

## DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Police and Crime Panel** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Tuesday 19 July 2016 at 1.30 pm**

### **Present:**

#### **Durham County Council:**

Councillors J Armstrong, D Boyes, P Brookes, A Hopgood and P May

#### **Darlington Borough Council:**

Councillors S Harker and H Scott

#### **Independent Co-opted Members:**

Mr N J H Cooke and Mr D K G Dodwell

### **1 Election of Chair**

**Moved** by Councillor Armstrong, **Seconded** by Councillor Boyes and

#### **Resolved:**

That Councillor J Allen be elected Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing year.

**Councillor J Allen** in the Chair

### **2 Election of Vice Chair**

**Moved** by Councillor Scott, **Seconded** by Mr Dodwell that Councillor B Jones be elected Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing year.

**Moved** by Councillor Boyes, **Seconded** by Councillor Brookes that Councillor S Harker be elected Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing year.

Upon a vote being taken and the Chair using her casting vote, it was

#### **Resolved:**

That Councillor S Harker be elected Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing year.

### **3 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Jones and S Forster.

### **4 Substitute Members**

Councillor H Scott as substitute Member for Councillor B Jones.

## **5 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **6 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer informed the Panel that the report on issues raised by the Rape Scrutiny Panel, referred to in the Minutes of the previous meeting, had been circulated to Members.

Councillor Allen referred to Minute No. 5 and the 'top sliced' funding streams relating to Counter Terrorism, Firearms and Efficiency and asked whether details of allocations for these streams were known. The Chief of Staff replied that details would be circulated to Panel Members.

## **7 HMIC Inspection Overview**

The Chief Constable provided a presentation to the Panel which gave an overview on the HMIC Inspection Regime and provided details of the 2015 PEEL Assessment for Durham Constabulary.

Durham was rated as 'Outstanding' in areas of efficiency and effectiveness and as 'Good' in the area of legitimacy. Durham Constabulary was the only Force in the country to have been assessed as outstanding in two of the three PEEL assessment pillars.

Mr Dodwell referred to the proposed budget cuts announced last autumn on which the PCC had made representations to the Home Office and what the impact of these cuts would have been. The Chief Constable replied that the proposed budget cuts as announced would have had a severe effect on policing within the force area to the point of being disastrous. He estimated that officer numbers would have needed to be reduced to around 800 from current levels of 1,150. He considered it was now incumbent on him to invest in the area of IT, particularly the area of internet safety to ensure business and public bodies were protected and cyber-crime tackled.

Councillor Armstrong referred to cyber-crime and asked what the age profile was of the force. The Chief Constable replied that the age profile of the force was an improving picture, having undergone a recruitment exercise. Additionally, staff training programmes and staff aptitude both ensured that the issue of cyber-crime could be addressed.

Councillor May congratulated the force on its performance. He referred to terrorism and issues of radicalisation through the internet and asked how this could be addressed within the boundaries of the law. The Chief Constable replied that the UK was one of five countries considered to be at the 'cutting edge' of intelligence gathering and information gathered by GCHQ and other national agencies should

give reassurance. Best protection was provided by having an active model of neighbourhood policing whereby neighbourhood officers and PCSOs had both an active role to play within communities and get feedback from those communities.

Councillor Boyes referred to the restorative justice approach within the Integrated Offender Management Unit and asked at what stage an offender would be considered too hard core to be redeemed. The Chief Constable replied that he considered everyone was redeemable other than a very small minority of offenders and believed the earlier offenders were caught, the sooner they could be redeemed.

Councillor May referred to officers working alone and asked whether the force knew the location of any officer at any given time. The Chief Constable replied that the location of each officer was known at all times. Each police radio had an emergency button and it was hoped that within the next year or so live streaming from body cams would be introduced.

Councillor Armstrong referred to serious and organised crime. The Durham force had been excellent at addressing this through a problem solving approach which was being looked at by other forces.

The Chief Constable replied that there were still too many affected by serious and organised crime within the force area and there would be a continued concerted effort until this was neutralised.

The Panel thanked the Chief Constable for his presentation and for providing feedback on questions raised.

## **8 Annual Report 2015-16**

The Panel considered a report of the Chief of Staff which contained the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's Annual Report 2015-16 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Mr R Hogg, Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, in presenting his Annual Report highlighted the following areas to the Panel:

- The year in numbers – key achievements in 2015-16
- Delivering the Objectives of the Police and Crime Plan 2015-16
  - Objective 1 – Inspiring Confidence
  - Objective 2 – Supporting victims
  - Objective 3 – Keeping all our communities safe
  - Objective 4 – Delivering an effective and efficient policing service
- Looking ahead to 2016-17

Councillor Armstrong informed the Panel he considered the Annual Report to be a comprehensive, detailed document which highlighted a lot of local initiatives within County Durham and Darlington.

Mr Cook referred to the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy and asked whether there was any issue of Sharia Courts operating within the force area. The

PCVC replied that this was not a headline issue within County Durham and Darlington.

Councillor Boyes informed the Panel that he was pleased the PCVC continued to support Neighbourhood Policing, which was the 'eyes and ears' of the community and increasingly important when addressing issues of extremism. He noted that the number of people who considered the police were doing a good job had fallen by 1% and the percentage of those who had confidence in the police was static and asked whether a tipping point had now been reached for these figures.

The PCVC replied that national figures did not reflect this and it was a figure that he was always keen to improve.

Councillor Armstrong informed the Panel he considered the Annual Report a full and comprehensive document and found the glossary to be of real value.

Councillor Allen referred to the road traffic fatalities figure on page 12 of the agenda pack and suggested that these be shown as percentages as well as in figures.

Mr Dodwell referred to rural policing and a problem in Darlington around the availability of vehicles for rural policing. The PCVC replied that he had been reassured that the number of vehicles available per officer/PCSO in the Darlington area was higher than average within the force but added that the provision of a dedicated rural vehicle was being considered.

**Resolved:**

That the Annual Report be noted.

**9 Draft Police, Crime and Victims Plan 2016-2021**

The Panel considered a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided details of the draft Police, Crime and Victims' Plan 2016-2021 prior to it being launched for consultation (for copy see file of Minutes).

The PCVC informed the Panel that consultation on the draft Plan would commence on 22 July 2016 and that formal comment on the draft Plan would be sought from the Panel in October 2016.

Councillor Hopgood referred to 90% of victims being satisfied with their whole experience and asked how long it took to make contact with the police. The PCVC replied that the ease of contact was high and the crucial element was the negotiation which took place between the call handler and the caller to explain the expected response time. The concern the PCVC had was the follow up work which then took place.

The PCVC added that if any Member had feedback from individuals about police contact or response this should be fed back to his office so that he could investigate this.

Councillor Allen informed the Panel that the draft Plan was easy to follow but suggested that the diversity of pictures used in it could be improved. The Policy and Delivery Officer replied that this was currently being addressed.

**Resolved:**

That the draft Police, Crime and Victims Plan, which would be submitted to the Panel for formal comment in October 2016, be noted.

**10 Year End Performance Report 2015-16**

The Panel considered a report of the Chief of Staff which provided the quarter 4 and year end Public Performance Report published by the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Brookes referred to the item considered at the previous Panel meeting regarding average speed cameras and asked if any progress had been made. The PCVC replied that there had been some misunderstanding around funding sources for this and that other providers were currently being considered.

Councillor Armstrong, referring to the promotion and raising of awareness of the Public Performance Report suggested that it be taken to AAP meetings in summary form. The PCVC replied that this would take place when the AAPs were consulted on the Police and Crime Plan.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**11 Police and Crime Panel Work Programme 2016/17**

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which sought agreement to the Panel's Work Programme for 2016/17 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred to Appendix 2 of the report and informed the Panel that, due to the volume of business proposed for the October 2016 Panel meeting, the Checkpoint item would be deferred to the January 2017 meeting.

Councillor Allen informed suggested that a Development Day be arranged for the Panel in October 2016 similar to that organised last year. A suggested theme would be changes to criminal justice and the Development Day could also include interesting historical facts about Durham Constabulary. Councillor Allen also suggested that one Panel meeting should be held in Darlington.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer agreed to arrange the suggested Development Day.

**Resolved:**

- i) That the Work Programme for 2016/17 be approved.
- ii) That a Development Day for the panel be arranged for October 2016

iii) That a future Panel meeting be held in Darlington.

## **12 Commissioning and Community Safety Funding in 2016/17**

The Panel considered a report of the Head of Governance and Commissioning which provided an update on community safety funding and commissioning activities (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Armstrong referred to the Deric Youth Bus Project and requested details of where the Deric Bus had been and also where it would be going. The Chief of Staff replied that these details could be provided.

### **Resolved:**

That the report be approved.

## **13 Review of Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel - Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working Arrangement**

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Durham County Council, which sought agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working agreement between the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Allen referred to the last paragraph of the Shared Objectives in the Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working Agreement and suggested that 'support victims' be added.

### **Resolved:**

- i) That the Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working Agreement between the PCVC and the PCP be agreed.
- ii) That the Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working Agreement be signed by the Chair of the Police and Crime Panel
- iii) That the Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Agreement be reviewed on annual basis.
- iv) That 'support victims' be added to the last paragraph of the Shared Objectives in the Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working Agreement.

## **14 PCC Decision Records**

The Panel noted a report of the Chief of Staff which provided an update on the PCCs decision register since the last meeting and forward plan (for copy see file of Minutes).