10:27 on recording).

- The PCC could provide data relating to the victim satisfaction survey that is undertaken by the police.

Priority 4 Fight Rural Crime (01:13:36 on recording)

The PCC highlighted the following points:

- He and his regional counterparts were leading a campaign to combat the involvement of organised crime groups (OCGs) in rural crime.
- He had been working with partners to explore opportunities into preventing and enforcing fly-tipping.
- In his bid to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, the PCC had included a request for rural burglary prevention packs, which would be delivered to property owners on a face-to-face basis to allow discussion on prevention.

Panel questions and responses from the PCC (01:17:31 on recording).

- There was under-reporting of rural crime, although this was far improved since the enlargement of the rural crime team.
- The rural burglary packs would come with all of the material required to allow their being proper use.

Priority 5 Putting Victim and Communities First (01:20:18 on recording)

The PCC highlighted the following points:

- He had been focussed on business and retail crime and had provided a fund for 200 businesses to take advantage of.
- The launch of a new police scrutiny panel to assess police stop and search powers.

Panel questions and responses from the PCC (01:26:25 on recording) and at appendix 1.

Additional Panel questions (01:31:20 on recording).

- The PCC was content that the police force was working hard to address the issue of hate crime and ensuring that communities felt safe.

- Dorset Police had a good understanding of exactly what constituted as a hate crime or hate incident, despite regular confusions by the public and press.

Priority 6 Make Every Penny Count (01:36:26 on recording)

The PCC highlighted the following points:

- There had been a number of successful bids for funding, including for the Safer Streets Fund and for managing the Bibby Stockholm.
- There was a new legitimacy board which was established to ensure that correct standards were in place.
- Work was being undertaken to bring the firearms licensing unit back into the remit of Dorset Police.

Panel questions and responses from the PCC (1:41:18 on recording) and at appendix 1.

Noted

The Meeting adjourned at 11:46am and recommenced at 11:55am.

28. Use of Precept Update (01:55:22 on the recording)

The PCC introduced the report which set out how the precept had been used for the year so far.

The PCC highlighted the following key areas:

- Set out priorities in a national context.
- Set out priorities in a local context.
- Fairer funding.

Panel questions and responses from the PCC (02:09:56 on recording) and at appendix 1.

Noted

29. Violent Crime and Prevention (02:16:48 on the recording)

The PCC introduced the report which provided the Panel with an update on the work being undertaken to tackle and prevent violent crime.

The PCC highlighted the following key points:

- Dorset had the second lowest figures in terms of knife crime, which was positive, however, this meant that it was challenging to receive funding to prevent it.
- The PCC was continuing to lobby for fairer funding that could allow Dorset Police to prevent knife crime, as opposed to having to combat it.

Panel questions and responses from the PCC (02:28:28 on recording).

- The PCC explained that he had a desire to establish a VRU in order to address the prevention of violent knife crime, particularly among young people.
- The PCC would provide a response to Cllr Canavan's question relating to the Community Safety Partnership at the next meeting, once he was aware of all of the relevant details.
- Keeping people safe should be a key priority for all councils as well as the police force.

Noted

In accordance with procedural rule 8.1 a vote was taken to extend the duration of the meeting.

30. Fly-Tipping Update (02:44:06 on the recording)

The PCC introduced the report which gave an update on the PCC's work to target fly-tipping.

The PCC highlighted the following key points:

- There were two main offenders in relation to fly-tipping, unscrupulous companies and private individuals.

Panel questions and responses from the PCC (02:56:55 on recording).

- There were plenty of opportunities to reduce fly-tipping, including utilising the forces' comms team to demonstrate where offenders had been made an example of. It would also be appropriate to showcase the effect on the environment where fly-tipping was prevalent.
- The PCC would be happy to support a campaign requesting signage, but this was not something that he would commit to funding as he felt that it would sit within the remit of the local authority.

Noted

31. Complaints Update (03:08:18 on the recording)

Cllr L Fry gave a verbal update on complaints including feedback from the Complaints Sub Committee and advised that there were no live complaints at this time.

Noted

32. Forward Workplan

The Forward Workplan was noted.

The Chair also advised that there was an informal session relating to the precept budget.

33. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

34. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10:00am – 1:11pm

Chairman

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