

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the **SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL** held at 10.30 am on 10 June 2014 at Ashcombe Suite, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN.

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

**Members:**

Mrs Dorothy Ross-Tomlin (Chairman)  
Borough Councillor John O'Reilly  
Borough Councillor George Crawford QPM  
Borough Councillor Richard Billington  
District Councillor Margaret Cooksey  
Borough Councillor Victor Broad  
Borough Councillor Terry Dicks  
Borough Councillor Charlotte Morley  
Mrs Pat Frost  
Independent Member Anne Hoblyn MBE

**Apologies:**

District Councillor Ken Harwood (Vice-Chairman)

**26/14 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN [Item 1]**

Councillor Dorothy Ross-Tomlin was proposed by Pat Frost and seconded by Charlotte Morley to be appointed the Chairman for the municipal year 2014/2015. The Panel unanimously voted, by a show of hands, to appoint Councillor Dorothy Ross-Tomlin as Chairman of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel.

The Chairman thanked the Panel for their support and stated she was looking forward to working with them over the next municipal year.

**RESOLVED:** That

1. Councillor Dorothy Ross-Tomlin be appointed as Chairman of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel for the 2014/2015 municipal year.

**27/14 ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [Item 2]**

Councillor Ken Harwood was proposed by George Crawford and seconded by Victor Broad to be appointed the Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2014/2015. The Panel unanimously voted, by a show of hands, to appoint Councillor Ken Harwood as Vice-Chairman of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Terry Dicks for his experience and support over the last two years, and introduced Victoria White as the new Scrutiny Officer who would support the Police and Crime Panel.

**RESOLVED:** That

1. Councillor Ken Harwood be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel for the 2014/2015 municipal year.

**28/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 3]**

Apologies were received from Councillor Ken Harwood.

Apologies were also received from the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner who was attending an Emergency Services Collaboration meeting with the Chief Constable.

**29/14 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 4]**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting with the following amendments:

- The last bullet point on page 3 (Item 16/14) should also include a Member's query regarding the number of fraudulent insurance claims being made within the county with people being involved in car accidents on purpose. In addition, a query was made regarding Police action against motorcyclists who were adapting their bikes to be louder.
- Item 17/14, the fifth line of the introduction should read "...the precept for 2015/16."

- Item 17/14 bullet point 6 – clarification was provided regarding the internal auditors who were provided by the District Audit Consortium rather than being a joint committee.

### **30/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 5]**

None were received.

### **31/14 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 6]**

None were received.

### **32/14 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT [Item 7]**

*Due to the availability of the Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner for Victims Item 8 was taken before Item 7.*

The Commissioner provided the Panel with an overview of his first full year Annual Report, with some key areas of success being that arrests were up by 2,800, an 8 % drop in crime, and an increase in the number of constables by 200. The Commissioner had focussed on raising his concerns regarding the funding formula for Surrey Police by commissioning work from Oxford Economics which had been shared with the Chancellor, Home Office and Surrey MPs. Furthermore, he stated that he was uncompromising in his expectations of the Police and had made public statements when there had been cases of wrong doing.

- Members requested that tables provided within the Update on Delivering the Six People's Priorities report be consistent with figures for Financial Year 12/13, Financial Year 13/14 and Financial Year to Date 14/15. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the report was compiled by Surrey Police for Management Meetings with himself and had been provided for information.
- Concern was raised regarding comments made by the Commissioner in the Surrey Advertiser regarding an attack by the Home Secretary on Surrey Police. It was raised that there was no specific reference within the Home Secretary's speech regarding Surrey Police and it was felt that the Commissioner's comments were not helpful. The Commissioner stated that he had spoken to the Surrey Advertiser as he felt that the Home Secretary's comments had been unhelpful in improving police morale in Surrey as reference was made to historic cases on misconduct which were over 30 years old.
- Members raised concerns that the Commissioner had announced within the media that 500 jobs would be lost due to the financial constraints the Force was under. It was felt that this statement would have a detrimental effect on police morale within Surrey. The Commissioner stated that the Force was in the position of losing around £30million, which equated to around 400-500 staff. He felt that he needed to be honest about the affects of the cuts and that he was attempting to consider future budgets as had been suggested by the Police and Crime Panel. He would however, continue to raise awareness of the funding formula and campaign for a change within

central government. The Commissioner informed the Panel that by announcing the potential affect of the cuts on Police he was attempting to influence politicians into taking action with the upcoming General Election in 2015.

- Members were concerned about police morale and particularly whether a 'siege mentality' would begin within Surrey Police. The Commissioner shared this concern and informed the Panel that he was talking to senior officers regularly about how Surrey residents did support the Police.
- Members congratulated the Commissioner on the improving figures for crimes against property, but felt that more should be done regarding crimes against persons. They felt that Zero Tolerance policing would show an increase in the number of people being arrested for these crimes, however despite an increase in reporting there did not appear to be an increase in convictions. It was felt that national figures for these crimes would be helpful to assist with understanding the trend. The Commissioner stated that he felt it was a good indication that people trusted the Police that reporting of domestic abuse and sexual assault was increasing, and that there was a slight increase in the number of people being convicted for these crimes. However, these crimes were under scrutiny by the Police to ensure everything that could be done was being done.
- Members were concerned that there was an expectation that Zero Tolerance policing would show an increase in the number of people arrested on the street rather than raids on houses, as was shown on page 15 of the agenda pack. The Commissioner stated that he felt the photo showed robust policing and that with the other images within the Annual Report showed the work of Surrey Police. He felt that the increase in arrests did show that policing of anti-social behaviour was working. The Panel, however, felt that the figures needed to be integrated further to show what effect Zero Tolerance was having.
- The issue of the noise of motorbikes was discussed and the Commissioner informed the Panel that he had written to the Mole Valley MP, Sir Paul Beresford, about his concern as it was felt that a change in legislation was required. The response to this letter had been forwarded to Councillor Margaret Cooksey. The Commissioner stated that he would write to all MPs about this issue and the need for a change in legislation.
- Concerns were raised regarding the project to see war memorials cleaned up as part of a Probation Service project as some areas had not been attended, and it was felt that the centenary of the First World War was the year to complete this project. The Commissioner informed Members that this was a project that was being funded by his office, and was being arranged by his Deputy. He informed the Panel that he would look into this further.
- Members were concerned by the number of arrests going up as it was felt that crime prevention was more effective.

- The affordability of living within the county as a young Police Officer was discussed as an issue and was being looked into by the Police and Guildford Borough Council.
- Members raised concerns that vulnerable adults were being released in the middle of the night from custody suites without any money or means to get home. The Commissioner stated that this was an area he would continue to monitor and would look into whether Officers could drop people home, if resources allowed.
- The Panel queried whether the Commissioner's office spoke to Housing Associations about the anti-social behaviour of residents. The Commissioner felt that the pilot enforcement team within Reigate and Banstead in the future should have the powers to ensure the Housing Associations did the right thing when residents were being anti-social and affecting the lives of neighbours as it was a particular concern of residents.
- Concerns were raised about the investigation into the death of a seven year old boy in Chertsey during the floods, and whether the Police were keeping the family informed. Furthermore, a new investigation into the Deepcut deaths had been announced and assurances were sought that the investigation would be full and thorough. The Commissioner stated that there would be no cover-up in these investigations, and would ensure that the Liaison Officer for the boy's family was keeping them informed of developments. Regarding the Deepcut investigation he informed the Panel that he has authorised £1.5 million of reserve monies to be spent on the investigation to ensure that all aspects were investigated thoroughly.
- The Commissioner informed the Panel that within Surrey Police there were two full-time Police Federation officers at Mount Browne with offices. These officers provided advice and counselling to Police Officers, particularly when one was under investigation.
- The Panel were informed that the Commissioner had hired a young person to engage, via social media, with the public and he would keep the Panel up-to-date with their work.

**RESOLVED:** That,

1. The report be noted.

**33/14 DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND ASSISTANT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PERFORMANCE MONITORING [Item 8]**

The Panel welcomed the Assistant Police and Crime Commissioners to the meeting.

- The Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner (APCC) for Victims informed the Panel that she had made a number of recommendations during the past year on how to improve the victims' experience. She stated that she spent two thirds of her time listening to victims and the

other third feeding back experiences to the services. She had written a number of reports which were given to the Police, courts and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to consider.

- The APCC for Victims had found that Surrey Police were very willing to listen to her findings and involve her in developing the victim experience, whereas the courts service and CPS had not been as open.
- The APCC for Victims had particularly focussed on the experiences of vulnerable victims, such as those of domestic abuse, sexual assault and anti-social behaviour.
- A particular area of success due to her work had been that perpetrators of domestic abuse were no longer lined up at the back of the court in Redhill during all hearings. Only the accused relevant to the case was present.
- Members queried whether the APCC for Victims felt that with her position within the Police and Crime Commissioner's office whether she felt that she had the influence necessary to effect change to the victim experience. The APCC for Victims felt that her position did give her the ability to raise concerns as she was being listened to more than when she was doing the work as a volunteer.
- The Panel queried what key issues the APCC for Victims had raised in her work. The APCC for Victims stated that there was a need for a greater understanding of domestic abuse and the effect it has on the victim and any children who are involved. Whereas for a victim of domestic abuse recovery can begin when they are away from the abuser, for a victim of sexual assault the recovery is often more difficult as it can take over their life. She felt these differences were important to consider when commissioning services for victims.
- The APCC for Victims stated her belief that the Youth Criminal Justice system should be built upon to enable older people to take part in reparative work. However, she did concede that there was issue that often victims were not interested in restorative justice; however there were highly trained facilitators within Surrey.
- The Victim Satisfaction Survey was taken very seriously within Surrey, with meetings every six months to interrogate the results. The APCC for Victims felt that she was working well with Surrey Police to review the survey results.
- In the next six months the Police and Crime Commissioner would take on the commissioning of victim services and the role of the APCC for Victims was strategic in ensuring the services were right for the victims. Surrey was leading in the area of victim services. The APCC for Victims stated that she worked two days a week and most of her time was used to talk to victims so research was commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and she commented strategically on this work.

- The aim of the APCC for Victims was to make the process of conviction quicker, as domestic violence cases took on average six months while sexual assault took on average 12 months. The court services and CPS were struggling with cuts to budgets but were working to speed up the process.
- The Commissioner informed the Panel that the APCC for Victims had raised the issue of the provision of refuges nationally as there was a situation arising where other counties were closing their refuges which meant victims from Surrey did not have a place to go. The APCC for Victims stated that these were important services which helped people to rebuild their lives. The refuges also helped children who had been caught up with the domestic violence and provided play groups.
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner were assisting refuges to put in bids for funds from the Ministry of Justice, and had submitted eight bids including one for the purchase of school uniforms.
- Members were concerned that the work of the APCC for Victims was more social and queried whether her work was influencing the work of Police Officers on the ground. The APCC stated that she worked more strategically with senior officers, but that her work influenced training available to Police Officers. Furthermore, she regularly spoke to Officers and felt that her work was being appreciated.
- The Commissioner informed the Panel that he had taken the decision to increase the number of days worked by the APCC for Victims from two to three as she had previously been effectively worked one day for free. He further informed the Panel that he aimed to employ a young ethnic minority female for one day a week as there was a different set of values in some communities and he wanted his office to engage with these groups. The Chairman requested that the inclusion of an additional day of work for the APCC for Victims would enable her to attend future Panel meetings.
- The APCC for Equalities and Diversity informed the Panel that his work was ongoing but that he was working on supporting the Police and increasing morale within the Force. He was also working to increase the number of contacts he had across Surrey and Sussex, particularly within the Crawley Mosque.
- Members queried whether the communities that the APCC for Equalities and Diversity worked with wanted to be engaged with or preferred to be more self regulating. The APCC for Equalities and Diversity stated that he had been invited to meetings within these communities and he spoke of the services that were available to them.
- The Commissioner informed the Panel that he had been invited to attend Friday Prayers at a mosque and was looking to attend more meetings at mosques across Surrey. He had also attended a meeting with representatives from organisations which looked at counter-terrorism about young men who had travelled to Syria, along with members of the community.

- The Commissioner stated that the APCC for Equalities and Diversity had been able to educate Police Officers on the different sects within Islam which was assisting them with their work.
- Members queried why there had been a high number of Stop & Search occurrences in Mole Valley in particular and were informed by the APCC for Equalities and Diversity that this would be looked into.

**RESOLVED:** That,

1. The report be noted.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned for at 12.25pm and resumed at 12.35pm, with all those present who had been in attendance with the exception of Councillor George Crawford.

### **34/14 FEEDBACK ON MANAGEMENT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF CONSTABLE [Item 9]**

The Commissioner informed the Panel that there had been one management meeting with the Chief Constable which was reported on within the agenda pack.

- The Commissioner informed the Panel that he had congratulated the Chief Constable for the Surrey Police's work, however he had raised concerns over the Special Constabulary as they felt that they were a valuable resource.
- The Commissioner intended to look into giving the Speed Watch volunteers more power. Panel Members felt that it would be beneficial for the programme to be a Road Watch scheme which also looked at anti-social parking and cycling, and drivers using mobile phones. The Commissioner felt that these could be considered as he was keen to give more power to volunteers.

**RESOLVED:** That,

1. The report be noted.

### **35/14 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING [Item 10]**

The Panel were informed that the outcome of a complaint considered by the Complaints Sub-Committee on 24 April 2014 could be found within the agenda pack. Additionally, five complaints had been received and would be considered at a meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee on 12 June 2014. The outcome of this meeting would be reported upon at the next meeting of the Panel.

**RESOLVED:** That,

1. That the report be noted.

### 36/14 RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMPLAINTS SUB-COMMITTEE [Item 11]

The Panel agreed that, in line with the Panel's Complaints Protocol, the Complaints Sub-Committee was to be re-established to informally resolve noncriminal complaints about the conduct of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, in addition to conduct matters which were referred back to the Panel from the IPCC.

**RESOLVED:** That,

1. The Complaints Sub-Committee be re-established for the municipal year 2014/2015.
2. The Complaints Sub-Committee to have the following membership:
  - Councillor Victor Broad
  - Councillor Margaret Cooksey
  - Councillor George Crawford
  - Councillor John O'Reilly
  - Independent Member Anne Hoblyn
  
  - Chairman (*ex-officio*)
  - Vice-Chairman (*ex-officio*)

### 37/14 RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FINANCE SUB-GROUP [Item 12]

The Finance Sub-Group was proposed to be re-established to assist the Panel in consideration of budgetary and financial matters.

Members suggested that the new Independent Member of the Police and Crime Panel should have finance experience or skills as the membership of the Sub-Group was lower than would be desired. The Chairman informed the Panel that they would look for a candidate with experience of working within the community and financial knowledge, and that they aimed to appoint a new Member by the middle of July 2014.

The Chairman requested that the Police and Crime Commissioner involved the Finance Sub-Group with the formation of the precept proposals by September 2014.

**RESOLVED:** That,

1. The Finance Sub-Group be re-established for the municipal year 2014/2015.
2. The Finance Sub-Committee to have the following membership:
  - Councillor Victor Broad
  - Councillor Charlotte Morley
  
  - Chairman (*ex-officio*)
  - Vice-Chairman (*ex-officio*)

**38/14 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER  
[Item 13]**

The Panel reviewed the recommendations tracker and forward work programme.

**RESOLVED:** That

1. The recommendations tracker and forward work programme be noted.

**39/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 14]**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel would be on 9 September 2014 at 10.30am.

Meeting ended at: 12.45 pm

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**Chairman**