

NEW IMAGE

**Cleveland
Police and Crime Panel
Annual Report 2019/2020**

Foreword

TO ADD



Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE
Panel Chair

Role of the Police and Crime Panel

Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 brought in new arrangements for national policing, including the introduction of elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). Elections take place every four years and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland is Barry Coppinger (pictured right):



Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for:

- Securing an efficient and effective Police Force for their area
- Producing, and consulting on, a five-year Police and Crime Plan
- Holding to account the Chief Constable, including the power to appoint and dismiss
- Publishing certain specified information / datasets, including an Annual Report
- Setting the annual Force budget and Police precept
- Requiring the Chief Constable to prepare reports on police matters, on request

Police and Crime Panels

Police and Crime Commissioners are held to account by Police and Crime Panels which are composed of locally elected Councillors and some lay members. The Police Force, however, is accountable to the Commissioner and not to the Panel.

The Police and Crime Panel is a scrutiny body which exists to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner, promote openness in the transaction of Police business, and also to support the PCC in the effective exercise of their functions. The Panel is responsible for:

- Holding the Police and Crime Commissioner to account
- Reviewing the PCCs proposed annual Police precept
- Contributing to the development of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan (on which it is a statutory consultee)
- Reviewing the PCCs proposed appointments
- Making reports and recommendations on matters relating to the PCC
- Reviewing and scrutinising decisions made by the PCC
- Making comments on the PCCs Annual Report
- Determining complaints against the PCC

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the process for issuing a precept, including the Panel's role in reviewing the proposed precept, their power to veto the precept, and the steps to be taken if they do veto the proposed precept. The Act also requires Panel's to hold confirmation hearings on the Commissioner's proposed appointment of a Chief Constable, and sets out veto powers in relation to the appointment.

In 2012, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council was designated as the host Authority for the Panel. This means that the Borough Council is responsible for training and supporting the Panel, as well as providing legal and constitutional advice.

The composition of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel is in accordance with legislative provisions and is politically proportionate with the total number of Councillors in the Force area.

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel Membership 2019/2020

The Panel consists of 12 Councillors with membership drawn from the four unitary Councils within the Cleveland Force Area. In addition, there are two non-political independent members (though one of these positions is currently vacant).



Chair
Cllr Norma Stephenson
(Stockton-on-Tees)



Vice-Chair
Cllr Matthew Vickers
(Stockton-on-Tees)



Cllr Lee Cartwright
(Hartlepool)



Cllr Barrie Cooper
(Middlesbrough)



Cllr Graham Cutler
(Redcar and Cleveland)



Cllr Dave Hunter
(Hartlepool)



Cllr Chris Jones
(Redcar and Cleveland)



Paul McGrath
(Independent Member)



Cllr Steve Nelson
(Stockton-on-Tees)



Mayor Andy Preston
(Middlesbrough)



Cllr Vera Rider
(Redcar and Cleveland)



Cllr Matthew Storey
(Middlesbrough)



Cllr Steve Walmsley
(Stockton-on-Tees)

Vacancy
(Independent Member)

Key Activities and Achievements

Appointment of Chief Constable

In April 2019, the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel convened for a confirmation hearing before making a report and recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to his proposed appointment of a new Chief Constable. The hearing was held in public, with the candidate, Mr Richard Lewis, in attendance for the purpose of answering questions from the Panel. At its conclusion, the Panel held a closed session in order to agree their report and recommendations.



During the hearing, the Police and Crime Commissioner presented a report containing key information associated with the appointment, and gave thanks to the Interim Chief Constable, Mr Lee Freeman, who had led Cleveland Police on a temporary basis under the terms of a collaborative arrangement between Humberside and Cleveland. The Commissioner also praised the Police & Crime Commissioner for Humberside for facilitating this arrangement.

Panel members proceeded to ask the candidate questions on a variety of issues, including:

- differences in the Dyfed-Powys and Cleveland Force areas
- the biggest challenges facing Cleveland Police in the next five years and how he intends to respond
- his vision for Neighbourhood Policing for Cleveland Police and issues around speeding drivers
- his response to the recent negative press and public coverage of Cleveland Police
- why he wants to come to Cleveland and what commitment he can give to stay in post long-term

Following the hearing, the Panel unanimously agreed that Mr Richard Lewis appeared suitable to carry out the role of Chief Constable in Cleveland and would support his appointment. Mr Lewis was subsequently offered the post which he accepted.


The Panel's Core Programme

During 2019/2020, the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel met five times, which included the confirmation hearing in relation to the appointment of the new Chief Constable (see above).

The Panel meeting in July 2019 was the first held following the Local Elections in May 2019, with only four members remaining on the Panel from the previous year. Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE was reappointed as Chair, with Cllr Matthew Vickers appointed as Vice-Chair.

Throughout the year, standing items on Panel agendas included:

- Members' Questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Police and Crime Commissioner's Updates
- Programme of Engagement for the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Police and Crime Commissioner's Scrutiny Programme
- Performance Report of the Police and Crime Plan
- Public Questions
- Forward Plan

 <small>"Serving the Boroughs of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees"</small>	
Date: Tuesday, 4 February 2020 at 5.00 p.m.	
Venue: Cleveland Room 1, Community Safety Hub, Cliffland Way, Hemlington , Middlesbrough, TS8 9GL	
Hartlepool Borough Council Councillor Les Cartwright Councillor Dave Hunter	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council Councillor Graham Cutler Councillor Chris Jones Councillor Vera Rider
Middlesbrough Borough Council Mayor Andy Preston Councillor Eamie Cooper Councillor Matthew Storey	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Councillor Steve Nelson Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE (Chair) Councillor Matthew Vickers (Vice-Chair) Councillor Steve Walmisley
Non-Political Independent Members Paul McGrath Vacancy	
AGENDA <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and Introductions 2. Apologies for absence 3. Declarations of Interest 4. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2019 5. Members' Questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner 6. Police and Crime Commissioner's Update 7. Programme of Engagement 	

Annual Report of Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner

In July 2019, the Panel received the Annual Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for 2018/2019. 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 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

The Annual Report highlighted the following:

- 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

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HMICFRS Integrated PEEL Assessment Report

In September 2019, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) released its fifth PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) assessment of Cleveland Police. PEEL is designed to provide information about how local police forces are performing in several important areas, in a way that is comparable both across England and Wales, and year on year.



To coincide with its release, the Panel's meeting in September 2019 was re-scheduled for later in the month so members had the opportunity to respond to, as well as question the Commissioner, on its findings. However, just prior to the Panel meeting, HMICFRS announced an extension to the embargo on the release of the report, though agreed that a verbal summary could be provided to the Panel under a strict duty of confidence (with disclosure to the public being forbidden). The Chief Constable of Cleveland Police proceeded to give a verbal summary of the report in a closed session that followed the Panel meeting, and members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comment.

The subsequent release of the HMICFRS report outlined that Cleveland Police had been graded inadequate in each of the three pillars:

- How effectively does the force reduce crime and keep people safe?
- How efficiently does the force operate and how sustainable are its services to the public?
- How legitimately does the force treat the public and its workforce?

Whilst some positive aspects were highlighted around tackling serious and organised crime, and understanding the cost of its services and its financial management, a number of concerns were identified including the prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour, protecting vulnerable people, treatment of the public and its workforce, and lack of ethical behaviour within the force.

The Panel received an update on the steps taken to address the issues raised within the HMICFRS report at the following meeting in November 2019, and was informed that Force monitoring (planned and ad-hoc) would be undertaken by the regional inspection team overseen by HMI Northern Phil Gormley.

Operation Phoenix

At its meeting in November 2019, the Panel received a presentation on *Operation Phoenix*, a major campaign to prevent crime and protect communities, which aims to see an improved public service from Cleveland Police, more help for vulnerable people – such as those suffering domestic abuse – and more officers tackling serious violence. Key elements include:

- To enhance the wellbeing of staff by effectively managing demand and outstanding workloads
- To effectively manage and investigate calls for service identifying threat, risk and harm with a clear focus on vulnerability
- To provide appropriate resources for calls for service with a clear focus on vulnerability
- To problem solve and implement preventative and safeguarding measures with a clear focus on vulnerability
- To effectively manage all reported crime / outstanding crime and prioritise offences by identifying threat, risk and harm with a clear focus on vulnerability
- To implement / embed a new process for managing crime investigation with increased scrutiny provided by new software
- To continuously improve positive outcomes
- To effectively manage and reduce outstanding named (not arrested) suspects and wanted persons
- To effectively manage and reduce outstanding warrants, prison recall and breach of bail offences
- To provide an effective intelligence led tasking process to improve the proactive ability to combat crime and those causing harm within the community, with a clear focus on vulnerability (domestic abuse), serious violence and identified outstanding offenders
- To provide an enhanced proactive capability to combat crime and those causing harm within the community, with a clear focus on vulnerability (domestic abuse), serious violence and identified outstanding offenders
- To engage and take an inclusive approach with both internal and external partners in all aspects of the operation
- To implement an effective communication strategy in order to inform staff, public and partners
- To ensure a value-for-money service is provided to the public by the effective management of finance throughout the duration of the operation

The Panel provided constructive comments on the plans and look forward to receiving a future update on the campaigns progress.

National Police and Crime Panel Conference

In November 2019, the Panel Chair attended the eighth Annual Conference for Chairs, Members and Support Officers of Police and Crime Panels. The theme of the Conference was *What do we mean by challenge and support?* The Conference discussed national issues relevant to Panels.

A series of thematic policy seminars and practitioner led workshops were held in relation to the following:

- Serious Violence, Knife Crime and County Lines
- Human Trafficking
- Reducing the arrests of women
- How to review policies and demystify policy-making
- Policy area – e.g. fire & rescue, rural crime, mental health
- New Guidance for Panels
- Induction for new members and officers
- Effective scrutiny
- Managing a new Panel
- Complaints handling and reforms

Task and Finish Scrutiny

In addition to the standing items which form the Panel's core programme, the Panel also undertakes proactive scrutiny work which expands the scope of the Panel beyond its formal statutory role. This approach strengthens the delivery of the Panel's core statutory responsibilities and also contributes to their statutory function in supporting the Police and Crime Commissioner in the effective exercise of their functions.

During 2019/2020, the Panel set up the following task and finish group:

Scrutiny of the Local Policing Precept 2020/2021

One of the key roles of the Panel is to consider the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed policing budget and precept. As in previous years, the Panel appointed a task and finish group comprising the following Councillors to inform the work of the Panel:

- Paul McGrath (Chair) Lay Member
- Councillor Lee Cartwright Hartlepool Borough Council
- Councillor Graham Cutler Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Councillor Matthew Storey Middlesbrough Borough Council

As there was no Provisional Police Settlement provided by the Government in relation to 2020/2021, with the first indication of the Police Settlement for 2020/2021 given on the 22nd January 2020 (delayed due to the December 2019 general election), this provided the Police and Crime Commissioner with just over one week to propose a precept to the Police and Crime Panel (in line the statutory requirements to do so), and almost no time to plan a budget, consult with the public, and ensure that all of the financial plans align with the operational plans of the Force.

The Task and Finish Group therefore met on the 4th February 2020, prior to the Police and Crime Panel meeting on the same day, to receive information about the Police and Crime Commissioner's overall budget strategy for 2020-21. Discussion took place on funding and planning assumptions, total funding projections and funding pressures.

The Panel made the following key findings:

- An important aspect of the Police Settlement was the precept flexibility of up to £10 for all PCCs (or equivalents) in 2020/2021.
- Based on the increase in precept being proposed, the overall impact on the Core funding for the organisation is set to increase by 7.9%, slightly above forecasts for the national average.
- The Government has stated that to enable the recruitment of 6,000 additional officers, it is ring-fencing £168 million which will be paid to Forces in line with their progress in recruiting the 6,000 additional officers by March 2021, and making the relevant infrastructure improvements needed to recruit the 20,000 additional officers by March 2023. Funding will be released quarterly and in arrears subject to evidence on their progress.
- The proposal to increase the Police precept by £10 will increase a household council tax bill by 19 pence per week for a Band D property (though the majority of properties within Cleveland are Band A-C, therefore this increase will be less).
- Of the 368 who completed the consultation survey, 63.9% supported the proposed £10 (3.99%) increase in precept and would like to see the Chief Constable make significant improvements to Cleveland Police.

The Group supported the proposal of the Police and Crime Commissioner to set the Band D Police Element of the Council Tax within Cleveland for 2020/2021 at £260.54 (an increase of £10, or 3.99% over the 2019-2020 level).

Police and Crime Commissioner Achievement Report

The meeting in February 2020 was due to be the last time the current Police and Crime Commissioner would address the Panel since he was first elected in 2012. In light of this, the Commissioner provided a comprehensive report on his achievements during his time in office, key elements of which included:

- Development of an award-winning Everyone Matters programme, to invest in and promote diversity, equality and human rights.
- Investment in specialist roles to tackle issues such as hate crime, early intervention, school liaison, community cohesion, rural crime, and crime prevention.
- Introduced a Transforming Professional Standards programme to deliver ethical standards and practice.
- Designed and constructed an award-winning Community Safety Hub at no cost to the public.
- First Commissioner to action Living Wage policies for direct employees and contractors.
- Actively supported a growing Cleveland Police Cadets scheme (now over 100 members).
- Helped establish the local Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS).
- Established and Chair a Cleveland-wide Strategic Hate Crime and Incidents Group.
- Aided the establishment of a multi-agency Cleveland Anti-Slavery Network.
- Secured a visit from the nationally renowned Knife Angel sculpture (first time in North East).
- Funded emergency first aid packs ('stab packs') to help treat those with stab/slash wounds.
- Appointed a Tees Serious Violence Prevention Manager
- Developed and commissioned the first Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) scheme in the country.
- Developed Cleveland Direct, a bespoke support programme for first-time or low-level offenders.
- Invested in the evidence-based Youth Triage scheme to address needs of children and young people at the earliest signs of offending behaviour.
- Funded ground-breaking research into motivations of sexual exploitation offenders.
- Co-Chair the Cleveland and Durham Local Criminal Justice Partnership (LCJP).
- Hosted a series of multi-agency anti-social behaviour (ASB) summits, and organised similar events on retail crime, disability hate crime, and asylum seeker good practice.
- Invested in technology (ECINS) to enable easy information-sharing between organisations.
- Attended over 710 community meetings and a variety of community events during the year.
- Invested over £655,000 to 200 local community safety projects via the Community Safety Initiatives Fund.
- Introduced an annual Cleveland Community Safety Awards (now the ROSE Awards).

Following the escalation of the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020, and the subsequent cancellation of the Police and Crime Commissioner elections scheduled for May 2020, the current Police and Crime Commissioner will now remain in post until May 2021.

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Complaints

The Panel has certain duties (under the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012) relating to the recording and investigation of complaints about the PCC that relate to non-criminal behaviour.

The Panel has established a sub-committee to consider complaints against the PCC. Complaints are dealt with by an informal resolution process; there are no powers to investigate a complaint. The sub-committee can consider complaints at a meeting, which the complainant, PCC and/or others may be invited to attend, or by the submission of written documents.

During 2019/2020, no complaints were considered under the Panel's complaints procedure.

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Further Information

You can keep up-to-date with the work of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel by visiting <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/community-safety/police-and-crime-panel/>

All meetings of the Panel are open to the public.

Listening to the views of local residents is an important part of the work of the Panel and anyone who lives or works in the Cleveland Force Area is welcome to submit a question to the Panel.

If you wish to submit a question, contact details are below:

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

Democratic Services

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Church Road

Stockton-on-Tees

TS18 1LD

Email: peter.bell@stockton.gov.uk

