

MINUTES of the meeting of the **SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL** held at 10.30 am on 4 February 2019 at Council Chamber, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN.

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

Members:

(*Present)

- *Dr Andrew Povey
- *Cllr Andrew Burley
- *Cllr Victor Broad
- *Cllr Josephine Hawkins
- *Cllr David Reeve
- *Cllr Graham Ellwood
- *Cllr Peter Waddell
- *Cllr Beryl Hunwicks
- *Mr Bryan Cross
- *Cllr Daxa Patel

Apologies:

- Cllr Ken Harwood
- Cllr Margaret Cooksey
- Cllr Pat Frost
- Mr David Fitzpatrick-Grimes

Attendees:

Mr David Munro, Police & Crime Commissioner
Alison Bolton, Chief Executive, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Ian Perkin, Finance Officer, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

1/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Councillors Margaret Cooksey, Ken Harwood, Pat Frost and Mr David Fitzpatrick-Grimes.

The Vice-Chairman was in the Chair.

2/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2018 were approved as a correct record.

3/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were none.

4/19 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4]

There was one public question from Mr King. This and the response were:

“Will the PCP please request to PCC Munro that he resigns his post with immediate effect?”

Response:

The Commissioner is an elected representative and the Police & Crime Panel does not have the power to request or enforce a resignation.

5/19 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2019/20 [Item 5]

Key points raised during discussion:

1. The Commissioner presented his report to the Panel and stated that the precept would be set at the maximum increase permitted without a referendum. The precept would amount to a £24 increase for Band D homes. There had been an unprecedented response to the consultation of just under 7,000. 75% of those that responded supported the increase. The increase would mean an extra 100 police officers or operational staff would be recruited.
2. The Commissioner spoke of the short term cost of moving Surrey Police HQ to the centre of the county but explained that this would mean major efficiencies in the medium and long term.
3. The Commissioner also spoke of the re-evaluation of officers pensions which he had argued should be paid out of central taxation. The Government had provided some cushion for the increase this year, but next year the Commissioner would have to fight again.
4. The Panel raised several queries and the Commissioner responded:
 - a) that Specials had the same powers as the police and received proper training and management. PCSO's are not trained in the same way as Specials as PCSO's only do what they are legally allowed to do within the powers delegated to them by the Chief Constable
 - b) that audit services were procured externally every five years and not provided in-house. He thought that the fees were reasonable given the complicated nature and size of the budget. It was also explained that costs for internal audit had reduced from last year as it was now an internal provider from a Hampshire local authority.
 - c) the 100 extra officers would include PCSO's and would mean a doubling of numbers on neighbourhood teams.
 - d) He did not expect to have any problems with recruitment
 - e) IT improvements would cover all areas both frontline and backroom
5. There was some discussion around police cars being parked up at stations and seemingly going nowhere, especially at weekends. The police would be asked for an explanation, but the PCC explained that this reflected the fact that officers worked shift patterns.
6. There was much discussion around CCTV and the Panel asked for detail around the investment to support CCTV. The Commissioner explained that there was to be a major review of CCTV including new technology to obtain digital evidence. He noted that in Sussex, all areas were covered by one central control room, based at Police HQ.

He would like to see Surrey local authorities adopt a similar model. The Commissioner noted the CCTV issues raised regarding Guildford not having the manpower to cover it.

7. The Finance Officer explained that the police officer pension scheme was unfunded and that the Government has asked the government actuary to consider what employers should be paying if the scheme was a funded scheme. This was an unexpected additional burden on police budgets and the Commissioner had fought for the extra cost to be paid by the Government.
8. The Panel asked for a detailed quantitative report on what the extra money would be spent on. Details of targets were also requested; for example, how many extra crimes would be solved with the additional budget. The Commissioner gave an update on crime figures and stated that he was unable to bring a report promising reduced crime figures. He would however, return with further details of where the additional resource would be allocated and how he expected this to result in improvements.
9. The Commissioner confirmed that dedicated neighbourhood police would be allocated to all boroughs. A Panel Member asked for the current neighbourhood police spend to be published.
10. Several members raised the issue of police presence on the streets to which the Commissioner responded that there were different anecdotes from different areas and the surveys he conducted showed the majority of responders said that the police were there when needed.
11. The Panel spoke about IT and the risks involved. The Commissioner responded that local IT projects would always be high risk but more worrying were the national IT programmes over which he would have no control over the budget or delays. Also, benefits of IT projects may not be realised for some time following completion.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed Surrey Police Council Tax Precept of £260.57p for a Band D Property for the financial year 2019/20 was agreed.
2. That the Police & Crime Commissioner be requested to provide a detailed report to the Panel on what the extra funding would be used for.

Actions/Further information to be provided:

Chairman to write to the Commissioner to confirm agreement of the 2019/20 precept proposal.

Cllr Andrew Burley arrived at 11.18am in the middle of discussion on this item.

6/19 OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER'S BUDGET FOR 2019/20 [Item 6]

Key points raised during discussion:

The Panel received a report for information on the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner budget for the financial year 2019/20.

RESOLVED:

The Panel noted the report.

Actions/Further information to be provided:

None.

7/19 BUDGET UPDATE [Item 7]

Key points raised during discussion:

1. The Panel considered a report that detailed the financial position as at 30 November 2018 of the Surrey Police Group.
2. A Member asked if the Commissioner had considered self-insurance with regard to insurance of vehicles. The Commissioner stated that this had been considered but that the method chosen was the most cost effective.
3. A Member asked about overspend and underspend in the areas of specialist crime and local areas to which the Commissioner responded that this was a bookkeeping issue.
4. There was discussion around mobile data terminal refresh for which there appeared to be no budget. The Finance Officer explained that money had been transferred and the Commissioner reiterated the need for the capital budget to be moved more flexibly.

RESOLVED:

The Panel noted the report.

Actions/Further information to be provided:

None.

8/19 RECRUITMENT OF CHIEF CONSTABLE [Item 8]

Key points raised during discussion:

The Panel received a report that set out details of the recruitment process and likely timescales for the post of Chief Constable. The Panel would need to confirm the appointment.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

Actions/Further information to be provided:

That a Panel meeting be arranged for the confirmation of the appointment of Chief Constable.

9/19 FEEDBACK ON PERFORMANCE MEETINGS [Item 9]

Key points raised during discussion:

The Panel received a report on management meetings between the Commissioner and Chief Constable.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

Actions/Further information to be provided:

None.

10/19 COMMISSIONER'S QUESTION TIME [Item 10]

Key points raised during discussion:

1. Several questions had been previously submitted by Cllr Reeve. These and the responses are attached as Annex A. The Member explained that his concern regarding the weight of the armour was more about deployment than health & safety in that the vehicles used could not carry all of the equipment. The Commissioner responded that he was satisfied that the police were looking at that.
2. The Panel requested the Commissioner's comments on an article on the Get Surrey website regarding closure of cases within 24 hours. The Commissioner responded that he had provided a report to the last meeting of the Panel explaining the number of cases closed and why they were closed.
3. A Member referred to the Her Majesty's Inspectorate report on Surrey Fire & Rescue Services that were noted as inadequate and asked the Commissioner if the details were known to him before he made the decision not to take on the governance. The Commissioner responded that there was no hard evidence available at the time of his decision but anecdotal evidence was not good.

RESOLVED:

To thank the Commissioner for his responses to questions.

Actions/Further information to be provided:

None.

11/19 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING [Item 11]

Key points raised during discussion:

The Chairman explained that the outstanding complaint PCP0032 was to be heard that afternoon.

RESOLVED:

The report was noted.

Actions/Further information to be provided:

Outcome of this afternoon's Complaints Sub-Committee to be reported to the next meeting of the Panel.

12/19 RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER AND FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME [Item 12]

Key points raised during discussion:

Members expressed their disappointment to the Commissioner that they did not receive a public copy of the Chief Constable's presentation and asked him to push for it.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan and Tracker be noted.

Actions/Further information to be provided:

The Commissioner would make enquiries about the Chief Constable's presentation and ask the new Chief Constable for a presentation on their priorities.

13/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 13]

It was noted that the provisional meeting arranged for 18 February would now be cancelled as the PCC Precept had been accepted. *Therefore the next meeting would be held on Thursday 11 April 2019.

[subsequent to the meeting this date was changed to Friday 5th April in order to accommodate the confirmation of the new Chief Constable.]

Meeting ended at: 11.59 am

Chairman