



WATFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



MEETING OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Thursday 8th February 2024- 6:00pm

Broxbourne Borough Council
Bishop's College
Churchgate, Cheshunt
Hertfordshire, EN8 9XQ

MINUTES

(Please note the minutes are a brief summary of the discussion and not intended to be verbatim)

Members Present:	Cllr A Curtis	Broxbourne Borough Council
	Cllr A Wren	St Albans City and District Council
	Cllr A Scarth	Three Rivers District Council
	Cllr C Gray	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr A Willoughby	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr A Dychton	Watford Borough Council
	Cllr A Mitchell	Hertfordshire County Council
	Dr M Ramsay	Independent Member (Vice Chair)
	Cllr L Chesterman	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
	Cllr J Hollywell	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr R Townsend	East Herts District Council

Also Present:

- Mr David Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Mr Chris Brace, Chief Executive, PCC
- Dr Amie Birkhamshaw, Assistant Chief Executive, PCC
- Mrs N Boateng, Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel
- Mr Ibrahim Balta, Deputy Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel
- Mr Elliot Free, Legal Apprentice, Broxbourne Council

1. WELCOME

The Clerk welcomed everyone to the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Panel meeting. The Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chair of the Panel.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr Lara Pringle, Cllr Taylor (Cllr Wren attended as her substitute)

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 23RD NOVEMBER 2023

Approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

5. QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

6. QUESTIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FROM THE PUBLIC

Questions and the responses are attached.

Follow up questions and comments from Panel Members and responses from David Lloyd:

Cllr L Chesterman - happy with the response. But mentioned domestic abuse against men and questions how it would be made safe for those who don't report.

David Lloyd - commented on types of domestic abuse and their awareness. It doesn't matter what your gender or sexuality is when you report you get the same treatment. It's important to note that we are open to all reports.

Cllr Willoughby – referred to the issue of underreporting of crimes. Commenting we need to work together on this issue.

David Lloyd - I would like to work closely. It is difficult to say what is underreporting. We are in a better place than in the past. Surveys have shown interesting results about how people feel and where they feel safe. For example, people feel unsafe in the dark that is not necessarily because there is threat.

Cllr A Curtis - further questions on underreporting and what work is done to assess barriers to reporting.

David Lloyd – this is a bigger piece which we are not going to be able to answer today.

Cllr A Scarth - good work being done, Aylesbury Crown Court, domestic abuse Courts. Watford when girls go out, Night Angels and volunteers.

David Lloyd - acknowledge volunteer structure is brilliant, maybe to be also carried out/introduced to St Albans.

Cllr A Dychton – Invited all to participate in the charity walk on 25th February, walking to St Albans to raise awareness and raise funding for Watford Women Centre.

7. (i) THE PROPOSED POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PRECEPT 2024/25

David Lloyd introduced the Precept.

(ii) REPORT ON POLICE PRECEPT CONSULTATION 2024/25

David Lloyd introduced the Precept consultation.

Dr Ramsay - pair of issues of concerns (1) proposed new HQ, (2) neighbourhood policing.

Cllr A Wren - interested in visibility of Police and neighbourhood policing. But not actual increasing in numbers.

Cllr Scarth - also criticised the lack of increase in numbers.

David Lloyd - provided background information on PSCOs history, the funding and employment law issues around PCC who kept PSCOs. However, we have managed to keep the level they are on now.

Cllr Gray - raised questions about funding arrangements from his district.

David Lloyd - provided clarity regarding level of funding from Cllr Gray's district.

Cllr A Curtis – referred to page 33 of the Precept that £58m is having to be put over the next 3 years. It doesn't seem to have moved forward; the Precept states it will be done by 2027.

David Lloyd - The project started 3 years ago; it will cost significantly more if it stops. The building we have now is not fit for purpose. It wouldn't be good enough not to go ahead it will cause a further delay of approximately 18 months. The costs have gone up significantly. Prices have inflated due to Covid and inflation.

Cllr Willoughby - I am in support. I trained in the HQ. We are putting a lot on HQ development what are we doing with local Police Stations, what is going to happen in those terms.

David Lloyd - the response should be from the new candidate who will be replacing me.

Cllr A Scarth - for the HQ were you able to get funding for energy efficiency grants.

David Lloyd and Ian, confirmed that they have tried but they couldn't.

Cllr Chesterman - requested numbers, population and planning.

David Lloyd and Ian provided numbers per capita.

Cllr Wren - criticised reduced community grants. Can we be reassured that you are looking at this and the budget has a team on it. Are you cutting budget i.e camera budget.

David Lloyd- £750k had to be trimmed accordingly, I don't want to fetter the budget for an incoming PCC.

Dr Ramsay – Invited the Panel to vote on the precept Budget.

Members of the Panel voted unanimously to accept/agree the precept budget.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING TBC