



Agenda Item No:5

Bristol City Council
Minutes of the Police and Crime Panel (AGM)
Wednesday 11th June 2014 at 11.00am

Members Present:-

Councillors: Nigel Ashton (Chairman), Lisa Brett, Richard Brown, Stuart Dowding, Mike Drew, Heather Goddard, Francine Haeberling, Gary Hopkins, Tony Lock, Jeff Lovell, John Parham, Afzal Shah, John Swayne, Jane Warmington, Roz Willis.

Independent Members:-

Rosa Hui, Roger Kinsman, Andrew Sharman.

Officers in Attendance:-

Shana Johnson, Patricia Jones.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were none.

2. Membership of the Committee

The membership of the Panel for 2014/15 was noted.

RESOLVED - that the membership for the 2014/15 Municipal Year be noted.

3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

RESOLVED - that Nigel Ashton and Francine Haeberling be elected as Chairman and Vice-Chair of the Police and Crime Panel for the 2014/15 municipal year.

4. Dates of Future Meetings

RESOLVED - that the following meeting dates for 2014/15 be noted:-

<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
10 th September (training)	12 th February
October/September (training date tbc)	11 th March
30 th October	
10 th December	

5. Public Forum

The Panel heard from David Redgewell. The statement was circulated in advance of the meeting and a copy placed in the Minute Book.

Attention was drawn to the consultation on the Great Western and South West Trains Rail Franchises with particular reference to transport security and Policing. The Commissioner was invited to maintain and expand the collaboration and co-operation between Avon and Somerset and the BTP/Port Police, thereby keeping the network safe in the West Country. Thanks were extended to the Police for efforts to date.

It was noted that the consultation closes on 26th June at 9.30pm.

6. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Willis reported that some charities she worked with were in receipt of funding from the Commissioner.

7. Minutes of the last Meeting

Matters Arising

Following questions asked at the last meeting, Councillor Parham confirmed that the costs associated with the re-commissioning of the 7 speed cameras in Somerset had been provided. However the response did not include the cost of reintroducing the Command Centre infrastructure as requested.

The Commissioner confirmed that the information about delivery and outcomes across the 40 community safety projects in receipt of funding could be found on the website.

The Chairman extended its thanks and appreciation to Scrutiny Officer Jude Williams for her contribution to the work of the Panel over the last 2 years.

Resolved – that the Minutes of the last meeting on the 21st March 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to an additional sentence at page 5:- “The Commissioner was also asked to confirm the costs associated with re-introduction of the Command Centre infrastructure”.

8. Commissioner’s Update and Police and Crime Commissioner’s Annual Report

The Panel noted that briefing note circulated in advance of the meeting updating the Panel on recent actions, news and events.

Reference was made to the following in the ensuing discussion: -

- Chief Superintendent Nicky Watson remained the lead on tackling ASM in the community.
- Opportunities for income generation were pursued where possible. Dogs already formed part of the tri-force arrangement and horses were used well across the force area with positive feedback from Exmoor and Minehead following the floods.
- The Commissioner confirmed that she would consider the recommendation emerging from the Home Affairs Select Committee report to publish a forward plan of key decisions and enable more proactive scrutiny.

- The Commissioner agreed to look at what might be an appropriate response to issues around young people as victims of crime. It was noted that PCSOs were already attached to some schools.
- A draft Estates Strategy was out to consultation explaining plans setting out plans to rationalise the estate in anticipation of 3 new PFI Police and custody centres, and the implementation of the new operating model. There was no announcement as yet in relation to Yeovil Police Station. There would continue to be a Police presence where needed subject to reduced budgets and a commitment to keep officers on the street. This meant fewer and smaller buildings. The press failed to pick up on the point that there would be 26
- In response to concerns about a continuing Police presence in Bath, it was confirmed that talks were taking place about a move to a one-stop shop opposite the station and there would be no reduction in terms of Neighbourhood Beat Teams. Keynsham Police Station would be closed and services moved into the new Keynsham Town Hall. Open days/tours of the new custody centres would be notified to Panel Members in the future.
- Talks were on-going with BCC to make Broad ? Police Station in Hengrove a public service hub. Demand would reduce with the removal of the custody facility.
- there were no current plans to roll out the Shape Mendip Project across other Somerset LAs, but discussions were taking place with LAs in relation to the integration of services.
- Fire Authority Plans to amalgamate resources at a new fire station in the former Filton Airfield were understood to have been delayed due to the difficulty in getting interests there to align. It was noted that decisions relating to the regional Police helicopter were made by the National Police Air Service (NPAS).
- Community concerns arising from plans to close Trinity Road Police Station were highlighted. It was suggested that the uncertainty could be addressed by information/awareness days to dispel the perception that the closure would mean reporting to Patchway. The point was made that the Bridewell was 0.9

miles away from Trinity Road and this facility would be open all of the time in the future. Assurances were also given that Trinity Road would not be closed until a suitable alternative site was found. Attention was drawn to a public forum meeting on the 29th July at the Arts Centre opposite Trinity Road.

- It would be confirmed if the “Make the Change” Domestic Abuse perpetrator project in Somerset included female perpetrators.
- It was agreed that the Commissioner would follow up and provide feedback following work undertaken by the Police and Chinese community in relation to seasonal burglaries involving the Chinese community.
- It was noted that references in the plan to the “Chinese Women’s Association”, should be replaced with “Bristol and Avon Chinese Women’s Group”.
- It was confirmed that Asian gold burglaries was taken seriously and work had been carried out. Efforts would be made to establish if any awareness raising was planned for Ramadan. The Commissioner suggested the Constabulary could join Councillor Shah in raising awareness in Bristol mosques.
- Attention was drawn to press reports concerning the manipulation/accuracy of crime figures. It was noted that the Commissioner had set ambitions against which progress would be monitored. She was asked how she intended to ensure that these did not affect reporting of crime. The Commissioner stated that it was for the Constabulary to measure the organisation in such a way that improvements can be managed. She emphasised the importance of data recording and specific Home Office targets/objectives against which Avon and Somerset was 90% compliant.
- It was suggested that crime often went unreported because of lack of confidence, thereby creating a gap between actual local reality and what is reported to the Police. The Bristol Quality of Life Survey encouragingly shows crime figures decreasing, but in reality less people were reporting crime – rural and business crime, serious sexual assault and rape.
- It was maintained, notwithstanding surveys, that crime was steadily reducing and public confidence in the Police

increasing. Avon and Somerset were now rated 6th nationally, previously 35th.

- A move up the national table with 1300 less victims of burglaries was acknowledged. However attention was drawn to the detection rate of 14% and the need for improvement in lower performing areas. The Commissioner stated that she was aware of variances across the force area. This was a priority and it was anticipated that increased targeting and actions plans around priorities would reverse the downward detection rate.
- It was suggested that there was massive under-reporting of Cyber Crime and shoplifting offences on the High Street due to the poor response of the Police and lack of resources. Accordingly these offences were not investigated and remained unrecorded. The Commissioner drew attention to Action Fraud, a national reporting centre for information about fraud and financially motivated internet crime. Its role was to ensure that the correct crime reporting procedures were followed and work on strategies for tackling Cyber Crime.
- Reference was also made to data sharing agreements with the Constabulary and evident delays in responding to requests for information. It was suggested that the Commissioner could usefully look at how processes could be speeded up to improve the effectiveness of data sharing schemes.
- It was noted that for those who did not wish to report crime face to face, an on-line reporting system was available that informed the intelligence picture the Constabulary was building.
- Having a representative of the Nation Farmers Union (NFU) present in the control room during the badger cull was an operational decision, made for intelligence/information reasons. The impartiality of the Police was key in these circumstances. It was agreed that Councillor Dowding's email in relation to the policing of the badger cull would be circulated to all Panel members.
- The Commissioner was thanked for the reference in the plan to forging relationships with local authorities. It was hoped that this would be built upon.

- The aim to embed policing in local communities and build on their needs and concerns was also welcomed. It was emphasised that communication with the public was key to achieving this.
- Early Morning Restriction Orders (EMROs) were now available to shape local licensing and tackle alcohol related problems in local areas. The Commissioner was asked if she had exercised the ability to request a local authority to consider introducing such an order. It was confirmed that talks were on-going in relation to specific areas.
- The Commissioner was commended on plans to continue to improve engagement with voluntary and community sector organisations. However it was suggested that there could be further improvements around the issue of domestic violence in the context of Chinese women and internet marriages. It was noted that the Commissioner had attended several surgeries to find out more about these issues and assigned a specific PCSO to listen to concerns. Whilst there was always more that could be done, the immediate focus was on keeping officers on the street. However, the Commissioner would continue to keep a watching brief.
- Attention was drawn to the circulation of racist leaflets in specific parts of Bristol. It was reported that the BME community needed encouragement to come forward and assurances that their concerns would be taken seriously if they did.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) that the Commissioner considers the recommendation emerging from the Home Affairs Select Committee report to publish a forward plan of key decisions and thus enable more proactive scrutiny.**
- (2) that Open days/tours of the new custody centres would be notified to Panel Members in the future.**
- (3) that the Commissioner follows up and provides feedback following work undertaken by the Police and Chinese community in relation to seasonal burglaries involving the Chinese community.**

- (4) that the Constabulary provides assistance to the Local ward councillor in raising awareness around Asian gold burglaries in Bristol mosques.
- (5) that Councillor Dowding's email in relation to the policing of the badger cull be circulated to all Panel members.

9. Joint Work Programming

The Panel noted the Work Programme report and the core scrutiny activity scheduled across the year.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

10. Police and Crime Panel Annual Report

The Lead Officer introduced the draft annual report and highlighted the key content including: -

- Panel Role and Responsibilities
- Core Programme Achievements November 2012 – May 2014
- Working with the Commissioner
- Scrutiny of the Commissioner's budget and precept
- Confirmation hearing
- Scrutiny of the Police and Crime Plan
- Scrutiny of the Commissioner's Annual Report
- Complaints against the Commissioner

No substantive amendments were proposed. It was agreed that details of Panel Members should include names, email addresses and contact numbers. Hard copies of the report should be made available in libraries and placed on the websites of all the authorities in the force area. A final version of the report would be circulated to panel Members for approval.

RESOLVED – that a final version of the Police and Crime Panel Annual report be circulated to Panel Members for approval.

11. Home Affairs Select Committee: Police and Crime Commissioners - progress to date

The Panel noted this information report.

12. Complaints Report

The Panel considered and noted a report of the Chief Executive OPCC providing an oversight of all complaints made against the Commissioner.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

14. Complaints Updates

(Exempt paragraph 1 – information relating to any individual)

The Panel received an update in relation to an on-going complaint, reported in detail to the Panel on the 21st March 2014.

Members received an update on a matter currently under consideration by the Independent Police Complaints Commission.