MEETING OF HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2026- 6 PM

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL
THE FORUM,
MARLOWES,
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HP1 1DN

DRAFT MINUTES
(Please note that the minutes are a summary of the discussions and not intended to be verbatim)

Members Present:	Cllr Jim Clune(Chair)	Broxbourne Borough Council
	Cllr Matt Fisher	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Nazmin Chowdhury	Stevenage Borough Council
	Dr Malcolm Ramsay (Vice Chair)	Independent Panel Member
	Cllr Andrew Scarth	Three Rivers District Council
	Cllr Vijaiya Poopalasingham	North Herts Council
	Cllr Nigel Taylor	Dacorum Council
	Cllr Harriet Sherlock	St Albans City and District Council
	Cllr Duncan Jones	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Also Present:

Mr Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner ('PCC')
Mr Rafal Hejne, Interim Chief Executive
Mr Ibrahim Balta, Clerk to the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Panel

1 WELCOME

The meeting was opened with introductions. Dr Ramsay welcomed attendees. Appreciation was expressed to Cllr Tom Plater for his work in supporting the Panel as the Chair during a challenging period.

2 APPOINTMENT OF THE PCP CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Cllr Jim Clune, wished to be nominated as the Chair, introduced himself and outlined his background. Conservative Councillor for Broxbourne. Served approximately 30 years with the Metropolitan Police Service, experience included territorial policing, public order and riot policing, diplomatic protection group, firearms duties, custody sergeant roles, school

policing, first response and critical incident management. Currently he is the Deputy Leader at Broxbourne Borough Council.

As the sole nominee, Cllr Jim Clune was appointed by agreement of the Panel Members present.

Dr Ramsay(Vice Chair): expressed his willingness to continue in the role and highlighted his experience working with government departments and public sector organisations. Outlined his previous experience as the Vice Chair, by agreement of the Panel Members present Dr Ramsay is appointed as Vice Chair.

3 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllr Val Bryant, Mr Luke Rigg, Mr Mark Jackson and Dr Julian Hargreaves, Cllr Aga Dychton (joined remotely).

4 WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Cllr Nigel Taylor and Cllr Nazmin Chowdhury

5 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS ON 27 MAY 2026*(attached)*

Agreed.

6 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

7 QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL FROM THE PUBLIC

Questions are to be sent to pcp@broxbourne.gov.uk by 11 June 2026**,** seven days in advance of the meeting to allow for a quicker and more complete response. *(20 minutes are permitted)*

None

8 QUESTIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FROM THE PUBLIC

Questions are to be sent to pcp@broxbourne.gov.uk by 11 June 2026**,** seven days in advance of the meeting to allow for a quicker and more complete response. *(20 minutes are permitted)*

None

9 MR JONATHAN ASH-EDWARDS POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ('PCC') ANNUAL REPORT

PCC: Presented his annual report.

Cllr Scarth: raised concerns about the reduced visibility of uniformed officers in communities and suggested that increased foot patrols would improve public confidence.

PCC: highlighting additional officer recruitment, hotspot patrol funding and commitments to neighbourhood policing and community engagement.

Cllr Nigel Taylor: questioned whether alternative and potentially more cost-effective accommodation options had been explored for police premises.

PCC: advised that the police estate was under continual review and stressed the importance of maximising value for money while maintaining local policing presence through partnership arrangements where appropriate.

Cllr Poopalasingham: asked about the effectiveness of Operation Hotspot and whether rural areas risked being disadvantaged by the concentration of resources in town centres.

PCC: explained that hotspot patrols were targeted at locations with the highest levels of anti-social behaviour, retail crime and violence. He noted that evidence showed limited displacement of crime and confirmed that rural policing priorities, including response times, continued to be monitored closely.

Cllr Poopalasingham: requested further information on hotspot activity and outcomes in North Hertfordshire.

PCC: agreed to provide ongoing updates on local activity and outcomes**.**

Cllr Poopalasingham: sought clarification on how Live Facial Recognition was being deployed, the criteria used to select locations and whether the technology was proving effective.

PCC: explained that deployments were focused on high-footfall areas, locations with outstanding warrants and areas experiencing crime trends. He emphasised the governance arrangements surrounding deployments and reported that other forces, particularly the Metropolitan Police, had demonstrated positive outcomes from the use of the technology.

Cllr Matt Fisher: welcomed Hertfordshire's progress in relation to Clare's Law disclosures and asked about preparations for increased domestic abuse risks associated with major sporting events. He also sought views on neighbourhood watch activity and community reporting.

PCC: highlighted work with police, charities and football clubs to raise awareness and support victims, noting that domestic abuse traditionally increases during major sporting tournaments. He also reiterated the value of Neighbourhood Watch and confirmed ongoing support through grant funding.

Cllr Nigel Taylor: returned to the issue of accommodation costs and expressed concern that councils should not be expected to subsidise police estate requirements.

PCC: reiterated that arrangements should represent value for taxpayers and that partnership discussions would continue where mutually beneficial.

Cllr Sherlock: referred to anti-social behaviour issues within his wards and requested further detail regarding the action being taken.

PCC: outlined measures contained within the Constabulary's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, including targeted patrols, partnership working, use of Community Protection Notices, Closure Orders and future use of Respect Orders.

Cllr Scarth: asked whether facial recognition technology could be used as evidence in court proceedings.

PCC: explained that live facial recognition currently serves primarily as an identification tool rather than direct evidential material, although developments in evidential use continue nationally.

Cllr Scarth: also raised concerns regarding police attendance at parish meetings and highlighted the contribution of Hertfordshire's volunteer schemes.

PCC: acknowledged the importance of local visibility and committed to raising the issue with the Constabulary.

Cllr Scarth: queried policing preparations around extended licensing hours during major sporting events.

PCC: advised that detailed operational plans were in place to manage increased demand associated with night-time economy activity and major events.

Dr Ramsay(Vice Chair): welcomed the report but suggested greater explanation of crime data, cybercrime, diversity issues and financial challenges in future editions.

PCC: outlined ongoing activity relating to fraud, cybercrime, community confidence, workforce diversity and long-term financial sustainability.

Cllr Scarth: highlighted work undertaken by councils, libraries, Trading Standards and other agencies to raise awareness of cybercrime.

Dr Ramsay(Vice Chair) and the PCC: agreed that cybercrime required a coordinated partnership approach involving multiple organisations.

Cllr Poopalasingham : asked whether greater coordination and integration across agencies could reduce duplication and improve outcomes.

PCC: outlined work underway to review partnership frameworks and improve coordination between agencies while maintaining accountability.

Cllr Matt Fisher: requested updates on retail crime initiatives, fly-tipping enforcement and Project Trace.

PCC: Pilot schemes improving intelligence sharing between retailers and police. Work being done to simplify shoplifting reporting processes. Greater focus on fly-tipping enforcement and rural crime. Expansion of Project Trace to tackle tool theft and improve property recovery for victims.

Cllr Jim Clune(Chair): welcomed improvements in burglary detection and investigation outcomes.

PCC: acknowledged that further improvement was required but reported that dedicated burglary-focused activity was delivering positive early results.

10 INDEPENDENT STOP & SEARCH SCRUTINY PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

PCC: presented the annual Stop and Search report and advised that scrutiny arrangements were being revised to strengthen oversight. The Panel was informed that stop and search activity had increased and that positive outcome rates remained encouraging. Scrutiny of strip-search activity involving children also continued.

Cllr Matt Fisher: asked whether those involved in stop and search scrutiny sufficiently reflected the demographics of those being searched.

PCC: recognised the challenge and reported plans to engage young people more directly through the Youth Commissioner's programme.

Cllr Chowdhury: questioned the safeguards in place where individuals may be stopped based on incomplete descriptions or mistaken identity.

PCC: explained that officers must justify searches, provide records and remain accountable for their decisions through supervisory review and independent scrutiny arrangements.

Cllr Jones: asked for clarification regarding falling arrest rates and the definition of a positive outcome.

PCC: explained that positive outcomes extended beyond arrests and included other enforcement actions such as warnings and resolutions.

Dr Ramsay(Vice Chair): queried data contained within the report relating to male demographics.

PCC: agreed to review the figures and provide clarification in writing.

Cllr Clune(Chair): queried significant variations in stop and search activity between districts.

PCC: explained that activity generally reflected population size, transport links, town centres and crime hotspot locations.

Cllr Scarth: referred to exemptions relating to ceremonial Sikh blades.

PCC: confirmed that policing approaches distinguished appropriately between legitimate religious symbols and criminal weapon possession.

11 INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VOLUNTEERS ANNUAL REPORT

PCC: presented the Independent Custody Visiting Annual Report. The Panel was updated in relation to detainees generally reported being treated appropriately. Few concerns had

been raised during visits. Issues identified were dealt with promptly. Investment had been made in custody facilities and CCTV systems. Hertfordshire's scheme had recently achieved Gold Accreditation status.

12 AOB

Cllr Scarth: welcomed the use of forensic marking technology to tackle illegal e-scooter and bike-related crime.

PCC: outlined ongoing trials and opportunities to expand its use against organised offending and cycle-related crime.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 19 NOVEMBER 2026-6PM- BROXBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES