

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **DERBYSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL** held on 19 November 2020 via Microsoft Teams.

**PRESENT**

V Newbury (in the Chair)

Councillors F Atkinson (Amber Valley Borough Council), A Barrow (High Peak Borough Council), V Clare (Erewash Borough Council), J Coyle (Derbyshire County Council (substitute member), J Frudd (Erewash Borough Council) C Hart (Derbyshire County Council), P Innes (Chesterfield Borough Council), R Mee (Erewash Borough Council) C Moesby (Bolsover District Council), J Patten (South Derbyshire District Council), P Pegg (Derby City Council), G Potter (Derby City Council), M Potts (NE Derbyshire District Council), and J Smale (Derby City Council) and Dr S Handsley (Independent Member).

Derbyshire County Council officers also in attendance: Paul Stone, (Finance & ICT) I Walters (Democratic Services) and L Wild (Legal Services).

Also in attendance: H Dhindsa, Police and Crime Commissioner, K Gillott, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, D Peet, Chief Executive (OPCC), & A Dale, Chief Finance Officer (OPCC)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Bagshaw (Chesterfield Borough Council), R Bright (Derbyshire Dales District Council), P Niblock (Chesterfield Borough Council), and B Woods (Derbyshire County Council)

**30/20** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** V Newbury and Dr S Handsley declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 'Recruitment of Independent Panel Members' and took no part in the discussions and decision relating to this item.

**31/20** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel held on 10 September 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

**32/20** **MATTERS ARISING** Proposed Support for the Panel (Minute 27/20 refers) It was confirmed that the advert for the Scrutiny Officer post to support the work of the Panel had now gone out with a closing date of 6 December 2020.

**33/20**      **MEMBER QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION** Members were provided with a written response to the Police and Crime Panel to the pre-submitted questions raised by individual Panel members.

**Cllr G Potter:** In relation to Crime Statistics in all areas of Derbyshire, what are the latest figures, showing any increases or decreases since the Covid-19 restrictions in March 2020, and has Covid-19 caused any crime trend legacies or increases in specific areas of crime?

**PCC Response:** I would respectfully refer Cllr Potter to the Covid-19 Update report that appears later on in this meeting's agenda (Agenda Item 7) which should provide the details he is seeking.

**Supplementary Question:** Has the Covid 19 pandemic compromised the current Police and Crime Plan in anyway and would this necessitate more funding from the public purse ?

**PCC Response:** It would not affect the Police and Crime Plan at this stage and there would clearly be financial challenges dependant on how the situation developed in coming months

**Councillor Richard Bright:** Could the PCC give the PCP an update on the Emergency Services Network and how any lack of implementation issues will be managed by the Derbyshire Constabulary?

**PCC Response:** As PCC I am aware of the challenges of the delivery of the Emergency Services Network (ESN). I have spoken with colleagues within the Force who are much closer to the issue and they have shared the following with me:

ESN is the national programme aimed at moving all emergency services from Airwave which is a Tetra audio only based radio platform, onto a revolutionary mission critical communications system based on 4G and long term evolution technology. The national programme has been subject to several delays due to creating the required expertise for this "first of its kind" technology which has impacted all emergency services who are having to maintain older legacy systems whilst they wait for ESN to arrive. An example of having to maintain our current operating levels has been to procure 600 SC21 radios to ensure sufficient resilience is maintained for officers to continue using our current Airwave devices until the ESN devices arrive (2021/22).

To ensure a collective approach is maintained towards ESN adoption and implementation, Derbyshire has a dedicated ESN team that are working specifically to ensure Derbyshire is ready for ESN adoption. This team forms part of a Regional ESN Programme where all five regional forces are collectively progressing the ESN agenda in preparing for its adoption and

implementation. This requires specific work packages created by the national programme to be completed within set time lines and returned. The purpose of completing the work packages is to ensure Derbyshire and other Police Forces have provided all the required technical data for international corporations (EE, Motorola, Capita, Vodafone etc) who are contracted to deliver ESN have the required information to assist emergency services technical upgrades for ESN adoption within the timeline for implementation.

Derbyshire's current ESN programme status is Green as all work and work packages towards ESN preparedness are being completed as both regionally and nationally required.

It is also worth noting that there remain significant concerns about the growing financial costs of the programme, and the maintenance of the existing system whilst we await ESN coming in, and a worry as to where exactly that bill will land. If the expectation is that forces will have to pick up the tab locally this will have potentially very serious ramifications.

Needless to say I am continuing to make strong representations at a national level regarding this.

**Vicky Newbury:** What is the PCC's response to the Home Office Review, would you share this with the panel please?

**PCC Response:** Following the announcement by the Home Secretary of a two-part review of Police and Crime Commissioners a response had been developed here in Derbyshire to the questions set out as part of the review and was detailed in the PCC's report.

**Councillor Julie Patten:** In light of another spate of cash for crash incidents in Hilton, could you please advise how many incidents have been reported and what measures have been taken by the police to address this issue and ensure the safety of residents?

**PCC Response:** Clearly this is an operational issue but we have the following statement from the Force on the matter:

We are aware of some incidents reported to the police in relation to 'Cash for Crash' in the summer of 2020 whereby the drivers were driving around the Hilton area and slamming their brakes on whilst driving. On these occasions no actual collision occurred and they were recorded as suspicious activity.

There were a number of incidents at the end of 2019 which were investigated thoroughly and we were unable to prove any offences however there have been minimal incidents since that time. Local officers are aware of the concern

it caused residents in 2019 and therefore encourage any reporting of suspicious activity and dangerous driving.

We are always conscious of this type of offence due to the risk to road users and therefore record any intelligence in relation to this or similar offences to build up a stronger intelligence picture.

Although the area covers the A50 which inevitably has a fair amount of RTC's we are reassured by the numbers which show that cash for crash incidents are minimal and in addition we would like to offer reassurance that these roads are heavily policed by the Roads Policing Unit.

**RESOLVED** to note the question and answer session

**34/20 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DERBYSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 2019/20** The Director of Legal Services for Derbyshire County Council asked members to consider the proposed Annual Report of work undertaken by the Panel which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and to request that the Panel considered the process for the future publication of an Annual Report.

As the Panel is aware, Derbyshire County Council was provided with a grant for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 of up to £67,100 as the host authority in respect of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel. Payment of the Grant was subject to the standard terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement, which, together with the letter confirming the award, was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

The Grant Agreement stipulated that the Critical Success Factors to be monitored and reported on were:

- a) the number of public meetings held;
- b) scrutiny documents and publications produced, including the Panel's annual report;
- c) engagement with the work of the Panel by members of the public and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire Constabulary.

To demonstrate that the Panel had met the Critical Success Factors for the year 2019 to 2020, a report of the work undertaken by the Panel for the municipal year of May 2019 to May 2020 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The current Grant Agreement for the year 2020 – 2021 was attached at Appendix 3. The Agreement now referred to Key Performance Indicators

rather than Critical Success Factors. It specified that the Key Performance Indicators to be monitored and reported on to the Home Office in justifying entitlement to the grant were:

- a. the number of public meetings held,
- b. scrutiny documents and publications produced, including the Panel's annual report,
- c. engagement with the work of the Panel by members of the public and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire Constabulary.

The Panel noted that these again included the provision of an Annual Report. The production of such a report may also be considered as being best practice and contribute towards engagement with the public.

Therefore, for future years, the Panel were asked to consider that it would be appropriate to complete an Annual Report to support the Key Performance Indicators, and that it would be appropriate for members of the Panel to be involved in the production of that report.

Therefore, the Panel was asked to give consideration to convening a working group to consider the format, framework and content for a future annual report for the year 2020 to 2021.

Members were given the opportunity to make comments or ask questions which were duly noted or answered

**RESOLVED** (1) to approve the Annual Report to demonstrate that the Panel had met the Critical Success Factors for the year 2019 to 2020;

(2) to produce an Annual Report for the year 2020 to 2021 to provide a response to the Key Performance Indicators as specified in the Grant Agreement for the period of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021; and

(3) to establish a working group to produce the Annual Report for this municipal year (ie 2020 to 2021).

**35/20**      **RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT PANEL MEMBERS** The Director of Legal Services for Derbyshire County Council asked the Panel to consider extending the term of office of the two current independent co-opted members.

Schedule 6 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires police and crime panels to co-opt at least two non-political

independent members and to stipulate within their Panel Arrangements the length of the term of office for both appointed and co-opted members; as well as any conditions for the re-appointment of appointed and co-opted members to the Panel.

The Panel Arrangements for the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel required the Panel to co-opt at least two independent members and the term of office was stipulated to be 4 years. The Panel Arrangements also set out the process for recruitment and appointment.

The current term of office for the Panel's two current Independent Members, Dr Stephen Handsley and Mrs Vicky Newbury was due to end in January 2021. Therefore, in accordance with the Panel Arrangements, a recruitment process for new independent members would need to be commenced.

However, it was proposed that the Panel considered whether the terms of the Panel Arrangements should be varied to extend the term of office for the current Independent Members to enable them to continue on the Panel for a further 12 months until January 2022 and serve a term of 5 years. Commencement of a recruitment process for new members would, therefore, be delayed until prior to January 2022.

The term of office for the current PCC was due to end in 2020 and elections were due to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020. In light of the current covid-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020, the elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner were postponed until 2021 and the term of office for serving PCC's was extended for a further 12 months. Therefore, extending the term of office for the current Independent Members would reflect action taken in respect of police and crime commissioners.

Additionally, as a result of the continuing pandemic there were practical concerns regarding the conducting of a recruitment process as the process would need to be undertaken virtually and on-line. This presented difficulties in conducting a full and thorough recruitment process.

Should the Panel determine not to extend the term of the current independent members, then it would be necessary to undertake a recruitment process so that the Panel remained fully constituted. The Panel Arrangements were attached at Appendix 1 to the report and set out the principles of the recruitment process for Derbyshire at paragraph 4. In accordance with the procedure stipulated at paragraph 4, applications would be considered against agreed eligibility criteria by the Chair and Vice-Chair, who would also interview candidates. To ensure sufficient capacity to review potential candidates, the Panel may wish to consider constituting a small working group to review potential candidates.

In the event of a recruitment process being undertaken, the role would be advertised on each of the ten constituent councils' websites, as well as within appropriate press releases and social media. The role would also be advertised in the local press.

Members were given the opportunity to make comments or ask questions which were duly noted or answered.

**RESOLVED** (1) to approve to vary the Panel Arrangements for the next twelve months so that the current independent members can serve a term of office of five years, with the effect that the terms of office for Mrs Vicky Newbury and Dr Stephen Handsley be extended for a further 12 months until January 2022; and

(2) that a recruitment process for two new independent members should commence prior to the end of the extended term of office in January 2022 and that upon conclusion of that recruitment process, the Panel Arrangements revert to a term of office for independent members being for four years

**35/20**      **COVID – 19 – UPDATE** The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) provided the Panel with an update on the Covid -19.

The Police & Crime Panel (PCP) had been previously been provided with updates on the response to the Covid-19 Pandemic which had outlined the process by which this situation is being managed.

The Panel were reminded that the Force had adopted a 'Gold, Silver, Bronze' command structure to deal with the response. The PCC's office was represented at both the Gold and Silver levels (the bronze level would be too tactical for the OPCC (Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner) to add value).

The issue of the response to the Covid Pandemic was a standing agenda item for the PCC/Chief Constable 1-2-1s that took place every week. The PCC also received ad hoc briefings as the regulations/approach changes, including the responsibilities of law enforcement.

Members had received a detailed update report in advance of the meeting and the PCC covered areas in relation to: incidents and records of contact; crime, funding and workplace, criminal justice; and recovery.

Members were given the opportunity to make comments or ask questions which were duly noted or answered.

**RESOLVED** to note the update.

**36/20**        **FORTHCOMING EVENTS** It was noted that the National Police and Crime Panels Annual Conference would be held as a series of virtual workshops on 23 -25 November 2020, to which 4 members of the Panel were due to attend.

**37/20**        **DATE OF NEXT MEETING RESOLVED** that following a request from the OPCC to it was agreed that the next meeting would be moved back a week to Thursday 4 February 2021 at 10.00am. This would allow more time to receive the funding settlement from government and enable the PCP members to receive the full detailed reports in advance of the meeting.