



## Norfolk Police and Crime Panel

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 April 2018 at 10am in the Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich

#### Main Panel Members Present:

Mr W Richmond (Chairman)	Norfolk County Council
Mrs S Butikofer	Norfolk County Council
Mr M Storey	Norfolk County Council
Dr Christopher Kemp (Vice-Chairman)	South Norfolk Council
Mr Colin Manning	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Mr Paul Kendrick	Norwich City Council
Mr Fran Whymark	Broadland District Council
Mr Frank Sharpe	Breckland District Council
Mr Richard Shepherd	North Norfolk District Council
Mr Peter Hill	Co-opted Independent Member

#### Officers Present:

Mr Greg Insull	Assistant Head of Democratic Services, NCC
Mrs Jo Martin	Democratic Support and Scrutiny Team Manager, NCC

#### Others Present

Mr Martin Barsby	Director of Communications and Engagement, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN)
Mr Nick Dean	Deputy Chief Constable, Norfolk Constabulary
Mr Lorne Green	Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Norfolk
Mr John Hummersone	Chief Finance Officer, OPCCN
Mr Mark Stokes	Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk, OPCCN
Dr Gavin Thompson	Director of Policy and Commissioning, OPCCN

#### 1. To receive apologies and details of any substitute Members attending

- 1.1 Apologies had been received from Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt and Mr Trevor Wainwright.

#### 2. Members to Declare any Interests

- 2.1 Mr Francis Whymark declared an 'other' interest that he worked for Children's Services at Norfolk County Council.

### **3. To receive any items of business which the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency**

3.1 There was no items of urgent business.

### **4. Minutes**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2018 were confirmed by the Panel as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman; subject to the following amendments;

- Richard Shepherd to be added to the attendance list.

4.2 In confirming the accuracy of the minutes, the Panel noted receipt of the demographic breakdown of those caught speeding (attached at Annex 1 of these minutes).

### **5. Public Questions**

5.1 No public questions were received.

### **6. Police and Fire Collaboration – Local Business Case Update**

6.1 The Panel received the report detailing the background, context and decision by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to proceed to Full Business Case to explore whether a new governance model could produce real and tangible benefits for emergency services in Norfolk.

6.2 The Chairman welcomed the Commissioner and his team to the meeting.

6.3 Introducing the update on the development of a full business case, the PCC explained that he was concerned about the lack of understanding of the process. Referring to a motion due to be debated at Norfolk County Council's Full Council meeting the following week, he emphasised that he had not yet made a decision about pursuing new governance arrangements. He was seeking to explore whether it would be possible to provide a more cost-effective emergency service, and would make a decision only after he had considered the evidence. Wide consultation would happen before a final decision was made.

6.4 In reply to letters, the PCC confirmed that seven of the county's Members of Parliament had expressed their support for carrying out a full business case. The majority of the District Councils had also expressed their support. The PCC was disappointed that he had not received evidenced based reasoning from those who had expressed their opposition.

6.5 Some Panel Members felt that there would have to be overwhelming conclusive evidence in the full business case for them to support an application to the Home Office; something that they felt was missing from the Options Appraisal.

6.6 The Chief Executive of the OPCCN explained that the Full Business Case was hoped to be completed by the end of June 2018. It was predominantly being carried out by the OPCCN with guidance and technical expertise from Grant Thornton. The PCC was not

involved with the detailed development of the Full Business Case and would not have sight of it until it was completed. He would then decide if the evidence was compelling enough to take it to public consultation, and at that stage the case would be a PCC proposal (unlike the Options Analysis, which was an independent assessment by Grant Thornton). The public consultation would last between 8 and 12 weeks and would involve all key stakeholders, with the primary stakeholder being NCC, as well as the general public. At the end of the consultation the PCC would decide if he wanted to submit a proposal to the Home Office.

- 6.7 The Chief Executive explained that there had been three recent submissions to the Home Office from Staffordshire, West Mercia and Cambridgeshire PCCs which had all been approved by the Home Office. There were three cases awaiting decisions at present, from Northamptonshire, North Yorkshire and Hertfordshire PCCs. Before the Home Office made a decision on submissions, particularly where local authorities had objected, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) reviewed the business cases and made a recommendation to the Home Office. Those independent assessments were published. Some Panel Members expressed concern that despite local objection, the Home Office was still pushing forward with PCCs governance of fire and rescue services, and it appeared that Norfolk was facing a *fait accompli*. The PCC reiterated that he had not yet made a decision and would only do so once he had the evidence in front of him. If the case was not compelling, the case ought not to be put forward. The Chief Executive added that in making its decision, the Home Office took all stakeholder feedback into consideration alongside the other evidence presented in each case.
- 6.8 The Panel heard that the Chief Executive of the OPCCN was receiving weekly calls from the Home Office to find out where Norfolk were in terms of the process and he had a fortnightly conversation with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to understand the national picture. He expressed his gratitude to the Officers of NCC and the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service for their cooperation in carrying out the business case as they could not have been more helpful.
- 6.9 The cost of the options appraisal and the business case was still relatively unclear as the process had not finished. The development of the Full Business Case would be undertaken in the main by OPCCN, but with support from Grant Thornton. It was likely that other financial and legal expertise would also need to be sought. The cost of Grant Thornton's input for this stage would be in the region of £32k, but owing to contractual confidentiality OPCCN would need to wait until the end of the process before providing full transparency.
- 6.10 The Panel;
- **NOTED** the PCC's decision to develop a Full Business Case, which would explore the future governance of Norfolk's Fire and Rescue service in more detail, and the update on progress with its development.

## 7. Police and Crime Plan for Norfolk 2016-2020 – performance monitoring

- 7.1 The Panel received the report from the OPCCN which updated them with an overview of the progress made against delivering two of the strategic priorities within the Norfolk Police and Crime Plan for 2016-2020. The report also provided the Panel with the latest metrics for the two strategic priorities along with a case study on how Norfolk Constabulary utilises performance information in delivering against the Police and Crime

Plan.

- 7.2 The PCC explained that he held the Chief Constable to account on public satisfaction levels and regular Police Accountability Forum meetings, as well as Strategic Governance Board meetings. The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that engagement with the public had improved through an improved communications strategy and the employment of engagement officers located in various areas of Norfolk. Mechanisms for visible policing had changed, and a significant amount of contact now happened via IT. The latest statistics revealed that there had been 34k visitors to the website and 60k followers on Facebook which was a significant increase on last year. In terms of face-to-face contact, Safer Neighbourhood Area Partnership (SNAP) meetings were also being reviewed with a new system being trialled in the Norwich area. There would also be posters displayed in local areas which would show who the local police commander, beat manager and engagement officer were and how to contact them.
- 7.3 The Panel acknowledged that police visibility was key to residents of Norfolk feeling safe and noted that the new style SNAP meeting had been considered successful in the Norwich pilot. However there was some concern about those sections of the community who couldn't use IT, and that where public enquiry offices had been lost, the police surgeries had not replaced this, in particular in Holt. Residents there had been told that there would be a police surgery in the town, but the nearest one was being held in Fakenham. The Deputy Chief Constable explained that Holt would have a Beat Manager covering that area and if Holt felt that the best way for them was to have a presence in another form then the model could be reviewed.
- 7.4 The Panel expressed support for the safer schools programme, and asked for confirmation that both drug and knife crime matters were being covered. The Deputy Chief Constable reassured the Panel that both knife and drug-related crime were covered in the programme via various methods, such as the Operation Gravity Play. Due to the pressures of the national curriculum, the services provided by the Constabulary were reviewed regularly and tailored accordingly.
- 7.5 The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that there was no real evidence to show whether the state of the roads had any bearing on bad driving habits and the rise in number of road traffic accidents. However, a full investigation was undertaken after each accident and if the condition of a road was a significant factor, it would be reported to Highways. The Director of Policy and Commissioning, OPCCN, explained that NCC had undertaken some analysis and that the local Vulnerable Road Users Group would explore what that analysis said.
- 7.6 The Panel noted the reinvigoration of the Norfolk and Suffolk Collaboration Panel. Norfolk's PCC confirmed he had invited both the Suffolk PCC and Chief Constable to join him at a future meeting to look at the collaboration taking place in the shared space between the two forces.
- 7.7 The Panel **NOTED** the update about progress with delivering the Police and Crime Plan for Norfolk 2016-2020.

## 8. Information Bulletin – questions arising to the PCC

- 8.1 The Panel received the information bulletin which updated them on both the decisions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (PCC) and the range of his

activity since the last Panel meeting.

- 8.2 The PCC acknowledged the latest press reports that suggested the reduction in numbers of police staff had contributed to the national increase in violent crime. With regards to Norfolk, although the workforce had been reduced, it was noted by the PCC the Constabulary were doing an incredible job with the funds it had, and was in the top four police forces in the Country for efficiency, as recognised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services. With the limited amount of public money available, it was necessary for the policing model to be transformed and he would continue to hold the Chief Constable to account.
- 8.3 The PCC has called for tougher sentences for assault on emergency services staff. He explained that he would like sentences to be raised from 12 months to 5 years and had lobbied several people on this matter. Although there had been some resistance to this about space in prisons for those who commit the offence, the PCC felt that it was an important deterrent measure.
- 8.4 The Deputy Chief Constable was unable to confirm if body worn cameras had deterred individuals from attacking police officers, however it had meant that several complaints had been resolved and had footage had been used in court as evidence. It was confirmed that every frontline police officer was now wearing a body-worn camera.
- 8.5 There was ongoing intensive discussion through the seven force regional collaboration to increase efficiencies and save money. Part of this discussion was around benefiting from economies of scale and the group would be meeting again in July, where the PCC would be pushing hard for joint procurement. He couldn't say when savings arising from this work might be delivered.
- 8.6 The Panel **NOTED** the information bulletin.

## 9. **Work Programme**

- 9.1 The Panel received the work programme which scheduled agenda items for the rest of the year.
- 9.2 The Panel **AGREED** the work programme and noted that there could be a need for an extraordinary meeting in July to discuss the outcome of the PCC's decision relating to Fire Governance.

Meeting ended at 11.25am.

**Mr William Richmond, Chairman,  
Norfolk Police and Crime Panel**



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