

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Police and Crime Panel** held in Committee Room 1A - County Hall, Durham on **Monday 22 October 2018 at 10.05 am**

Present:

Councillor L Hovvels (Chair)

Durham County Council:

Councillors D Boyes, P Brookes, P Crathorne, J Nicholson, A Savory and M Simmons

Darlington Borough Council:

Councillor H Scott

Independent Co-opted Members:

Mr N J H Cooke and Mr D K G Dodwell

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Crumbie, Jones and Knowles.

2 Substitute Members

Councillor Scott as substitute for Councillor Jones.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:

Paragraph 2 of Minute 12 on Page 6 should read National Crime Agency rather than professional crime agency.

4 Declarations of interest

Mr Cooke and Mr Dodwell declared an interest in Item No 10 as Independent Co-opted Members and would withdraw from the meeting during discussion of this item.

5 Recent Media Activity

The Panel considered a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an update on media activity during the period since the last Panel meeting (for copy see file of Minutes).

In presenting the report, Jon Carling, Head of Policy and Communication informed the Panel that the Superheroes Event referred to would be held on 27 October and not 28 October as printed.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

6 Fair Funding - Campaign Activity

The Panel received an update from the PCVC on the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review and Funding Formula review.

The PCVC informed the Panel that he was grateful for the support of all members for a fairer funding regime for Durham force. There was a need for additional funding for policing and the Home Secretary was supportive of this view. The government had not realised the impact that sustained funding cuts had on local policing.

The yield achieved in Durham was the lowest in the country and any funding formula needed to take account of the ability to raise funding through precept. Surrey force raised 55% of their funding through precept whereas Durham only raised £62,000 from Band H properties.

The PCVC also provided the Panel with details of revisions to pension schemes which would require an additional sum of £417m into police pensions. While £250m of this would be met by the Treasury, £167m had to be met by the police service, which would equate to £1.67m within Durham.

Mr Cooke informed the Panel that over the years the PCVC had needed to set a budget within funding constraints, constraints which Mr Cooke did not agree with. Mr Cooke asked what the Panel could do to make representations on police funding. The PCVC replied that he would be delighted for any support the panel could give on police funding. Councillor Hovvells informed the PCVC that she would be supportive for a letter from the Panel to be sent to the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner to seek both increased police funding and a fairer funding regime. Councillor Boyes added that any such representation should be clear that it was from Members across County Durham and Darlington of all political persuasions. Councillor Scott informed the Panel that she had been supportive of the PCVC previously in lobbying for a fairer funding formula.

Resolved:

- (i) That the update on the Comprehensive Spending Review and Funding Formula review be noted;
- (ii) That the Panel send a letter of support to the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner in support of both increased funding for the police service and a fairer funding regime.

7 2018/19 Quarter 1 Performance Report

The Panel received a presentation from the PCVC on the Quarter 1 public performance report which contained key performance data (for copy see file of Minutes).

The PCVC informed the Panel that he had previously presented the quarterly public performance report at the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel. The report had now changed to reflect the structure of the latest Police, Crime and Victims' Plan which detailed four outcomes under which sat eight Key Performance Questions (KPQs) and cutting across all of these were twelve priority areas.

This quarter's report focused on Outcomes 1 and 2 of the Plan and therefore on KPQs 1-4. The next quarter's report would focus on Outcomes 3 and 4, KPQs 5-8, and subsequent reports would repeat this pattern.

Reporting on four KPQs each quarter allowed the report greater scope for highlighting a number of indicators for each KPQ and enabled a better quality of analysis by focusing on fewer questions each time. This would allow a more holistically minded assessment of each key question, and six months between updates also gave time for meaningful movement.

The report would continue to develop as the most suitable information and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were identified to answer parts of each KPQ in different ways. Where the report could not satisfactorily answer a question, it would state so and would detail how the Office would go about working to determine fuller answers to a question in a future report.

Councillor Scott referred to levels Anti-Social Behaviour, which despite showing a reduction, still had a public perception of not improving. There was a need to more fully explain this to the public.

Councillor Brookes asked why Anti-Social Behaviour had increased in the Spennymoor area when every other area had reduced. The PCVC replied that there had been some issues with young people causing noise outside of the Co-op at Ferryhill and also graffiti at Middlestone Moor. Councillor Boyes asked whether there were plans to roll out the use of acceptable behaviour contracts to address Anti-Social Behaviour issues. The PCVC replied there was strong evidence that the use of acceptable behaviour contracts was effective in addressing issues of Anti-Social Behaviour and added that these were used across the force area.

Mr Dodwell referred to the 'Dot Peen' Property Marking System mentioned at page 37 of the papers and requested that this be brought to the next PACT meeting. The PCVC replied that this would not be a problem.

Councillor Scott referred to Community Peer Mentors and asked whether a breakdown of the numbers by area could be provided. The PCVC replied that he would provide this information. Councillor Boyes informed the PCVC that the Fire and Rescue Service, when visiting homes to install smoke alarms, identified those who may be vulnerable and asked whether this information was used by the Community Peer Mentors. The PCVC replied that he would look into this to ensure it did happen.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

8 Focused Report on Police, Crime and Victims' Plan Outcomes - Outcome 1: 'Communities are Safe and Crime is Reduced'

The Panel considered a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which supplemented the public performance report with regard to giving an overview on the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan Outcome 1 – 'Communities are Safe and Crime is Reduced' (for copy see file of Minutes).

With reference to a question from Councillor Scott, the PCVC agreed to provide missing persons figures relating to West Park Hospital.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Commissioning Update

The Panel considered a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which outlined the revised commissioning process and shared confirmed funding decisions relating to the financial year 2019/20 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Mr Cooke and Mrs Dodwell left the meeting

10 Appointment of Independent Co-opted Members

The Panel considered a joint report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Durham County Council which sought approval for the appointment of two co-opted Members to the Panel (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Boyes, while being supportive of the re-appointment of both co-opted Members highlighted that they were both from the Darlington area. Councillor Hovvels replied that the vacancies at the time were widely advertised and that the two co-opted Members were considered as the best candidates.

Moved by Councillor Boyes, **seconded** by Councillor Crathorne and

Resolved:

That the appointment of the two independent co-opted Members be extended to expire on 30 April 2023, following which new appointments be made on a four-year basis.

Councillor Boyes left the meeting.

Mr Cooke and Mr Dodwell re-joined the meeting.

11 PCVC Decision Records

The Panel noted a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an update on the PCVCs decision register since the last meeting and forward plan (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

12 Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information.

Resolved:

That under Section 100(a)(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 paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

13 Concerning a complaint about the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

The Panel considered a report of the Monitoring Officer, Durham County Council regarding a complaint made about the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (for copy see file of Minutes).

Upon a vote being taken it was

Resolved:

- (i) That recommendations 7.1 and 7.2 be approved;
- (ii) That the suggested action at Paragraph 6.12 (c) be recommended;
- (iii) That the Panel's decision should not be published.