



WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL



MEETING OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Thursday 19 September 2019
East Herts Council (Council Chamber)
Wallfields, Pegs Lane Hertford, SG13
8EQ

MINUTES

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

Members Present:

Cllr S Monaghan (Chair), Broxbourne Borough Council
Mr C Cowdrey, Independent Member
Dr M Ramsay, Independent Member
Mr Ian Laidlaw-Dickson, 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 A Curtis, East Herts District Council
Cllr S Hodgson, St Albans City and District Council
Cllr I Imarni (Vice Chair), Dacorum Borough Council

Also Present:

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
Mrs N Boateng, Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr B Sarson and Cllr P Choudhury.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 13 JUNE 2019

Agreed, subject to amendments dealt with under matters arising.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Corrections to the minutes put forward by Cllr North and David Lloyd.

Agreed it was for the Panel to request a report on Officer welfare.

The possibility of reports being submitted earlier to enable members of public a longer period to consider and pose questions was discussed.

It was agreed that PCC reports that are ready will be submitted. However, this will not be possible for all reports.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

None

5 QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

6 THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLAN (EVERYBODY BUSINESS)

PCC: Summarised the draft plan and indicated to the Panel this was their opportunity to tell him what they thought and make recommendations.

Panel: Asked for a breakdown of new officers anticipated for Herts.

PCC: Referred to the Home Office figure of 20,000 new Officers, details of this have not been provided yet.

Panel: If Herts has 2% of 20,000 that might mean 400 Officers, are there enough Police lockers?

PCC: Looking at re-developing some sites, but confident we have enough space.

Panel: The Plan uses the word "explore" in some areas, rather than more active language. It would be useful to have priorities cross referenced to actions.

PCC: Where the Plan refers to "explore" this relates to actions we are seeking from other agencies, where the delivery is less within our gift. The Plan is meant to be a strategic document. The Delivery Plan, puts forward the PCC commitments with SMART targets; the narrative is cross referenced to actions taken by PCC.

Panel: Commented that Cybercrime doesn't feature much in the Plan.

PCC: Don't accept this, initiatives have been undertaken to combat Cybercrime, such as courses for small businesses. Cybercrime covered on page 13 of Plan.

Panel: Mentioned the public might have difficulty with the number of acronyms in the Plan.

PCC: A glossary can be provided.

Panel: Referred to pages 20-21 of the Plan which discusses ASB and the support from Beacon. Although pleased to see this, would welcome PCC working with other partners and Councils.

PCC: We would welcome talking to other agencies.

Panel: More should be made of the ONS data. Discussion around inviting the ONS to a PCP meeting.

Panel: Referred to page 8 of the Plan and enquired what was meant by local policing, this could be made clearer to the public.

PCC: Public have more of an understanding of local policing than neighbourhood policing. In the Plan we are talking about the model we currently have.

Panel: On page 9, reference is made to 3 categories of crime; this doesn't capture all crime.

PCC: We were making a general point, we were not saying the 3 categories covers all crime.

Panel: With reference to page 24 questioned why rape prosecution successes were low.

PCC: Interesting work being undertaken nationally on this. Difficulty with this type of crime is the question of consent, and that there are no witnesses. It is difficult to prove beyond reasonable doubt. CPS has a high bar, as to whether there is a case to answer.

Panel: Referred to page 12, and asked whether Police would be upskilled to deal with mental health calls.

PCC: Mental health problems should be treated as importantly as other health problems. Need mental health professionals to attend. We are not saying we will not send the Police but there is a better way of dealing with these calls.

Panel: Stop and Search, will anything go into the Plan on its use for BME and white people?

PCC: Page 34 discusses the work of the Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel which has resulted in improvements in the quality of searches conducted.

Panel: Page 13, county lines, this is an increased threat, will more resources be committed to it?

PCC: The Chief Constable is responsible for operational decisions; my priorities are identified strategically, to ensure funding is in place to resource and tackle gang activity and County lines.

Panel: Referred to Page 10 and information sharing, issues around sentencing and early intervention. What partnership working could be done around this?

PCC: Vast majority of our criminals are under 25, some are children, often not old enough to exercise good judgement. If they are given a criminal record it is difficult for them to get out of the system. We are working with County Partners. Schools and gang units have been set up to help young people.

Panel: Pleased to see adoption of OWL and Neighbourhood watch.

PCC: Take up has been good across the County.

7 AOB

None

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7:00PM THURSDAY 14th November 2019 at Borough of Broxbourne Council Offices – Council Chamber