

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the **Police and Crime Panel** held in Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham on **Tuesday 24 June 2014 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Durham County Council:

Councillors D Boyes, P Brookes, S Forster, L Hovvels, D Stoker, P Stradling and A Willis

Darlington Borough Council:

Councillors S Harker and B Jones

Independent Co-opted Members:

N Vaulks

1 Election of Chairman

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

Resolved:

That Councillor L Hovvels be elected Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing year.

Councillor L Hovvels in the Chair

2 Election of Vice-Chairman

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

Resolved:

That Councillor B Jones be elected Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing year.

3 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Armstrong.

4 Substitute Members

Councillor P Stradling as substitute member for Councillor J Armstrong.

5 Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 3 March and 22 April 2014 were confirmed by the Panel as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6 Declarations of interest

Mr N Vaulks declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 12 and left the meeting during discussion of the Item.

7 Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report 2013-2014

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which contained the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2013-14 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Prior to presenting the Annual Report Mr R Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), informed the Panel of an overnight incident which had been referred to the IPCC.

The PCC, in presenting his Annual Report, informed the Panel that he had worked to produce the report in a visual and shortened format. The PCC highlighted the following areas of the Annual Report to the Panel:

- Performance of the force during 2013-14
- Progress towards the achievement of the PCC's priorities as follows:
 - To reduce the impact of domestic abuse, particularly violence against women and girls
 - To reduce the impact of hate crime
 - To improve engagement with the local communities across the constabulary area
 - To tackle anti-social behaviour
 - To tackle harm caused to individuals and communities by alcohol and drugs
 - To improve road safety
 - To make policing services visible and accessible at all times.
- Finance and resources

Councillor Boyes praised the priorities of improving engagement in communities and also making policing services visible and asked what role the Panel had played in influencing these policies. The PCC replied that his priorities were set following community consultation and it was not the role of the Panel to influence such priorities. However, the views of the Panel were considered, along with all other feedback received, when the PCC set priorities for the forthcoming year. Councillor Boyes then referred to the lack of any reference in the Annual Report to organised crime. The PCC replied that the Plan would be amended to make reference to this. Councillor Hovvells suggested that it may be useful to explain the scrutiny role of the Panel in the Annual Report. The PCC replied that it had not been an omission to not mention the Panel in his Annual Report, but this was the Commissioner's report, and the Commissioner then reported to the Panel.

Councillor Stoker referred to a recent University meeting, formerly a University Liaison Group, at which tensions between Durham City residents and students weighed heavily on the agenda. He asked whether it would be appropriate for the PCC to chair such bodies in a mediator role in other parts of the County. The PCC replied that he had roles around community safety and the health of communities and added that he would discuss the matter with Councillor Stoker following the meeting.

Councillor Brookes referred to page 11 of the Annual report and the reference to cyclists using footpaths. He suggested that should be balanced by reference being made to intimidation experienced by cyclists from motorists. The PCC agreed that this could be amended to reflect the point made.

Councillor Hovvels referred to alcohol licensing and outlets for alcohol. A change was needed at national level to grant local authorities and the police greater powers to combat anti-social behaviour caused by alcohol consumption. The PCC replied that local authorities and the police had no powers to refuse alcohol licences unless there was a likelihood of disorder being caused. The forces Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit took a proactive role in addressing alcohol-related problems and the APCC were pushing for changes to the powers of local authorities and the police to deal with such issues.

8 Hate Crime

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive and received a presentation from Ch Supt Graham Hall on the approach taken by Durham Constabulary to tackle Hate Crime (for report and presentation slides see file of Minutes).

Councillor Brookes referred to the presentation and asked how the force dealt with both on-line hate crime and the approach to hate generated in the media. Ch Supt Hall replied that cyber hate crime was the greatest challenge for young people and could have a devastating effect. The force participated in a multi-agency community carousel which, among other things, raised the awareness of the harm which could be done by cyber-crime, and it was aimed to take this to a wider age group, and youth engagement officers worked within partnerships. Ch Supt Hall added that the force dealt with cyber-crime robustly. Referring to the media, Ch Supt Hall informed the Panel that it was important to deal with adverse publicity in a direct manner, both through electronic media and the press.

Councillor Hovvels referred to the gypsy traveller community, which had been not been mentioned in the presentation. Ch Supt Hall replied that this was large and challenging area and as such was dealt with separately. There was a need to engage with the gypsy traveller community as well as to address educational and accommodation issues. County Durham and Darlington both had excellent groups which addressed gypsy traveller community's issues.

The Police and Crime Commissioner informed the Panel that 50% of police work now involved some aspect of social media. The Commissioner's Office had run a cyber-bullying awareness competition and worked with Investors in Children around this issue.

9 Police and Crime Panel Work Programme 2014-15

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which sought agreement to the Panel's Work Programme for 2014/15 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the Work Programme for 2014/15 be approved.

10 Protocol for Section 38 of the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented a revised protocol between the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and the Chief Police Officers' Staff Association for Section 38 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the national protocol at Appendix 3 to the report be included as an addendum to the existing Durham Protocol on Section 38 responsibilities of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

11 Home Affairs Committee Report - Police and Crime Commissioners : Progress to Date

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided information on the Home Affairs Committee report '*Police and Crime Commissioners: progress to date*' (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Boyes welcomed the recommendation in the report that the PCC publish a forward plan of key decisions which would then allow the Panel to scrutinise these decisions.

The PCC replied that in general terms, the report was seeking how best to engage the skills of PCP Members, and how to maximise its scrutiny powers without usurping the decision powers of the PCC.

Councillor Hovvells suggested that a Task and Finish Group be established to consider the future role of the Panel in light of the Home Affairs Committee report.

Mr Vaulks informed the Panel that it was the Members role to be open, constructive and critical and that the Commissioner had indicated his willingness to work with

the Panel. This was a constructive approach by the Panel and PCC, both of which were in relatively early days of existence.

Councillor Boyes welcomed the response given by the PCC. Some PCPs were more pro-active than others, in a 'select committee' type of role. There was a need for the Panel to be more pro-active in both the Policing Plan and forward decisions, and Councillor Boyes agreed that a Task and Finish Group be established to further consider this.

Resolved:

That the report be noted and a Task and Finish Group be established to develop the Panel's Work Programme and consider future roles of the Panel.

12 Appointment of Independent Co-opted Members

The Panel considered a report of the Monitoring Officer regarding the selection criteria for the appointment of the two independent co-opted Members to the Panel, the advertising arrangements and the membership of the appointment Panel (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Panel noted that the terms of office for the current independent co-opted Members ended on 31 October 2014, and discussed what the term of office for the independent members should be thereafter. The Panel agreed that the term of office for the co-opted Members should follow the cycle of elections for the Constituent Authorities. This would result in a term of office of three years for the next appointment, and a term of four years for subsequent appointments.

Resolved:

- i) That the selection criteria for advertising the positions of the two independent members be agreed.
- ii) That the advertising arrangements be agreed
- iii) That the length of term of office be three years from 1 November 2014 until 30 April 2017.
- iv) That the appointment Panel be made up of 5 members of the Police and Crime Panel with at least one representative from each of the constituent authorities.

13 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That 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 under paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

14 HMIC Inspection Feedback

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Chief Officer which provided feedback from the latest Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies Inspections of the Force and also outlined information in respect of civil contingencies preparations as part of the Strategic Policing Requirement (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.