

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Thursday, 2nd February, 2017.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E(Chair), Cllr Charles Rooney(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Alec Brown, Cllr Tracey Harvey, Councillor Chris Jones, Cllr Jim Lindridge, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr David Wilburn, Mr Paul McGrath and Mr Andrew Dyne

Officers: David Bond, Peter Bell (SBC).

Also in attendance: Barry Coppinger (Commissioner), Michael Porter, Simon Dennis, Joanne Hodgkinson (Commissioner's Office), Simon Nickless (Cleveland Police).

Apologies: Cllr Dave Hunter, Cllr David Coupe, Cllr Billy Ayre and Cllr Ken Dixon,

1 Evacuation Procedure

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the evacuation procedure.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2016.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2016 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4 Appointment of Non Political Independent Members

Consideration was given to a report that related to the appointment of two Non-Political Independent co-opted members to the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel ("the Panel), under provisions within the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

At its meeting on 21 July 2016 the Panel agreed arrangements for the appointment of two Non-Political Independent Members (NPIM), following the expiry of the terms of office of the two existing NPIMs on 6 December 2016.

As part of the arrangements the Panel appointed five members to serve on a Sub Panel, which would consider applications, undertake interviews and make recommendations with regard to the appointments.

The positions were widely advertised throughout the Cleveland Police area and 11 completed application forms were returned.

The Sub-Panel met on 1 November 2016 to consider the applications received and agreed to ask five applicants to attend for interview. Four interviews were conducted on 25 November 2016 (the fifth candidate withdrew from the

process) and the Sub Panel unanimously agreed to recommend that Paul McGrath and Andrew Dyne be appointed.

The proposed NPIMs had been invited to the meeting and it was envisaged that, should the Panel agree to their appointment, they would take up their position with effect from 2 February 2017.

The terms of office of the NPIMs would be for the period beginning 2 February 2017 and expiring on 1 February 2021.

RESOLVED that Paul McGrath and Andrew Dyne be appointed as Non-Political Independent Members to the Panel, with effect from 2 February 2017, and the Home Secretary be notified accordingly.

5 Task and Finish Group – Overall Budget Strategy

Consideration was given to a report that provided detail of the work undertaken by the annual Scrutiny Task and Finish Group to consider the financial strategy of the Police and Crime Commissioner for 2017/18 and the level of precept required to provide a balanced budget.

The report provided the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel with assurances from the PCP Task and Finish Group of evidence from, and discussion with, the Police and Crime Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer when considering the proposed precept.

In terms of financial planning, assumptions were undertaken in the same way as in previous years to increase the precept by 1.99%.

Members were informed that the Government had changed its method of calculation having looked at the fact that across the country there had been an increase in the underlying tax bases. As a result it was suggested that as more funding was coming from precepts as a result of the tax base increase there was capacity to reduce the amount of funding from the Government. Flat cash was still given but the local tax base was supporting that now. Higher reductions had resulted and the capital grant had been reduced by a further 15% this time.

The Task and Finish Group included consideration of the total funding projections and the PCC's priorities to determine the level of precept required for Cleveland.

The Task and Finish Group supported the increase to the PCC precept of 1.99%.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6 Precept proposals for 2017/18

Consideration was given to a report on Precept proposals for 2017/18.

Legislation required that the Commissioner must agree his budget and

associated precept and basic council tax for the forthcoming year before 1st March each year. However before doing so the Commissioner must notify the Panel of the precept which he proposed to issue for the following year.

The balance of the cost of the police service not paid for by central government was met by local taxpayers through a precept on their council tax. In Cleveland this would equate to just below 25% of the overall income that the Commissioner would receive in 2017/18. It was the responsibility of the four local billing authorities to collect this.

The Commissioner in making his proposal on the Police precept had taken into account the following:

- The views of the public of Cleveland
- The financial impact on the people of Cleveland.
- The financial needs of the organisation as currently projected both for 2017/18 and in the future.
- The limits imposed by the Government on a precept increase before a referendum would be triggered in Cleveland.
- The Commissioner had also discussed his proposals with both the Chief Constable and engaged and consulted with the public on the options available to him.

The report further highlighted:

- The Overall Financial Context
- Financial Impact of a 1.99% Increase

In conclusion the Commissioner had considered various options and various factors in deliberating on his proposal for precept in 2017/18. The Commissioner had taken into account the need for the continued delivery of Policing and Crime services within Cleveland. The Commissioner had spoken with the Chief Constable and had consulted with the public. Based on these views and the financial needs of the organisation over the medium term the Commissioner formally proposed a precept increase of 1.99% for 2017/18 and asked the Panel to consider the proposal.

To aid the Panel in considering the proposal on the Precept, the Commissioner had attached to the report:

- A draft Budget based on a 1.99 Precept Increase
- A draft Capital Budget

RESOLVED that the Panel supports the Commissioner's proposed precept of Band D Police Element of the Council Tax within Cleveland for 2017/18 at £214.54. This was an increase of £4.18, or 1.99% over the 2016/17 level.

7 20 mph Zones – Chair of Cleveland Road Safety Partnership - Presentation

Members received a presentation by Richard McGuckin, the Chair of Cleveland strategic Road Safety Partnership on 20 mph zones. The presentation covered

the following keys areas:

- 20 mph limit or zones?
- Government Guidance
- The public view on 20 mph Zones
- The evidence
- The regional picture
- Cleveland Police Policy
- Next steps

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

8 Members' Questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner

There were no Member questions.

9 Commissioner's Update

Consideration was given to a report on the Commissioner's Update.

The Police and Crime Commissioner had set a clear strategic direction for the force in relation to standards matters. He had put in place a Police and Crime Plan with the objective of Investing in Cleveland Police. His commitment to the public included working with the Chief Constable to establish a new approach to the way complaints and professional standards matters were handled. This included expanding the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner's office in handling complaints, ensuring that they had the best possible model.

The Commissioner had a robust long term financial plan, which was detailed in his Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner had made a commitment to securing value for money, promoting a sustainable and effective operating model and a progressive change programme, which would be scrutinised by auditors. Securing the future of the area's communities was also a key objective in his plan. Government cuts had taken £36m from Cleveland Police, resulting in the loss of over 400 policing posts and 30 Police Community Support Officers. The Commissioner was committed to continuing to lobby government for the introduction of the revised funding formula. The Commissioner wanted to ensure that those most at risk of harm and living in deprivation had a fair level of funding spent on them.

The report provided Members with an update in relation to key matters including:

- A ministerial briefing on a review of the police funding formula
- The National Police Air Service
- The reformation of Cleveland Police Professional Standards Department
- Review and scrutiny of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA).

With regard to the Funding Formula – Ministerial Briefing, on 16th January the Commissioner and the Chief Constable gave a briefing to the Minister for Policing and Fire. The details of the submission to the Minister on the funding formula review were attached to the report.

Also attached to the report were the statements that the Commissioner and the Chief Constable had made on 5th January to bring about immediate change to the Professional Standards department involving external support in order to underpin trust and confidence in Cleveland Police.

A summary of the collaborative arrangements and the Commissioner's press statements were also attached to the report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10 Police and Crime Commissioner – Performance Report

Consideration was given to a report that provided a summary of performance of the Police and Crime Plan.

In May 2017, the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cleveland was re-elected for a second term. The Police and Crime Plan was issued and launched in December 2016. Progress reports on implementation of the Plan would be given to the panel in future meetings.

The PCC's objectives set out in the plan were:

- Investing in our Police
- A Better Deal for Victims
- Tackling Re-offending
- Working Together to Make Cleveland Safer
- Securing the Future of our Communities

The report provided an update on scrutiny activities associated with the delivery of PCC objectives, the wider aspects of the Police and Crime Plan and statutory responsibilities.

The PCC new performance framework was under development and would build on the strengths from the Commissioner's first term of office. It would focus on evidence-based practices and evaluation of the impact of activities and initiatives in delivering the outcomes set out in the Plan. A diagram within the report showed areas influencing performance and delivery of the Police and Crime Plan, which would form the basis for future reports.

The report provided Members with an update in relation to key areas:

- Crime and Anti-social Behaviour
- Driving out greater benefits from the scrutiny programme
- Commissioned Services

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

11 Programme of Engagement for the Police and Crime Commissioner

Consideration was given to a report that gave a brief update on the meetings attended by the PCC from November 2016 to January 2017. Future meetings of the PCC were also summarised.

The PCCs consultation and engagement activities focused on increasing understanding of the communities of Cleveland, ensuring clear and consistent communication with the public and ensuring effective consultation and community engagement.

The PCC attended a number of meetings on a regular basis with key partners, stakeholders and residents from across the Cleveland area. In addition to this the PCC had attended many regional and national meetings representing Cleveland.

The 'Your Force Your Voice' engagement initiative continued to take place with community meetings in all of Cleveland's 79 ward areas being revisited on an annual basis. Since coming into office in November 2012 the PCC had attended around 417 community meetings allowing the PCC to better understand the needs of local communities across Cleveland.

At meetings recently attended issues were raised around response times when contacting the 101 non-emergency number. The Commissioner monitored response times on a daily basis and alterations to the Control Room had led to a significant reduction in waiting times.

All of the issues raised at community meetings were raised with the local Integrated Neighbourhood Teams for action where necessary.

The report included a summary of key other meetings attended by the PCC. The full diary was published on the PCC website.

Meetings of note over the next few weeks would include:

- Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence; Support, Safeguarding and Protection event – 7 February
- Regional PCCs meeting – 10 February
- Hartlepool Chinese New Year celebrations - 19 February
- Tees Rural Crime Forum – 27 February

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

12 Decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Consideration was given to a report on the decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Forward Plan.

The Police and Crime Commissioner made all decisions unless specifically delegated within the Scheme of Consent / Delegation. All decisions had to demonstrate that they were soundly based on relevant information and that the decision making process was open and transparent.

In addition, a forward plan was included and published on the PCC website which included items requiring a decision in the future. This was attached to the report.

Each decision made by the PCC was recorded on a decision record form with supporting background information appended. Once a decision had been approved it was published on the PCC website. Decisions relating to private / confidential matters would be recorded; although, it might be appropriate not to publish the full details.

Decisions made since the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel were attached to the report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

13 Potential formation of an Association of Police and Crime Panels

Consideration was given to a report on the potential formation of a National Association of Police and Crime Panels and suggested that this Panel was represented at a meeting arranged to discuss this.

There had been discussions at the Police and Crime Panels' Conference Regional Networks and individual Panels about the potential formation of a Police and Crime Panel National Association.

Further to the discussions described above, an exploratory meeting had been arranged to consider this in more detail and the Chair of this Panel had been invited to attend, on 17th February 2017, in London.

Following the exploratory meeting, it was suggested that a report back to Members be provided, so that the Panel could consider any proposals.

RESOLVED that the Chairman and an appropriate officer attend the meeting described in the report to further investigate this matter and report back to the Panel.

14 Forward Plan

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

15 Public Questions

There were no public questions.