

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel held on 7 October 2016 at 10:30 am in the Elisabeth Room, Endeavour House, Ipswich.

Present: Members

Councillor Patricia O'Brien	Suffolk County Council (Chairman)
Revd Canon Paul Daltry	Independent Co-opted Member (Vice-Chairman)
Manwar Ali	Independent Co-opted Member
Councillor John Burns	Suffolk County Council
Councillor Peter Gardiner	Ipswich Borough Council
Councillor Brian Harvey	Forest Heath District Council
Councillor Len Jacklin	Suffolk County Council
Councillor Diana Kearsley	Mid Suffolk District Council
Councillor David Rose	Babergh District Council
Councillor Patricia Warby	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Councillor Nicola Yeo	Suffolk Coastal District Council

Other participants and local authority officers

Paul Banjo	Scrutiny Officer, Suffolk County Council
Susan Cassedy	Democratic Services Officer, Suffolk County Council
Tim Passmore	Police and Crime Commissioner
Chris Bland	Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Chris Jackson	Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Claire Swallow	Deputy Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

1. Public Participation Session

The Panel heard representation from one Public Speaker as follows:

Councillor Sue Collins, Bungay Town Council:

Councillor Collins expressed concern about the changes in PCSO contracts leaving Bungay vulnerable to antisocial behaviour after 6pm when anti-social behaviour was more likely to occur and that the presence of uniformed police lost. Councillor Collins also pointed out the loss of direct formal communication between the town council and local police; slow response times to 101 calls; website difficulties with navigation and no response and an ongoing issue with regard to illegal parking during the interim period as responsibility transferred from the police to the local authority.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Collins for coming to the meeting to share her concerns which would be picked up in the Panel Members' questioning of the PCC.

2. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies were received from Councillor Derek Hackett (substituted by Councillor John Burns), Colin Hedgley (substituted by Councillor Nicola Yeo) and Councillor David Wood.

3. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations declared or dispensations reported.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 July 2016 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments to those listed as present:

Remove Councillor Mary Evan's name

Add Councillor Derek Hackett's name

Change who Councillor Peter Gardiner was representing from Suffolk County Council to Ipswich Borough Council.

5. Draft Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021

At Agenda Item 5 the Panel reviewed the PCC's new draft Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021.

The PCC provided the Panel with a brief summary of the main strands within the draft Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 and advised that one of the major pieces of work was the review of the Police Funding Formula.

The Panel shared concerns about the communication 'listening' process and stressed the importance of good communication and making victims of crime feel secure. A Panel Member provided the example of information given from both the PCC and the Constabulary on the apparently low figures in relation to the increase in reported hate crime. This information had not reflected the huge increase in unreported (to the police) incidents and that this reflected the need

for communities to be listened to. The Panel recognised that some communities considered they were not currently being listened to and there needed to be something specific within the plan to hold the Chief Constable to account on this issue.

The PCC agreed to look at how his holding the Chief Constable to account could be strengthened and recognised the need of identifying better ways of 'listening'. He added that there had been good attendance at his public engagement meetings which were now being held in each of the 18 Safer Neighbourhood Team areas. The PCC also advised of the launch of the new Victim's Strategy and recognised the need for the Constabulary to do more to keep in touch with victims of crime.

With regard to the Panel's concerns about the integrating of data systems with Athena, the PCC advised that the previous Assistant Chief Constable had been responsible for this and that he would follow up on the issues raised with regard to accuracy and completeness.

Panel Members raised concern about some voluntary sector organisations including Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speed Watch feeling disillusioned, left behind and at risk of folding as they were not receiving adequate support from the Constabulary. The PCC advised that action plans were now needed from the Constabulary as more should be done to look after voluntary organisations as it could not manage without them.

The PCC, in response to a query regarding 'Prevention' in the Action Points within the Plan, recognised the need to pool resources with local authorities carrying out overlapping work.

Decision: The Panel recommended to the PCC that the Plan should include information and clear action points on holding the Chief Constable to account for the communication 'listening' process and for responding to victims of crime as set out in Appendix 1 '[Panel Report on: Draft Police and Crime Plan for Suffolk 2017-2021](#)'.

Reason for decision: As set out in Appendix 1.

6. The PCC's Performance Monitoring Methodology and Framework

At Agenda Item 6 the Panel questioned the PCC about his Methodology for monitoring the performance of the Constabulary and other agencies in delivering the objectives in his Police and Crime Plan.

A Member of the Panel noted that at a recent meeting of the PCC's Accountability & Performance Panel there had been a dispute over the number of warranted police officers and that this had now been resolved. There would now be 1,098 funded through the Medium Term Financial Plan which was not be as many as he had previously indicated to the Panel. The PCC added that the general fitness of officers had improved leading to less sick leave.

The PCC advised that additional resources were required to deal with the growing issue of cybercrime and that it was his responsibility to monitor the level of crime to ensure the necessary resources were in place. He stressed the importance of prevention in this area.

With regard to response times the PCC advised that in urban areas the target was 15 minutes and in rural areas it was 20 minutes. These targets were met 90% of the time however, he recognised that there were two areas not as good as they should be, Halesworth at 75% (however this was where the demand was lowest) and Mildenhall at 82%. This information had been fed into the Local Policing Review. The PCC agreed to look further at armed response capability, recruitment and part-time workers.

Panel Members questioned the PCC on the influence and support provided by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group. The PCC acknowledged the importance of pooling money /resources across organisations.

7. **Decision:** The Panel recommended to the PCC that further attention should be given, with clear action points to ensure accountability and the means to measure outcomes, in relation to specific areas as listed in Appendix 1 [‘Panel Report on: Draft Police and Crime Plan for Suffolk 2017-2021’](#).

Reason for decision: The Panel had questioned the PCC on a number of concerns it had with regard to the draft performance Monitoring framework in the PCC’s Plan as set out above.

8. **Financial Savings Update**

At Agenda Item 7 the Panel questioned the PCC on his progress in delivering the savings anticipated in his precept and medium term financial plan for 2016/17.

The PCC and the Chief Finance Officer (CFO), Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner provided the Panel with a brief summary of the report.

In response to being asked if the Constabulary used vacancies as an economic tool to generate savings the CFO advised that this tool was available however there was no formal vacancy management arrangement. The PCC added that there was no formal policy to keep vacancies open and there was also no formal policy to use agency staff and that this would only be used as a back up.

The CFO informed the Panel that the budget overspend of £1.1m in 2015/16 would have negligible impact on 2016/17 as it had been due to a number of areas of non-recurring expenditure and had been taken from reserves.

The PCC confirmed that the 2% precept increase would continue to be targeted at specific initiatives.

9. **PCC Annual Report for the Financial year 2015/16**

At Agenda Item 8 the Panel reviewed the PCC’s Annual Report 2015/16. The Panel had a statutory duty to review the PCC’s annual report for each financial year.

Some areas of potential interest, identified by Panel members in advance of having sight of the PCC’s annual report were, the effectiveness of the increased precept (2%) last year, the financial outturn and budget overspend, and the Local Policing Review.

Panel members commented favourably on the format, style and content of the PCC’s Annual Report.

Panel members made comments and asked questions of the PCC in relation to:

- i) Solved Crime low rates, and views about victims' feelings, noting however that Home Office recorded crime definitions had changed during the year.
- ii) Increased measures for Quality of Service and level of public confidence in the police.
- iii) A review of the Local Policing model, noting that the PCC is expecting a full report from the Constabulary in December 2016.
- iv) The 101 service performance and whether crimes are being under-reported.
- v) The level of resources and resilience in the system, especially for night-time responses.

The PCC indicated a need for Panel members' assistance, as local councillors, in achieving more joined up working across the system.

The Panel's formal report on the PCC's annual report can be found at:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/crime-and-public-safety/police-and-crime-panel-and-the-police-and-crime-commissioner/police-and-crime-panel-reports-and-recommendations-to-the-pcc/>

10. Information Bulletin

The Panel noted the Information Bulletin at Agenda Item 9.

The PCC agreed to look at Norfolk's protocol for hate crime but advised that Suffolk Constabulary had the best record of prosecuting offenders and took this issue very seriously.

With regard to blue light integration the PCC advised that there were now 6 joint Police / Fire stations, and it was hoped to get up to 16 or 17 in total, with a consultation on Newmarket beginning on 26 October 2016.

11. Forward Work Programme

The Panel agreed the items on the Forward Work Programme.

The Scrutiny Officer highlighted that the next meeting was on Tuesday (not Friday as indicated in the report), 31 January 2017.

12. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

Date and Venue of the Next Scheduled Meeting

Tuesday, 31 January 2017 at 10.30 am in the Elisabeth Room, Endeavour House, Ipswich.

The meeting closed at 12.20 pm.

Chairman



Suffolk Police and Crime Panel meeting held on Friday 7 October 2016

Panel Report on: **Draft Police and Crime Plan for Suffolk 2017-2021**

The Panel has a statutory duty to review the PCC's police and crime plan. The legislation requires the PCC to issue a Plan within the financial year in which the election is held (ie. by March 2017).

The Panel reviewed the PCC's draft plan for 2017-2021 at its [meeting on 7 October 2016](#), in Ipswich. Eleven of the Thirteen Panel members were present, including two substitute members.

The papers published for the meeting included suggestions raised previously by the Panel in anticipation of the Plan; the Panel also took account of a statement made at the meeting by a member of the public. Panel members made comments and asked questions of the PCC in relation to:

- Communication: (i) The Constabulary 'listening' to communities and, (ii) Responses from the police back to the victims of crime.
- The ATHENA system; ensuring that data is accurate and complete.
- Road safety and speeding enforcement.
- The need for the Constabulary to more proactively address perceptions and anecdotal evidence, eg. regarding unreported hate crime.
- Constabulary action plans to address concerns raised by its volunteers, eg. Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speedwatch.
- Reflecting 'Prevention' in the Action Points in the Plan, noting the PCC's ring-fencing of £700k for grants, and the need to pool public sector resources.

The Panel **recommended** to the PCC that there should be something specific in the Plan, and the performance monitoring framework, that holds the Chief Constable to account for the communication 'listening' process, and for responding to victims of crime. There needs to be a clear Action Point in the Plan that requires the Constabulary to be 'listening' not only to their own data but also to communities, and to address any discrepancies.

With regard to the draft performance monitoring framework in the PCC's Plan, the Panel also **recommended** to the PCC that further attention be given, with clear action points to ensure accountability and the means to measure outcomes, in relation to:

- Clarity regarding specific numbers, eg. staffing levels
- Cybercrime performance
- Information fed in from businesses
- Prevention
- Armed response capability
- Recruitment and part-time workers
- Improving data-sharing across sectors
- Influencing the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group and pooling money/resources across organisations, eg. for joint action on domestic abuse

This Report is [published](#) as the Panel's formal report on the PCC's draft Plan.

13 October 2016

