



## **Norfolk Police and Crime Panel**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 September 2017 at 10am in the Cranworth 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 Kevin Maguire	Norwich City Council
Mr Colin Manning	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Mr Richard Shepherd	North Norfolk District Council
Ms Marlene Fairhead	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 Simon Bailey	Chief Constable for Norfolk
Mr Lorne Green	Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
Ms Sharon Lister	Director of Performance and Scrutiny, OPCCN
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 (Mr K Maguire substituting) and Mr T Wainwright (Ms M Fairhead substituting).

#### **2. Members to Declare any Interests**

- 2.1 No interests were declared.

**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 20 June 2017**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 20 June 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**5. Public Questions**

5.1 Two questions were received from a member of the public; they did not meet the criteria for public questions and were therefore not allowed. Since the individual had repeatedly sought to pursue a matter with which the Panel could not assist, the individual had been advised that Panel Members and Officers would not reply to or acknowledge further contact from them.

**6. Appointment of Co-opted Independent Member**

6.1 The Committee considered the selection Panel's recommended candidate for the position of co-opted independent member, Mr Peter Hill.

6.2 The Panel **APPROVED** the recommendation of the selection Panel and **APPOINTED** Mr Peter Hill to the vacant post of co-opted independent member.

6.3 Mr P Hill joined the meeting at 10.02

**7. Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk's 2016-17 Annual Report**

7.1.1 The Panel reviewed the report containing the Commissioner's Annual Report 2016-17.

7.1.2 The Commissioner introduced his annual report to the Panel and reported ways that he had been working to meet his objectives, for example, by holding the Chief Constable to account at public meetings, through projects and initiatives which had been commissioned, charities funded to support victims of crime, and through engaging with the public at meetings, face to face and on social media. The Commissioner gave information on the statutory requirements conferred on him by the Police Reforms and Social Responsibility Act 2011, and gave examples of how he had been working to meet these.

7.2.1 The Panel asked how the Commissioner would find a balance between handling new areas of crime, such as digital crime and child sexual exploitation, which required specialist work, and meeting his pledge to increase visible policing which was a priority in the community. The Commissioner noted that it was important to balance public expectation with resources and spoke about the impact of "invisible crimes", such as cybercrime, which could entail lengthy and expensive investigations; he felt it was important to look at the force mix moving forward. The Chief Constable reported that Norfolk 2020, the new policing model due to be launched in October, aimed to meet both expectations of local communities and increasing pressures. The evidence-based,

costed and scalable plan would allow the Constabulary to address current and future demand of all crime types while taking into account the decreasing budget.

- 7.2.2 A short discussion was held over the responsibilities that companies on the internet should take in policing crime and preventing crime on their sites.
- 7.2.3 The Panel queried how communities could be more active in supporting the Police and Crime Plan objectives. The Commissioner reported that the Police and Crime Plan was based on feedback from engagement with the public, and that regular public meetings were hosted. He felt that the 758 people engaged in speed-watch schemes across the County, and those involved in the revitalised neighbourhood-watch schemes showed the public were accepting their responsibilities in their communities.
- 7.2.4 The 1% police pay rise was queried. The Commissioner discussed that £6m savings had previously been identified in the Police budget; the additional cost of the apprenticeship levy and 1% bonus, while deserved by Police Officers, added additional strain to the budget. The Chief Constable reported that the 1% pay rise would add £620,000 to the budget and would mean additional savings of £1m would have to be found in the Norfolk 2020 plan; to accommodate this, a reduction in uniformed Police offices would have to be made. Reserves had already been earmarked for investment in technology and estate, and would not be an option to bridge the gap.
- 7.2.5 Members highlighted that the level of engagement and communication between the Constabulary and local communities varied across Norfolk. The Panel acknowledged that limited resources prevented community engagement policing officers (or others) from attending all local council meetings. However, the Panel **agreed** that community engagement could be improved through ensuring that all Local (Parish and Town) Councils receive regular Constabulary briefings, with copies provided to the relevant District and County councillors. Also that it would be helpful to advise clerks and chairmen about the reasons for adopting the current content and style. The Chief Constable **agreed** to send a brief to every Parish Clerk and Chair to explain the reasons for the current content and style of reports and asked Councillors to feedback any issues. It was **requested** that a copy of this briefing be sent to District and County Councillors to support with dissemination.
- 7.2.6 The public's role in supporting the police was raised; the Commissioner highlighted the Police Federation petition in support of a Private Member Bill to increase sentences for assaults on public service workers.
- 7.2.7 The Chief Constable confirmed that he had spoken publicly on the Radio about internet companies taking responsibility for crimes and crime prevention on their sites, and that the prime minister was raising this issue with technical companies.
- 7.2.8 Recent discussions in the media about a possible change to the precept limit was raised and the impact this could have on the future police budget. The PCC commented that a 2% increase would not bridge the budget gap, and that he may need to ask the local community to pay more.
- 7.2.9 The Commissioner was asked how he would approach the need to reduce uniformed police officer numbers further in light of the 1% pay rise, and the already high workloads felt by staff, as noted during a Panel Member's discussion with Officers. The Commissioner reported that by 2020 there would be more uniforms on the street. The Chief Constable commented that he felt duty bound to pay the increase, even though some officers had contacted him to say their preference would be to maintain numbers

and not implement the pay rise. He reported having similar conversations with Officers and had noted challenges in morale; a recent management briefing had been held with 200 Members of staff to reinforce the reasons for the Norfolk 2020 policing model and discuss investment in technology and plans for investment in policing moving forward. By doing so he hoped to retain his officers' confidence and morale, but acknowledged it would become increasingly challenging.

- 7.2.10 In addition to the Commissioner's commentary on action taken, the Panel **agreed** that the provision of performance measure data was essential for it to be able to hold him to account. The Panel **requested** the inclusion of information on impact and outcomes in future performance monitoring and commissioned services update reports, as well as future annual reports.
- 7.2.11 The Chairman requested clarification on work being done to tackle the increase in knife crime in Norfolk in the past year, which had doubled. The Chief Constable reported that the increase was against a very low initial level of knife crime in the County, which also involved murders where knives were involved, and was mostly related to drug and gang activity. He felt the success of Operation Gravity had also contributed to the increase in levels. The Chief Constable felt that operation gravity and education work in schools showed the work in Norfolk in this area was appropriate. He noted that knife amnesty bins were not successful as the people who used them were not generally the people who used knives for crime.
- 7.2.12 The incidence of acid attacks in Norfolk was queried. The Chief Constable reported that none had been seen in Norfolk however it was likely they may be seen in the future. Police had been given training in this area of crime, and police frameworks had been updated to include it. In line with this, the support of the "street doctors" campaign would be enhanced further. The Commissioner clarified that there was no evidence to show that substances were taken from schools; work was in place with schools and Officers were in all secondary schools up to 5 days a week.
- 7.2.13 Implementation of body-worn cameras, new mobile phones and iPad equipment would be completed by Christmas 2017.
- 7.2.14 The Commissioner responded to a query about the increase in rough sleepers in Norwich. He clarified there were now 34, up from 19, and a higher number in Kings Lynn. He was unsure what percentage were ex-offenders. The Commissioner gave information about services commissioned by the OPCCN to support ex-offenders and homeless people.
- 7.3.1 The Panel **NOTED** to the Commissioner's Annual Report 2016-17
- 7.3.2 The Panel **AGREED** to recommend to the PCC that:
- community engagement could be improved through ensuring that all Local (Parish and Town) Councils receive regular Constabulary briefings, with copies provided to the relevant District and County councillors. Also that it would be helpful to advise clerks and chairmen about the reasons for adopting the current content and style.
  - the inclusion of impact and outcome information in future performance monitoring and commissioned services update reports, as well as future annual reports, which was essential for the Panel to be able to hold him to account.

## 8. Complaints Sub-Panel

- 8.1 The Panel received and considered the report providing an update from the Complaints Policy Sub Panel Chairman Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt.
- 8.2.1 Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt asked the Commissioner about his decision to adopt the complaints governance model 1, the appellant body model. The Director of Performance and Scrutiny, OPCCN, confirmed that a formal decision to accept model 1 had been made by both Norfolk's and Suffolk's PCCs, and a formal decision notice was being drafted for publication by Norfolk's PCC. Adopting the appellant body function would allow the Commissioner time to review its effectiveness and adopt a different model in the future if needed.
- 8.2.2 The Vice-Chairman reported to the Panel that he and the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Support Manager had been asked to run a workshop on complaints handling at a future national conference. He felt this reflected the effective participation of OPCCN into the Home Office workshops, and the ongoing effective relationship between OPCCN and the Panel.
- 8.3 The Panel **NOTED** the update from the Complaints Policy Sub-Panel

## 9. Information bulletin – questions arising to the PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner)

- 9.1.1 The Panel received the report summarising the decisions taken by the PCC for Norfolk and the range of his activity since the last Panel Meeting.
- 9.1.2 The Commissioner was due to meet with the Policing and Fire Minister, the Chief Constable and PCC for Suffolk to discuss Police funding and the future collaboration of Norfolk and Suffolk Police; he had drafted a letter to the Minister on views for police funding and money saving ideas for the constabulary for example commercialising services.
- 9.2.1 Mr F Sharpe suggested auctioning off seized vehicles instead of crushing them; the Commissioner agreed to raise this with policing minister.
- 9.2.2 It was queried why the bi-monthly Norfolk and Suffolk collaboration meetings had not taken place since February 2017; the Commissioner alluded that it had been difficult to agree a date between the Norfolk and Suffolk offices.
- 9.2.3 It was clarified that some PCC decisions were not published on OPCCN's website, due to their confidential or contractually sensitive nature. The Director of Performance and Scrutiny, OPCCN, **agreed** to look into this (how information might be published that would indicate the subject of the decision without releasing exempt details).
- 9.2.4 The Chairman queried whether the use of drones would be extended to cover other types of rural crime besides hare-coursing. The Commissioner hoped to use drones for road safety enforcement and other types of crime including purchase of a heat seeking drone to enable their use at night. They had proved to be low a cost and high impact solution.
- 9.2.5 Mr F Sharpe shared that the prison service had sought money from the government when they purchased drones for a pilot project.

- 9.2.6 Following a request for clarification, the Director of Policy and Commissioning, OPCCN, confirmed that the drug and alcohol worker from the Matthew Project worked in the control room from 9-5 Monday to Friday. It was suggested it would be useful to have weekend cover. The Director of Policy and Commissioning replied that this worker's role involved upskilling other staff to respond to issues.
- 9.2.7 The Panel asked about progress being made with the outline business case for collaboration with the fire service. The Commissioner confirmed that an external consultant, Grant Thornton, had been commissioned to undertake an options analysis. The outline business case would be available by approximately mid-October and after this the Commissioner would choose whether to move to full business case. The Commissioner highlighted that he would be meeting with Grant Thornton and the Council to discuss the outcome of the options analysis and its findings. The Chairman suggested the Panel might wait until the PCC's decision on the options analysis was published to identify whether there was a need for a special meeting.
- 9.2.8 The Chief Executive of the OPCCN reported that Grant Thornton had an independent Panel of experts who sat alongside Consultants during the options analysis process. He also highlighted that should the PCC take the decision to move forward with a full business case, that consultants would provide a final document in November.
- 9.3 The Panel **questioned** the Commissioner and **NOTED** the report.

## 10. Work Programme

- 10.1 The Committee reviewed the forward work programme.
- 10.2.1 The Committee **AGREED** to arrange a reserve date for late October, to be held if the Chairman decided to call a Special Meeting to consider the Commissioner's decision on police and fire collaboration. This date would be to be circulated to Members.
- 10.2.2 A date for a training session in late January would also be circulated.
- 10.2.3 The Chairman updated Members that discussion had been held over meeting locations for the Panel; it had been decided it would be most appropriate for meetings to be held at County Hall unless a special meeting required a venue in a different location elsewhere in the County for a specific reason.
- 10.3 The Panel **AGREED** the work programme and the above additions to the work programme.

The meeting ended at: 12:01pm

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



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