

MINUTES of the meeting of the **SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL** held at 10.30 am on 5 February 2018 at Ashcombe Suite, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Panel at its next meeting.

Members:

(*Present)

- * Cllr Ken Harwood (Chairman)
- * Cllr Charlotte Morley (Vice-Chairman)
- * Cllr Margaret Cooksey
- Cllr Mr Graham Ellwood
- Cllr Pat Frost
- Cllr Nick Gething
- * Cllr Josephine Hawkins
- * Cllr Beryl Hunwicks
- * Cllr David Reeve
- Cllr Dorothy Ross-Tomlin
- * Cllr Chris Sadler
- Cllr Peter Waddell
- * Mr Bryan Cross
- Mr David Fitzpatrick-Grimes

In Attendance:

David Munro, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey
Alison Bolton, Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Ian Perkin, Treasurer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

61/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Graham Ellwood, David Fitzpatrick-Grimes, Pat Frost, Dorothy Ross-Tomlin and Nick Gething.

62/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

63/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

None were declared.

64/17 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4]

None were received.

65/17 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2018/19 [Item 5]

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Police and Crime Commissioner opened the item and stated that the precept would be set at the maximum increase permitted without a referendum. Raising local taxation was preferable to a national settlement so that funding remains in Surrey. The precept would amount to a £12 increase for Band D homes and more than 2,000 consultation responses showed a majority of residents supported the increase.
2. The Commissioner noted the pressures caused by an increased pay award and the impact of recruitment up to establishment levels. Surrey Police had the second lowest amount of non-earmarked reserves in the country and use of these reserves in this year's budget would take them to the lowest prudent amount.
3. The budget would put Surrey Police on a sustainable footing and provide for investment in major IT projects that would make Surrey Police more efficient and effective.
4. The Panel queried the use of reserves for the proposed Estates Strategy. The Commissioner confirmed there would be an announcement on this strategy soon but did not wish to comment further until those affected had been consulted.
5. The Panel acknowledged the pressures faced by the Commissioner due to Government funding levels, staffing and historical cases and also noted that the Commissioner would not be increasing any spend on his office budget this year.
6. The spending on IT was questioned based on past costs of projects. In reference to the precept consultation the Panel queried whether residents may have thought that any increase in taxation would have led to more frontline police whereas savings were being made in contact and deployment with the closure of front counters.
7. Whilst the Commissioner stated the closure of front counters was an operational matter for the Chief Constable the Commissioner was supportive of the proposal given the evidence on counter usage. The Commissioner stated that the consultation on this change was flawed as leaders of District and Borough Councils were not consulted.
8. The Panel advised the Commissioner that counters were under used in some parts of the county but not others. Better communication, signposting and options for change could have been realised if Members had been involved in the consultation.
9. Members highlighted the problem of distance to be travelled to Police premises by residents that need to produce documents and whether staff affected by closures would be redeployed. The Commissioner explained that counters were reviewed one by one, that staff would be redeployed and that the consultation was open for a further two months.
10. The Panel raised the removal of Policing in Your Neighbourhood (PIYN) funding and whether this meant fewer police on the street. The Commissioner confirmed that this accounting measure did not affect

staffing levels. The Panel stated this was not obvious to the reader and should be clarified.

RESOLVED:

The Panel agreed the precept for 2018/19. Councillor Margaret Cooksey abstained.

ACTIONS/FURTHER INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED:

Chairman to write to the Commissioner to confirm agreement of the 2018/19 precept proposal.

66/17 BUDGET UPDATE [Item 6]

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Panel queried the spend on overtime given the Commissioner's statement that Surrey Police were up to establishment levels. The Treasurer stated that they were looking into this issue as overtime had become built into the system during the transition to establishment. A working group had been set up to review the issue. A similar review of allowances would take place and the Treasurer stated that the payments would be reduced.
2. Regarding the overspend due to a payment to Deloitte for work on a Targeted Operating Model (TOM) the Treasurer explained that this was due to recharging from Sussex Police occurring after the financial year, however, there was a corresponding underspend in last year's budget.
3. Members asked what the return on investment the Police expected from Deloitte's work. The Treasurer confirmed that these figures along with information on the tender procedure for the work would be provided to the Panel.

RESOLVED:

The Panel noted the report.

ACTIONS/FURTHER INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED:

Treasurer to provide a report to the Panel at its next meeting outlining the tender for the TMO and the savings expected.

67/17 FEEDBACK ON MANAGEMENT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF CONSTABLE [Item 7]

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. A Panel Member highlighted the problems posed by fraud and requested a future report on the matter. The Commissioner was in agreement and commented that this was an increasing problem and pressure for the Police.
2. A question was raised about reduced victim satisfaction levels being mitigated by improved quality standards and how this would be visible

to the public. The Commissioner agreed to raise this with the Chief Constable at their next meeting.

3. The Panel asked how the public could access smart water. The Chief Executive of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner responded that there would be a joint press campaign with Surrey Police on this very issue that would include roadshow to boost awareness.
4. Members of the Panel questioned the Commissioner on the proceeds of crime noting that the majority of recovered monies were used to fund staff. The Commissioner stated that the aim of the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) was to pursue criminals in the first instance and then provide funds for community schemes. The Treasurer agreed to provide a breakdown of the proceeds covering the last 4 to 5 years and how this had been used.
5. The Panel sought the Commissioners' support for Junior Citizens' education and awareness programme that includes Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) issues.

RESOLVED:

To note the report

ACTIONS/FURTHER INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED:

The Treasurer to provide a breakdown of the proceeds of crime and its use in Surrey covering the last 4 to 5 years.

68/17 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING [Item 8]

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Chairman advised the Panel that two complaints had been received since their last meeting. The Complaints Sub-Committee resolved that the second of these complaints had been dealt with appropriately by the Commissioner.
2. The Chairman was asked about the composition of the Sub-Committee. The Panel were advised that this topic would come to a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

To note the report

ACTIONS/FURTHER INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED:

None.

69/17 RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER AND FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME [Item 9]

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Panel noted a number of future items did not have dates for consideration at a future meeting. Democratic Services to liaise with the OPCC to agree possible dates.
2. The Panel agreed to add items on the impact of fraud and the proceeds of crime in Surrey.

RESOLVED:

Forward work programme was agreed.

ACTIONS/FURTHER INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED:

Add the two new items to the Forward Work Programme.

70/17 COMMISSIONER'S QUESTION TIME [Item 10]

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Commissioner was asked about the impact of recent Press reporting lack of evidence disclosure in Surrey. The Commissioner highlighted a case of poor investigation for which the Chief Constable has apologised and that there is a local and national review into evidence disclosure.
2. That this is a national issue is no comfort for victims but the Commissioner was confident that everything was in order in Surrey.

ACTIONS/FURTHER INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED:

None.

71/17 PCP BUDGET UPDATE [Item 11]

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Vice-Chairman explained that this was the first report of its kind for the Surrey Police & Crime Panel and brings it into line with other Panels across the country.
2. There was disappointment at the level of detail provided in the report. The Chairman reiterated that this was the first report of this type and more information would be provided in the future. The Vice-Chairman confirmed a budget paper would be brought to the June meeting of the Panel, with further detail on the current picture as the current report included estimates for the current year.
3. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman stated that they would not be receiving any special responsibility allowances for their work in contrast to past arrangements. The Chairman wished to advise the Panel he was not aware of past arrangements, however a number of Members explained that they were aware of this fact.

4. Absences of Panel Members at the meeting were noted with the Panel keen to ensure full attendance of the Panel for important meetings. The Chairman confirmed that District and Borough Council Leaders would be appraised of the concerns raised regarding attendance.

RESOLVED:

To note the report. Independent Member Bryan Cross abstained.

ACTIONS/FURTHER INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED:

District and Borough Council Leaders to be informed.

72/17 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC [Item]

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

73/17 POLICE AND CRIME PANEL SIG [Item 12]

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Panel discussed whether or not to join a proposed national representative body of Police & Crime Panels.

RESOLVED:

To continue with the regional collaborative arrangements with neighbouring panels.

ACTIONS/FURTHER INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED:

Write to the author of the explanatory letter concerning the formation of a National Representative body, confirming the decision made by the Panel.

74/17 PUBLICITY FOR PART TWO ITEM [Item]

It was agreed that non-exempt information may be made available to the press and public, where appropriate.

75/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 13]

The next public meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held on 12 April 2018 at 10.30am in the Ashcombe Suite, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames.

Meeting ended at 12:40pm

Chairman