

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Tuesday, 2nd July, 2019.

Present: Cllr Lee Cartwright, Cllr Barrie Cooper, Cllr Graham Cutler, Cllr Dave Hunter, Cllr Sue Jeffrey, Mr Paul McGrath, Cllr Steve Nelson, Mayor Andy Preston, Cllr Vera Rider, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Matthew Storey, Cllr Matthew Vickers and Cllr Steve Walmsley.

Officers: Julie Butcher, Gary Woods, Peter Bell (SBC).

Also in attendance: Barry Coppinger (Commissioner), Simon Dennis, Elise Pout (Commissioner's Office), Chief Constable Richard Lewis (Cleveland Police), Cllr Andrew Stephenson and Cllr Luke Frost.

Apologies: None.

PCP 1/19 Appointment of Chairman 2019/20

Moved by Councillor Vera Rider that Councillor Matthew Vickers be appointed Chair of the Panel for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

Moved by Paul McGrath that Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE be appointed Chair of the Panel for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

A Vote took place and it was agreed that Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE be appointed Chair of the Panel for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

RESOLVED that Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE be appointed Chair of the Panel for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

(Councillor Steve Walmsley requested that it be recorded that he abstained from voting.)

PCP 2/19 Appointment of Vice Chairman 2019/20

Moved by Councillor Vera Rider that Councillor Matthew Vickers be appointed Vice Chair of the Panel for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

Moved by Councillor Sue Jeffrey that Councillor Matthew Storey be appointed Vice Chair of the Panel for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

A Vote took place and it was agreed that Councillor Matthew Vickers be appointed Vice Chair of the Panel for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

RESOLVED that Councillor Matthew Vickers be appointed Vice Chair of the Panel for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

RESOLVED that Councillor Matthew Vickers be appointed Vice Chair of the Panel for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

(Councillor Steve Walmsley requested that it be recorded that he abstained

from voting.)

**PCP
3/19** **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given.

**PCP
4/19** **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Norma Stephenson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 11 – Decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner as her son worked for CGL and would be delivering part of the Heroin Assisted Treatment Pilot Scheme.

Councillor Norma Stephenson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 11 – Decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner as she was on Board Member of Hardwick Partnership.

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a general personal non prejudicial interest as he was a Director of Thirteen and was on the Board of Catalyst.

**PCP
5/19** **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings held on 5 February and 9 April 2019.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February and 9 April 2019 be agreed.

**PCP
6/19** **Members' Questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner**

The Chair outlined that any Member Questions should be submitted to the Governance Officer prior to the meeting to enable the Commissioner to prepare a full response.

**PCP
7/19** **Annual Report of Police and Crime Commissioner**

Members considered a report that presented the Commissioner's 2018-19 Annual Report.

The Annual Report set out how the Commissioner had successfully delivered the commitments he had made in his Police and Crime Plan during the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

It was the Commissioners seventh year and he felt privileged that people had continued faith in him to ensure efficient and effective policing was delivered in Cleveland.

The Annual Report highlighted the 2018-2019 timeline that showed some of the key achievements the Commissioner had made in the last 12 months.

Further highlights in the Annual Report were:-

- Policing in Cleveland
- Scrutiny and Accountability
- Investing in Our Police
- Getting a Better Deal for Victims and Witnesses
- Tackling Offending and Re-Offending
- Working Together to Make Cleveland Safer
- Securing the Future of Our Communities
- Timeline of Achievements

With regard to Domestic Abuse and repeat offenders Members felt that more work needed to be done with the offenders to try and break the circle of offending.

With regard to the ecins system it was noted that there had been a general good buy-in from partners at management level but this needed to sink down to lower levels. A position had been created to help with this process.

It was noted that the Annual Report of the Panel had been circulated by the Chair.

RESOLVED that the Annual Report be noted.

**PCP
8/19**

Police and Crime Commissioner's Update

The Commissioner invited any Panel Member to the Community Safety Hub to meet with him and get a better understanding of the work of the Commissioner's Office and Cleveland Police.

Consideration was given to a report that provided Members with an update on progress since the meeting in February 2019.

The report covered the following keys areas:-

- Police and Crime Plan
- Chief Constable Appointment
- Cleveland Community Safety Hub Awards
- Independent Custody Visitor Scheme
- Cleveland Volunteer Police Cadet Programme
- Injectable Opioid Treatment Pilot
- Benefits
- Serious Violence Early Intervention Fund

The Commissioner detailed the Police and Crime Plan and highlighted the following key areas of the Plan:-

- Investing in Our Police
- A Better Deal for Victims and Witnesses
- Tackling Offending and Re-Offending
- Working Together to Make Cleveland Safer
- Securing the Future of Our Communities

The Chief Constable highlighted his plans for Neighbourhood Policing going forward. Members were pleased that there would be more investment in Neighbourhood Policing. Members noted that with regard to the financial situation, reserves within Cleveland Police were now at a level where any further depletion would not be acceptable. The issue of “stop search” was discussed and it was noted that it would be used more in the correct circumstances that were intelligence led. A request was made to have a breakdown of the roles of the staff within Cleveland Police who were not Police Officers.

The merits of the Heroin Assisted Treatment Pilot Scheme were discussed, not only to the individuals concerned but also to criminal justice agencies and the wider society. The Commissioner outlined that he would keep the Panel updated on the progress of the scheme.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
9/19**

Programme of Engagement for Police and Crime Commissioner

Consideration was given to a report that provided a brief update in relation to consultation and engagement activity of the PCC between March and June 2019. Future engagement work of the PCC was also summarised.

The ‘Your Force Your Voice’ engagement initiative continued to take place with community meetings in all of Cleveland’s 79 ward areas being visited on an annual basis. Since coming into office in November 2012 the PCC had attended over 660 community meetings allowing him to better understand the needs of local communities across Cleveland.

Speeding within residential areas was often highlighted as a key community concern at meetings which the PCC attends. Community Speed Watch aimed to involve local communities in working together with the Police and partners to educate drivers. The Special Constabulary had a dedicated team to undertake speed watch operations in communities across Cleveland, with training being rolled out to Neighbourhood Teams to allow them to also participate in speed watch operations. Work was taking place with the Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit and Cleveland Police to develop a coordinated approach to Speed Watch across Cleveland.

All of the issues raised at community meetings were raised with Cleveland Police for action where necessary.

The report further summarised other key meetings attended by the PCC. The full diary was published on the PCC website.

The following meetings of note were planned:

- 29th June – Blue Light walk raising awareness around mental health, Whitby to Saltburn
- 10th July – Junior World Cup tournament for girls organised by School Liaison, Acklam Green Centre
- Community Safety Roadshows – South Bank Carnival (20 July),

Hartlepool Waterfront Festival (21 July), Middlesbrough Mela (17/18 August), Coulby Newham Fun Day (8 September), Festival of Thrift (14/15 September)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
10/19** **Decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Consideration was given to a report that provided the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel (PCP) with an update on decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Forward Plan.

The Police and Crime Commissioner makes all decisions unless specifically delegated within the Scheme of Consent / Delegation. All decisions demonstrated 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 approved it would be published on the PCC website.

Decisions relating to private / confidential matters would be recorded; although, it may be appropriate that full details were not published.

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

Members were given further detail of how Mutual Aid worked within the Force nationally.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
11/19** **Police and Crime Commissioner's Scrutiny Programme**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the PCC's scrutiny programme and presented the performance report of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Crime Plan.

Holding the Chief Constable to account was the key duty of the Police & Crime Commissioner and must encompass all of the functions of the Chief Constable and functions of those who were under the Chief Constable's direction and control.

The scrutiny of the Force was one of the main responsibilities of the Commissioner as set out in the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Delivered through the Commissioner's standards and scrutiny programme effective checks and balances are undertaken through a schedule of regular meetings.

Since the last Police and Crime Panel the PCC had held the following meetings:-

Scrutiny, Performance and Delivery meetings

- 16 January 2019
- 20 February 2019
- 5 April 2019
- 14 May 2019

The minutes of the above meetings were attached to the report.

Since the last update to the Panel there had been a Working Together meeting on the:-

- 3 April 2019

The minutes were attached to the report.

The PCC has scrutinised the following items:-

- Information Management
- Police Digitisation
- Victims Right of Review
- Police Response and Prioritisation
- Radox Update
- Appropriate Authorities update
- Community Speedwatch
- Retail Crime
- Cleveland Police Financial Monitoring
- Audit Inspection update – National Child Protection Post Inspection

Review

- Estates Strategy
- Future Budget Planning
- Transforming Cleveland Police
- Drones
- Everyone Matters
- Forensics update
- Super Complaints – Liberty
- Neighbourhood Policing Dates
- Consultation with CPS
- Countering Extremism Seminar
- Early Intervention Fund
- Female Offenders
- E-Cins Update

In addition to the meetings above, the Commissioner continued to attend the following to complement his scrutiny programme:

- Daily review of the Control Room and Serious Incident Logs;
- Weekly accountability meetings with the Chief Constable;
- Attend at least one local area meeting in each of Cleveland's neighbourhood police team areas.

Following the recruitment and start of the new Chief Constable, the PCC would be further undertaking a review of previous scrutiny arrangements to amplify and deepen the approach in delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
12/19** **Performance Report of the Police and Crime Plan**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the performance of the PCC and his Police and Crime Plan. The information provided was accurate at the time of production. Additional information was also provided to establish the context of information presented and assist the reader in their understanding of the report.

The report covered the following keys areas:-

- Investing in Our Police
- A Better Deal for Victims and Witnesses
- Tackling Offending and Re-Offending
- Working Together to Make Cleveland Safer
- Securing the Future of Our Communities

Members discussed the benefits of using drones to tackle anti-social use of motorbikes. With regard to the satisfaction rates it was felt that a good scrutiny programme and communications strategy was essential to drive up the rates. Members discussed the closure of the Hartlepool Custody Unit and that there had been a long consultation period and other agencies had been involved in the decision. The Commissioner agreed that he would bring the Force sickness figures to a future meeting of the Panel.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
13/19** **Scrutiny Work Programme of the Panel**

Consideration was given to a report that sought to set the Police and Crime Panel Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/20.

The Police and Crime Panel was reminded of its role as scrutinising the actions and decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner, thereby holding the PCC to account.

In addition, the Panel may wish to carry out one or more in-depth scrutiny reviews into a particular issue or concern. This may be a policy or performance issue in relation to priorities contained in the Police and Crime Plan.

Any additional work which the Panel may wish to undertake should be supportive and complementary to its statutory functions with the Panel acting as a critical friend; a supportive, but independent voice seeking to scrutinise the PCC in the interests of recommending appropriate changes and improvements. In addition, the work programme should avoid duplication and remain flexible

and responsive.

It was, however, important that when identifying topics for additional work, the Panel took into account the capacity and resources needed to carry out the investigation, to ensure that the review programme is manageable. It was also important to prioritise the issues identified, so that the work of the Panel was adding value.

The Panel was therefore asked to identify and consider suitable topics for scrutiny review during 2019/20. In selecting topics, the Panel may wish to consider whether:-

- there was public demand / a real need for the review
- there was a genuine opportunity through the reviews to influence policy and practice
- there was a clear focus for the review, recognising that going 'deep and narrow' can have more impact than 'broad but shallow'

The only review topic that was on the Work Programme was the Overall Budget Strategy (Annual Review). The Panel were asked to take into account the capacity and resources needed to carry out the review programme to ensure that it was manageable. It was therefore suggested that one further topic be added to the Work Programme.

The matter of the overall budget strategy had been reviewed annually and subject to amendment continues to be scrutinised by a Task and Finish Group in order to facilitate sufficient time and analysis to the financial arrangements of the PCC and commissioned services. The number of agenda items for a full Police and Crime Panel meeting might preclude sufficient scrutiny of budget and its impact on the level of precept set, and therefore in recent years a Task and Finish Group had undertaken this work on behalf of the full Panel. This review would report in February 2020.

An issue that was raised by Members was:-

- Communication

Members agreed that any further potential topics for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/20 be emailed to Peter Bell (Governance Officer).

RESOLVED that:-

1. Any further potential topics for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/20 be emailed to Peter Bell (Governance Officer).
2. The following Panel Members (one from each local authority area plus one non-political independent Member) form the Task and Finish Group for the Overall Budget Strategy:-

Councillor Matthew Vickers (SBC)
Councillor Lee Cartwright (HBC)
Councillor Graham Cutler (R&CBC)

**PCP
14/19** **Appointment Process for Non-Political Independent Members**

Consideration was given to a report on the process for the appointment of a non-political independent member, in light of the resignation of one of the existing two non-political independent members.

Schedule 6 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 required that each Police and Crime Panel appoints two non-political independent members.

The two independent members should be appointed in the context of ensuring that the panel had the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to discharge its functions effectively.

One of the existing two non-political independent members, Chris Walker, had resigned. A replacement member was therefore required. Attached to the report were draft documents associated with the appointment of independent members. These were updated versions of the documents previously agreed.

It was suggested that:-

As before, the advertising process utilises all available free opportunities, including press release, website and existing mailings and partnerships; The term of office of the new member should coincide with the terms of office agreed for the two Independent Members i.e. 1st February 2021.

As previously, that a politically balanced selection sub panel of 5 drawn from the full panel be appointed to conduct short listings and interviews to determine the most suitable candidate to be the replacement non-political independent member, with the full panel endorsing the decision prior to the candidate being formally appointed.

A politically balanced selection sub panel of 5 would be Labour - 2, Conservatives - 1, Redcar and Cleveland Independent Group - 1 Middlesbrough Independent Group or Elected Mayor - 1. With a view to reflecting the number of Members within political groups, in each constituent authority, whilst providing each authority the opportunity to be represented on the Panel, the following was suggested:-

Hartlepool Borough Council– 1 Labour
Middlesbrough Council – 1 Middlesbrough Independent Group or Elected Mayor
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council – 1 Redcar and Cleveland Independent Group
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council – 1 Labour and 1 Conservative

RESOLVED that:-

1. The Panel agree the arrangements for the appointment of a replacement

non-political independent member as detailed at paragraph 5 of the report.

2. Delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director of Administration, Democratic and Electoral Services (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council), in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair to amend and finalise the arrangements and associated documents, detailed in the Appendix and paragraph 4 of the report, should it be considered necessary to do so.

3. The following Members of the Panel be identified to sit on the Appointment of a Non-Political Independent Member Sub Panel:-

Hartlepool Borough Council – Councillor Dave Hunter

Middlesbrough Council – Councillor Barrie Cooper

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council – Councillor Graham Cutler

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council – Councillor Norma Stephenson and Councillor Matthew Vickers

**PCP
15/19** **Forward Plan**

Members were presented with the Forward Plan for the Panel.

Members agreed that they would all receive an electronic copy of papers for future meetings of the Panel.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

**PCP
16/19** **Public Questions**

Questions had been submitted by Councillor Andrew Stephenson. As the questions were all with regard to operational issues it was agreed that Councillor Andrew Stephenson (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council) would receive a written response from the Commissioner.