

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **DERBYSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL** held on 23 January 2020 at County Hall, Matlock

**PRESENT**

Councillor C Hart (in the Chair)

Councillors F Atkinson (Amber Valley Borough Council) A Barrow (High Peak Borough Council), R Bright (Derbyshire Dales District Council), V Clare (Erewash Borough Council), J Frudd (Erewash Borough Council), J Mannion-Brunt (Chesterfield Borough Council), R Mee (Erewash Borough Council), C Moesby (Bolsover District Council) (substitute member) P Niblock (Chesterfield Borough Council), J Patten (South Derbyshire District Council), P Pegg (Derby City Council), G Potter (Derby City Council), M Potts (NE Derbyshire District Council), J Smale (Derby City Council) and B Woods (Derbyshire County Council) and Mr S Handsley (Independent Member)

Derbyshire County Council officers also in attendance: P Stone (Assistant Director of Finance and ICT) and L Wild (Legal Services).

Also in attendance: P Goodman, Chief Constable, H Dhindsa, Police and Crime Commissioner, K Gillott, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, D P Peet, Chief Executive (OPCC), A Dale, Chief Finance Officer (OPCC) and S Allsop.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Bagshaw and S Peake, and V Newbury (Independent Member)

**1/20** **MINUTES** Concern was expressed by some members that the minutes of the last meeting were not a correct record of the proceedings, particularly in relation to Minute numbers 28/19 and 31/19. Following discussions, it was agreed to undertake a vote and whether the minutes should be accepted. A vote was taken and recorded as follows:-

For accepting the minutes as a true record – 10 votes; against 7 votes

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel held on 21 November 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2/20** **PROPOSED PRECEPT 2020-21** Hardyal Dhindsa, Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire, presented to the Panel his proposed precept for the forthcoming financial year in accordance with the duty under

the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Commissioner informed the Panel of his proposal to issue a precept increase of £10.00 per year to the current Band D precept of £216.60, which would give a Band D precept for 2020-21 of £226.60.

The Commissioner, invited Peter Goodman, Chief Constable to provide members with an insight into what a precept increase of £10 would provide.

The Commissioner was questioned in detail by Panel members with regard to his proposed precept increase.

**RESOLVED** to approve the proposed precept for 2020-21 without qualification or comment.

**3/20**        **PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2020-21**        It was proposed that the Police and Crime Panel timetable of meetings for the year 2020-21 be as follows:

- Thursday 21 May 2020
- Thursday 25 June 2020
- Thursday 10 September 2020
- Thursday 19 November 2020
- Thursday 21 January 2021 – precept meeting
- Thursday 11 February 2021 - 2nd precept meeting (if veto exercised)
- Thursday 18 March 2021

All meetings would normally commence at 10am at either County Hall or venues around the County dependant on room availability.

It was recognised that there needed to be a degree of flexibility with any work planning process and the Panel should note that it would be possible to vary the timetable throughout the year should pressing matters arise. Therefore, due to the tight timescales experienced this year, it was suggested that the precept meeting be moved to Thursday 28 January 2021 and the 2nd precept meeting be moved back to 18 February 2021.

In addition to the above meetings, a principal role for the Panel would be to conduct confirmation hearings for the Police and Crime Commissioner's senior appointments. When notification of these appointments were made the Panel must review the senior appointment and make a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner within a period of three weeks and so it may be necessary for additional meetings to be held at short notice.

**RESOLVED** that the Panel agrees the timetable of meetings for 2020-2021 as proposed, subject to the suggested amendments.

**4/20**            **COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE** Following on from the discussion on this matter at the previous meeting, the Chairman asked members if they felt it appropriate to identify a working party to review the Complaints Procedure, taking into account the guidance provided by the LGA.

Mr D Peet was nominated to assist the Working Group in an advisory capacity and officer support would be made available.

**RESOLVED** (1) that that a Working Group be established to review the Complaints procedure;

(2) that the following members expressed a wish to sit on the Working Group:

Councillor F Atkinson  
Councillor A Barrow  
Councillor J Frudd  
Mr S Handsley  
Councillor J Patten  
Councillor G Potter; and

(3) that anyone else who wished to be involved would be most welcome and should contact a member of the Democratic Services team.

**5/20**            **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – GRANT FUNDING** Members were asked to consider the position regarding grant funding available to the Police and Crime Panel from the Home Office.

In establishing Police and Crime Panels, the Home office had agreed that funding would be available to ensure that there was a Police and Crime Panel for the police area able to carry out its scrutiny functions and responsibilities as set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. A limited grant was provided on application to each Local Authority acting as the Host Authority for the provision of administrative and management support to facilitate the Panel.

The grant available did vary from year to year. For the financial year 2019-2020, the funding available was a grant of up to £67,100. The letter dated 16th August 2019 confirming the offer of the grant was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and the grant agreement was attached at Appendix 2. The grant was paid upon application and a return detailing costs incurred. Usually, there was a requirement to report at the mid-point of the year as well as at the end of the financial year. However, this year, the Home Office had agreed that the return need only be provided at the end of the financial year and so would be provided in March.

A further report would be provided for consideration by the Panel following submission of the return to the Home Office for the financial year 2019-2020 and notification of grant funding available for the financial year 2020-2021.

Costs claimed for panel administration included officer time in supporting and advising the Panel as well as administrative costs in respect of the production and circulation of reports (including printing and postage), the cost of meeting rooms and training.

The grant could also cover member expenses and allowances. However, the Panel arrangements for the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel confirmed that no allowance or expenses payments would be made by the Panel itself to councillor members and that any allowances or expenses payment which may be made by councillor members arising out of Panel Membership shall be determined and borne by the appointing council for each Panel member individually. Derbyshire County Council as the host authority reimbursed reasonable expenses to independent members provided that this was agreed as part of the annual budget approved by the Panel.

The completed returns to the Home Office showing Panel expenditure for the years 2016-2017, 2017-2018 2018-2019 were appended to the report.

Members requested some dedicated Scrutiny Officer support and it was reported that funding for this would be available through the grant. Amongst the functions the officer could assist with would be research and the gathering of information. The website required an overhaul particularly the addition of information relating to grant money and expenditure. Members also thought this would be an opportunity to raise the profile of the PCP.

**RESOLVED** to note (1) the position regarding grant funding; and

(2) that a future report will be brought for consideration by the Panel following submission of the return to the Home Office for the financial year 2019-2020 and notification of grant funding available for the financial year 2020-2021.

**6/20**      **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PCC** Hardyal Dhindsa, the Police and Crime Commissioner announced the following:-

Complaints reforms would take effect from 1 February 2020. The Chief Executive would provide Members with information outlining the changes to procedures.

Details of the forthcoming PCC Election were now available on the website.

**RESOLVED** to note the announcements from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**7/20**            **RULES OF PROCEDURE** Councillor B Woods requested a copy of the Panel's Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure. These would be circulated.

**8/20**            **DATE OF NEXT MEETING RESOLVED** to note that the next meeting of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel would take place on Thursday 19 March 2020 commencing at 10.00am at a venue to be confirmed.