

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Police and Crime Panel** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Friday 9 September 2022** at **10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor B Jones (Chair)

Durham County Council:

Councillors D Nicholls, J Nicholson (Vice-Chair), M Simmons and J Miller (substitute for L Hovvels)

Darlington Borough Council:

Councillors L McCollom and M Renton

Independent Co-opted Members:

Mr N Hallam

The Chair noted the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and, as a mark of respect, led the Committee in a minute's silence.

1 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence received from Councillors L Hovvels, R Potts and A Savory and Mr R Rodiss.

The Chair explained that Councillor R Potts had contacted him to note that he had felt the meeting should have been cancelled as a mark of respect for The Queen. The Chair noted Councillor R Potts had suggested that, if the meeting was to go ahead, Item 7 - IICSA report be deferred to a future meeting. The Panel agreed that Item 7 be deferred to a future meeting.

2 Substitute Members

Councillor J Miller substituted for Councillor L Hovvels.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

In relation to matters arising, the Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) explained that responses to questions raised by Councillors R Potts, L Hovvels and D Boyes in relation to: Joint Independent Audit Committee appointments and costs; anti-social behaviour; and selective licensing had been provided to those Members. The Chair noted it would be useful if the responses could also be shared with the Panel membership.

5 PCC Annual Report 2021/22 - Draft

The Panel considered the report of the Police and Crime Commissioner which included her draft PCC Annual Report 2021-22 (for copy see file of Minutes). The PCC referred to the draft document and key events and highlights from 2021/22 and progress against the Police and Crime Plan 2021-24.

The Chair congratulated the PCC on the Peer Mentors and the custody and investigations hub at Durham Gate.

Councillor M Renton asked as regards the decrease in anti-social behaviour, which he noted seemed to be counter to what residents were saying to him. He asked whether it was a reduction in incidents or a reduction in reporting. The PCC noted that if an incident was not reported, resources could not be allocated accordingly, and emphasised that it was vitally important to report incidents. She noted that there had been improvements in signposting, especially with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and the OPCC. She noted that if 37 percent of incidents were not reported then she would want the number to increase as she would want to know. She added that when looking against figures from during the pandemic they were not a true comparison, and that was reflected within the report. She added that it was important that people felt confident in reporting and noted the work relating to the 101 number and online chat facility. The Chief Finance Officer asked Members to recall at the February meeting, when looking at the precept, there had been reference to 10 new call handlers and new IT equipment referred to, with some new call handlers having started today. He added that there was training in the new IT system and noted that performance would be monitored at the Force level.

The Chair noted the visit to the Durham Headquarters and Control Room and the time it took to train staff as well as the high turnover. The Chief Finance Officer noted the 12 week training process and added that the Force could not restrict the careers of those that had wished to become Police Officers.

Councillor D Nicholls thanked the PCC and noted the level of ambition within the Annual Report, as well the proactive work and outside of the box thinking. He noted within the report that the Force had been found to be very good in use of resources and noted the use of technology, an example being the ability for shops to send information and CCTV footage to the Police. He noted the importance of the work to tackle violence against women and girls and welcomed the additional PCSOs. He asked if there had been any change in the number of Detectives within the Force. The Chief Finance Officer that nationally there was shortage of Detectives and noted that the Force had around 15 Detectives retire each year. He reminded the Panel that the path to becoming a Detective was quite difficult, with a national exam to pass, a five week CID course, and a 12 month portfolio of work to be completed, approximately an 18 month period from initial training to becoming a Detective. He noted there were 12 new Detectives at Durham and there would be further appointments in future. Councillor D Nicholls noted the workload in terms of additional information that was required by the CPS and asked as regards civilian staff to decrease workload for Officers. The Chief Finance Officer noted that there were national guidelines in terms of staff redacting statements. The PCC noted the OPCC worked and met with individual businesses, offering support, including through the Victims' Champion. She added that the use of SentrySIS to receive CCTV footage was beneficial and noted it was important to listen to local and small businesses, especially in the context of the cost of living crisis and the possibility of shoplifting and theft crimes increasing.

Councillor J Miller noted that all Members would agree that the number of anti-social behaviour incidents was greater than the number of complaints received, and he agreed that reporting was key in allowing partners to address the issues. He congratulated the successful use of Section 59 Notices to seize vehicles and the use of drones. He noted the setup time required in terms of the large drone and explained that Believe Housing had given consent to launch the drone from their property. He noted the SentrySIS CCTV system and asked if Members could be trained in terms of how it works in order to assist businesses in their communities. The Chief Finance Officer noted that it was a bespoke system and not all shops signed up, and not all had CCTV of sufficient quality. Councillor J Miller noted that he felt Members would benefit from further information, the Chief Finance Officer noted a presentation could be provided for the Panel. The PCC noted the issue of the quality of CCTV and use of body cams by some staff in Coop stores. She noted the recent investment in CCTV at Darlington and the impressive work with their Neighbourhood Team.

She noted that issues with Durham CCTV had been raised with the Chief Executive and that she would look forward to any work in that regard, including any opportunities with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in terms of improving CCTV. The PCC noted the success of Operation Snap, noting that not only did motorists capture incidents of dangerous driving, but also of other types of crime and incidents, including missing persons. The Chair noted the success of the Darlington CCTV, with direct radio contact to Police.

Councillor J Miller noted the impact in terms of theft at his local Coop, with the company having a policy of not reporting and added that therefore issues where CCTV could help were not limited to city centres, such as Durham and Darlington, but could also help in rural areas. The PCC noted there was a public accountability meeting scheduled for later in the month looking at Safer Business Crime. She added she would ask Members to encourage shops in their area to sign up to SentrySIS and noted she had met with the Deputy Manager of the Coop in question as regards a specific incident and reiterated that the Police needed to know as regards incidents in order to address issues. She added that while there had been a lot of success in promoting campaigns and programmes via social media, it was important to get messages out into communities for those that were not on social media platforms.

Resolved:

That the Draft Annual Report be noted.

6 Police and Crime Panel Revised Work Programme 2022/23

The Panel considered report of the Monitoring Officer and Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel which set out a revised Work Programme for 2022/23 for the Panel (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Governance Solicitor explained the draft work programme had been drafted in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair and was set out for the Panel's consideration.

The Chair reiterated that a recent visit to the Darlington CCTV Control Room had been very enlightening and suggested the Panel may also wish to visit, to coincide with the special meeting scheduled to be held at Darlington. Councillor M Renton, Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities at Darlington Brough Council noted he would speak to the relevant Officers in respect of a visit.

Resolved:

- (a) That the revised work programme for 2022/23, as set out at Appendix 2 be agreed.
- (b) That a visit for the Panel to the CCTV control room at Darlington be arranged.
- (c) That the Panel receive further updates to the work programme as appropriate.

7 IICSA Report

The item was deferred.

8 Media Report

The Panel considered a report of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner which provided an update on press and social media coverage concerning the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner since the previous meeting (for copy of report see file of Minutes).

Councillor D Nicholls appreciated the update and information in terms of engaging with the public. Councillor L McCollum noted a great deal of work had been undertaken and asked as regards context and performance. The PCC noted tracking could be included in the performance report going forward.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 PCC Commissioning Update

The Panel considered a report of the Police and Crime Commissioner which provided an update on the decisions taken at the Commissioning Board in June and July 2022 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 PCC Decision Records

The Panel considered a report of the Police and Crime Commissioner which provided an update on the Police and Crime Commissioner's Decision Register for 2022 and addressed the forward plan (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

11 HMICFRS Inspections

The Panel considered a report of the Police and Crime Commissioner which outlined the findings of the recent inspections conducted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) that have required a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) comment as follows:

- Twenty years on, is MAPPA achieving its objectives?
- PEEL Spotlight - The police response to burglary, robbery, and other acquisitive crime - Finding time for crime

Councillors D Nicholls and J Nicholson left the meeting at 10.49am

The PCC noted a recent radio programme, which had included the West Yorkshire Chief Constable, and the highlighted reduced reoffending through the use of the Checkpoint programme. Councillor J Miller noted 'good' rating for Durham and positive comments, however, asked if any areas for improvement had been highlighted. The Accountability and Scrutiny Officer noted that there had been assurance from the HMICFRS and the OPCC were looking at specific recommendations now, working with the Force. The Chief Finance Officer noted that further information would come back to the Panel. The PCC noted that the Force would not only look at any recommendations they may have received, but also those received by other Forces in order to look at good practice. She added a league table could be circulated for information.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

12 Complaints Update

The Panel considered a report of the Monitoring Officer and Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel which provided an update on complaints relating to the Police and Crime Commissioner or the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (for copy see file of Minutes). It was noted that between 15 June 2022 and 1 September 2022 there had been no formal complaints received. It was explained correspondence had been received on 28 June 2022, however, the matter was considered to relate to operational matters and did not relate to the PCC. The complaint was forwarded to the Office of the PCC to action and the Chair and Vice-Chair had been advised.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.