



WATFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



MEETING OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Thursday 13 June 2019

Broxbourne Council Bishops'
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 P Choudhury, Hertsmere Borough Council
Mr C Cowdrey, Independent Member
Dr M Ramsay, Independent Member
Cllr A Scarth, Three Rivers District Council
Cllr J Hollywell, Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr C Woodward, Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr G Saffery, Watford Borough Council
Cllr S North, North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr S Monaghan (Chair), Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr A Curtis, East Herts District Council

Also Present: Cllr Aran Banks, Broxbourne Borough Council
Mrs N Boateng, Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel
Mr David Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner
Mr David Gibson, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Mr Chris Brace, Chief Executive, PCC
Dr Amie Birkhamshaw, Director of Strategy, PCC

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Members of the Panel nominated and voted for Cllr Siobhan Monaghan to be Chair of the Police and Crime Panel with Cllr Israel Imarni as vice chair.

2 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr S Hodgson, Cllr B Sarson, Cllr Imarni, Mr Ian Laidlaw-Dickson,

3 AGREE CONTINUED APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Agreed by Panel

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 11 April 2019

The list of members present inaccurately omitted Cllr C Woodward who was in fact present at the meeting on 11 April 2019. Otherwise minutes agreed.

5 MATTERS ARISING

As above

6 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

None

7 QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

8 THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

DL explained the report was in draft form so he could take account of comments or suggestions of the Panel.

DL presented a summary of the report. The 5 key achievements are set out on page 3 of the report.

Summary of questions and answers

CC – Asked about the development strategy for HQ.

DL – Discussed development strategy generally and indicated that a liaison with the fire service and other parts of the public sector were ongoing to see how it could be best used.

CC – You were unable to bring the fire and police under your remit, now operating under a memorandum of understanding, how is that working.

DL – Discussed the work of the Herts Collaboration board and confirmed it was working well under the MOU.

AC – Asked a question about fly tipping.

DL – Confirmed that fly tipping would continue to be a priority. Explained, that it needs to be tackled across different parts of the public sector. Culture change needed.

AC – Asked what DL had done towards joint working.

DL – Referred to Hertfordshire Waste Group bringing together County Councils, Borough Councils and PCC. Referred to work of "SCRAP". Also, confirmed that proceeds of crime money had been used to remove fly tips from private land.

CL – Asked about the blue light collaboration, in particular how the Police were working with the ambulance service.

DL- Responded generally providing information about the blue light collaboration and confirmed that the health and ambulance service had joined the Estates Board.

GS – Asked about out of area transfers and whether there were any plans to formally address this in future?

DL- recognised the issue and mentioned a few initiatives around this.

GS – Asked a question about CSP and sharing information on high risk individuals.

DL – Confirmed that was the benefit of different sectors collaborating, with the usual protocols, easier to share information.

AS – Asked question about hospitals providing information to Police when treating knife crimes.

DL – Acknowledged it was important to get information from hospitals, but issues around patient confidentiality and deterring individuals from seeking medical assistance. Reference made to “Red Fred” a charity which is able to get information in such cases without breaching confidentiality.

JH – Asked questions around the review of establishment officers.

DL – I review the establishment every year. The starting point is what the public want.

SN – Asked a question about the 5 key achievements and policing (parts of report suggest an increase in one area of policing and reduction in others).

DL – Local policing is valued by the public. Whilst we have new Police starting we also have Police retiring, turnover is around 7%. May lose from specialist teams but more local police, but same level of cover provided overall.

SN – Talked about the difference between specialist and local policing. It takes time for officers to get into the specialist roles. While increasing local policing, how are you ensuring the specialist teams are sufficient.

DL – Confirmed he had not cut Police Officers, but had put more in. Understood the need to ensure the right level of Police cover across all areas.

CW – Asked a question about the volunteer scheme.

DL – confirmed he supported a full range of volunteer groups.

AC – Asked questions regarding the level of reserves, expected increases in population and whether it was prudent to go below 5%.

DL – Referred to CIPFA guidance which recommends between 3 and 5%. He also takes advice from his Chief Finance Officer. Increase in population would lead to a corresponding increase in Council tax.

Questions by members of the public

Mr Malcolm Briggs – indicated that he had sent a question in for David Lloyd.

However, the Clerk to the Panel had not received it. It was confirmed the Clerk would attempt to find question and arrange for it to be answered by DL.

Mr Peter Chorley – Asked what the increase in Council tax had achieved.

DL – responded with examples of where the extra money had been spent such as increases in Police in domestic abuse and neighbourhood teams and officers in the control room. There are 35 new officers and over 100 new recruits.

9 INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITORS SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT

DL presented a summary of his report.

AC – Raised a question about the number in the report that had raised a concern about access to medical facilities.

DL – the report details what those medical requests were. Should not take from this that their medical needs were not met.

PC – Asked whether a breakdown into ethnicity could be undertaken, to see whether any particular groups are affected disproportionately.

DL – We are aware of ethnicity from custody records. This could be fed back for next year.

SN – Asked about whether the ICV could reflect the offending population.

DL – We try to have a proportionate custody visiting scheme, but would not want to turn down a potential volunteer on the basis of ethnicity.

GS – More detainees are not visited that are, how is this mitigated.

DL – Alternative times to visit are always offered to ensure a decent number of detainees are visited.

10 COUNTRYWIDE COMMUNITY STOP AND SEARCH SCRUTINY PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

Chris Cowdrey – Chair of the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel, gave a presentation on the work of the Panel.

The purpose of the Panel is to ensure that stop and searches are undertaken lawfully, transparently, and ethnically.

The Panel meet on a Monthly basis, review paper work and view body worn videos.

The Panel check from a sample whether stop and searches are being carried out lawfully, correctly authorised, and that outcomes follow searches.

The Panel provide challenges back to the Police.

The Panels confidence level in stop and search has increased. The Panel has noticed a reduction in the number of searches with questions back to the Police.

4.7% more likely to be stopped and searched if you are black in Hertfordshire.

The Panel is always trying to increase representation from younger people and improve diversity in its membership. We want to improve how visible we are across the country. We are visiting the YMCA.

SN – considered 4.7% to be an alarming number.

DL – discussed knife and drug crime generally. Stop and searches tend to relate more to drug crimes. The purpose of the review Panel is to check the process and provide challenges back to the Police. DL was reassured by the work of the stop and search Panel that it was being used appropriately by the Police.

11 INDEPENDENT DOG WELFARE VISITING SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT

SN – Noted the report does not mention Police officers mental health, where does the PCC pick this up.

DL – A report dealing with officer's welfare will come to another meeting of the PCP.

12 AOB

AS – Asked about the length of time given to members of the public to get questions in before a PCP meeting. Currently 7 days, but this is usually when the reports are received from the PCC, giving members of the public only a day to consider the report and submit a question.

ACTION POINT - The Panel agreed to review the length of time given to members of the public to submit questions.

AS – Mentioned that the Commissioner had agreed to provide the Panel with notice of how the budget was progressing through the year.

13 Any other Business

Future meetings:-

19th September 2019 - East Herts District Council, Council Chamber

14th November 2019 - Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, Council Chamber

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7:00PM THURSDAY 19th September 2019 AT East Herts District Council – Council Chamber