



Norfolk Police and Crime Panel

Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 November 2017 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 Brian Long	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Mr Kevin Maguire	Norwich City Council
Mr Richard Shepherd	North Norfolk District Council
Mr Trevor Wainwright	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Mr Fran Whymark	Broadland District Council
Mr Frank Sharpe	Breckland District Council
Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt	Co-opted Independent Member
Mr Peter Hill	Co-opted Independent Member

Officers Present:

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

Others Present

Mr Martin Barsby	Director of Communications and Engagement, OPCCN
Mr Lorne Green	Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
Mr John Hummersone	Chief Finance Officer, OPCCN
Ms Sharon Lister	Director of Performance and Scrutiny, OPCCN
Mr Paul Sanford	Temporary Assistant Chief Constable
Mr Mark Stokes	Chief Executive, OPCCN
Dr Gavin Thompson	Director of Policy and Commissioning, OPCCN

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

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Mr P Kendrick and Mr C Manning, (Mr K Maguire and Mr B Long substituted respectively).

2. Members to Declare any Interests

- 2.1 Mr F Whymark declared an 'other' interest that he worked for Norfolk County Council

Children's Services, given the range of partnership working involving Children's Services that was included throughout OPCCN's reports.

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

3.1 There were no items of urgent business.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 26 September 2017

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 26 September 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Public Questions

5.1 The Chairman reported that eleven questions had been received, but none fitted the criteria. He explained that the first was from a regular correspondent; his question was considered out-of-order and no response had been provided. The other questions all related to the Chief Constable's proposals to remove the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) role in his new policing model for Norfolk. Questioners were advised that the Panel does not have the authority to comment on operational policing matters directly, but assured that the Panel would continue to hold the Commissioner to account for the delivery of his Police and Crime Plan, and the impact that the new policing model would have on it.

6. Police and Fire Collaboration – Local Business Case Update

6.1 The annexed report (6) was considered by the Panel and provided an update on the research and development of an Outline Business Case (OBC) for the future of Fire Governance in Norfolk, setting out key stages in the process and next steps.

6.2 The Chief Executive for the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner Norfolk (OPCCN) confirmed that an independently procured options appraisal was being conducted with no steer from the PCC. Once the OBC had been completed a decision would be taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) whether or not to undertake a Full Business Case. This would be undertaken by the consultants, Grant Thornton, who would then in turn work with the key partners to explore the finer operational details.

6.3 The Panel expressed slight concern that consultants had been procured before getting any agreement or buy-in from Norfolk County Council (NCC). The Fire Service are held in high regard by Norfolk residents and it was seen as a primary duty of NCC. The Chief Executive explained that the PCC had taken the decision to appoint consultants, following the practice of his colleagues across the country. There had been some misunderstandings of the process and at this stage Grant Thornton were exploring the available options from an independent view. Moving to a full business case would obviously incur extra charges and it needed to demonstrate value for money for the Norfolk tax payer. The PCC insisted that the OBC would need to evidence that the County would be safer through another form of governance in order for him to commission a Full Business Case.

- 6.4 The panel had hoped that the OBC would be available for the meeting. The Chief Executive explained that there had been a slight delay in producing the report as it had taken longer for Grant Thornton to consult with all key partners than originally planned.
- 6.5 The Panel were reminded that the ultimate decision about a change of governance would be made by the Home Secretary. Neither did the legislation allow for PCSO's to become Firefighters or vice versa. The report would become a public document and it would be in the Panel's best interests to hold a meeting to discuss the contents with the report being independently presented by Grant Thornton. The Chief Executive confirmed that the decision would be a key decision by the PCC, and therefore in order to reinforce the openness and transparency of the process a decision notice would be published on the website with the OBC.
- 6.6 The PCC reiterated that in order to change the Governance arrangements he would have to be mindful of the will of the people he served as well as evidence of political will.
- 6.7 The Panel **noted** the update and **agreed** to hold an extra-ordinary meeting to consider the contents of the Outline Business Case when it was published. Grant Thornton would be asked to attend to present the report.

7. Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Norfolk's 2018/19 Budget Consultation

- 7.1. The annexed report (7) was considered by the Panel which explained the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's approach to consulting on the Commissioner's proposals and publishing the results.
- 7.2 The consultation for the 2018/19 Police Budget was scheduled to run from 29th November 2017 until 22nd December 2017. There would be public meetings held as well as street surgeries with the aim of reaching out to as many people as possible. Details of all public consultation events would be published in due course.
- 7.3 The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable gave an insight into the savings that would have to be made in the medium term and the current financial position which had contributed to the Constabulary's Norfolk 2020 review. Increasing demand and the changing nature of crime had prompted the Constabulary to review whether it was fit for the future. He explained that the period of consultation on the new model of policing was due to end on 18 December 2017. If the proposals were taken forward it would enable the Constabulary to save £2m of the deficit, but that would still leave a projected gap of £1.8m that would have to be bridged. The Chief Finance Officer added that the police funding settlement was due next month, after which the budget position would be clearer. However, the Constabulary had seen a reduction of funding in real terms year-on-year, leaving a projected gap of £10m to bridge by 2021.
- 7.4 The PCC highlighted that he continued to appeal to Government for additional police funding alongside his PCC colleagues around the country. He went on to explain that if he was to raise the precept by the current maximum amount of 2%, while it would provide an additional £1.3m it would not close the budget gap. His consultation document would set two main options for residents to consider; a freeze (0% increase) and a 2% increase, with an explanation of the implications of both. However, PCC's around the country were petitioning the Government to raise the 2% cap. If the Government agreed to that, he would also be asking local residents if they would be prepared to pay more than 2%. An additional 4% (19p/week) on a Band D property would protect Norfolk 2020 proposals and

allow the budget gap to be closed. An additional 6% (25p/week) would balance the budget and enable some increase in neighbourhood policing. An additional 12% (50p/week) would enable investment in additional policing operational areas. He added that the success of his consultation relied on all partners to encourage residents to respond.

7.5 The Panel **noted** the overview of the PCC's 2018/19 budget consultation.

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

8.1 The annexed report (8) was considered by the Panel which provided an overview of the progress made against delivering two of the strategic priorities within the Norfolk Police and Crime Plan for 2016-2020.

8.2 Introducing the report, the PCC confirmed that performance measure data was still being collated and would be included in future reports.

8.3 The Panel asked how much the PCC spent on supporting victims. The Director of Policy and Commissioning, OPCCN, explained that OPCCN had a £2m commissioning budget, to deliver a three year commissioning strategy, and around £1.5m was spent on victim support, in addition to supporting a range of other activity to prevent crime that also reduced vulnerability. The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable also confirmed that the Constabulary used some of its budget to support victims in addition to OPCCN, but he did not have the figures to hand.

8.4 The PCC was commended for all the activity against the two priorities set out in his report. However, in light of Norfolk 2020, the PCC was asked if he would be changing priorities 1 (increase visible policing) and 2 (support rural communities). The PCC explained that reducing rural crime remained a priority, and provided examples of ongoing activity in that area. Although it was recognised that PCSOs played a large part of the Constabulary's being visible to general public, particularly in rural areas, it was explained by the Temporary Assistant Chief Constable that they were not the only element to this. The numbers of beat managers would increase as well as investment in engagement officers who would be well-experienced in localised problem solving. The Constabulary would be maintaining visible policing, but would be achieving that in different ways. New technology, such as that used in the 'Operation Moonshot' project would assist in policing roads using high-end technology which had seen good reductions in rural crime.

8.5 The Panel expressed concern that the good relationship the PCSOs had built with schools would be compromised. The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable confirmed that a good working relationship would still be upheld with police staff working closely alongside fourteen high schools. These would be high schools with the biggest threat risk. Norfolk Constabulary were also working with a theatre company performing knife crime and drug awareness assemblies in schools. Beat managers would also maintain contact with schools.

8.6 The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable reported that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary had independently assessed Norfolk as one of the top six forces in the Country with regards to community engagement work and work with partners. Therefore the Norfolk 2020 review had been designed to fit today's demands and would carry on this good work.

8.7 The rollout of body worn cameras would be completed next month and therefore it was

too early to suggest if they had contributed to any reductions of crime, although initial feedback from police officers had been very positive.

- 8.8 The Panel asked what had improved for victims and the vulnerable and how could things be improved further for them. The Director of Policy and Commissioning, OPCCN, explained that the impact of services for victims was measured individual by individual, and that that could sometimes take time to become evident. Where services were integrated, such as through the Domestic Abuse triage service, changes were being made to make the individual's journey more effective, and significant resources were being invested in moving away from a focus on the assessment itself to providing practical support. He felt this might be an area that the Panel would find worthwhile to explore further. He also added that the nature of partnership working made measuring the value for money of services very challenging.
- 8.9 The Chief Finance Officer indicated that the Government would announce if there was any rise to the precept cap when they announced the funding settlement on 13th December 2017.
- 8.10 The Panel expressed concern that Norfolk residents would not comprehend the link between being asked to pay more Council tax yet seeing the number of PCSO's reduced. No other force was considering removing the role of PCSO and some urban areas, such as Great Yarmouth, had seen great benefit from them in terms of their stopping anti-social behaviour. The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable confirmed that he believed the proposed new policing model was the best for Norfolk. He shared the view that PCSOs do a great job for Norfolk and had made a significant contribution to crime and disorder reduction. However, the new model was based on increasing the number of police constables to allow for more flexibility. He recognised that lower level crimes such as anti-social behaviour were a concern and confirmed that they would continue to be addressed through beat managers, early help hubs and investment in community engagement officers. Police Officer's would be able to carry on with the good work of the PCSO's plus undertake work which legally could not be asked of PCSO's.
- 8.11 The PCC enforced that he would hold the Chief Constable to account on his plans for the 2020 model and he would ensure that the Police and Crime Plan was met as it was now.
- 8.12 The PCC would ensure that the Panel were informed of the results of the consultations.
- 8.13 The Panel **noted** the update about progress with delivering the Police and Crime Plan for Norfolk 2016-2020.

9. Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk – Commissioned Services Update

- 9.1. The annexed report (9) was considered by the Panel which provided more detailed performance and outcome data for 2017/18 for the three main services commissioned by the OPCCN to support victims of crime to cope and recover from their experiences.
- 9.2 Introducing the report, the PCC confirmed that measuring outcomes was an ongoing area of development.
- 9.3 The Director for Policy and Commissioning recognised that the victim status of sex workers could be made more explicit within the report for consideration by the Panel. He

gave the example of the WONDER project, which adopted a victim-centred approach to supporting sex workers.

- 9.4 The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable informed the Panel that they were aware that some of those involved in drug supply were those who were exploited and as a result were victims. A strategy was being drafted which would be shared with the Countywide Community Safety Partnership outlining those who would be most vulnerable at being caught up in the exploitation and how this could be prevented.
- 9.5 The Panel **noted** the update from the OPCCN about its Commissioned Services.

10. Information Bulletin – questions arising to the PCC

- 10.1 The annexed report (10) was considered by the Panel which summarised for the Panel both the decisions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (PCC) and the range of his activity since the last Panel meeting.
- 10.2 There was concern expressed at the low turnout at the most recent Police Accountability Forum meeting. The Director for Communications and Engagement confirmed that the meetings were widely publicised via press releases and social media channels. The most recent had been advertised more so as it was the first meeting that the Chief Constable and the PCC had been available since the publication of the 2020 review. Turnouts were difficult to predict, but it was also available as a live tweet for those who could not be there in person. The next meeting would be held in January in Breckland and the venue would be confirmed.
- 10.3 A suggestion was made that seized vehicles could be auctioned to raise capital for the Constabulary. There were a variety of reasons that vehicles were seized by the Constabulary and the majority of vehicles had little resale value. It was also suggested that they could be given to projects such as 'Open Road' in Kings Lynn who give the opportunity to people to work on cars and gain skills or the Fire Service for training purposes rather than crushing them.
- 10.4 The Panel **noted** the report.

11. National Police and Crime Panel Conference 2017

- 11.1 The annexed report (11) was considered by the Panel which outlined matters which had arisen from the national conference.
- 11.2 The Panel **noted** the report.

12. Work Programme

- 12.1 The Panel **noted** the work programme, with the following amendments:
- 1) The addition of an extraordinary meeting in January 2018.
 - 2) 15 February 2018 being the Reserve date, to review a revised precept for 2018-19, if vetoed.

Meeting ended at 12.10pm

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



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