

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 24th January 2017

Present:

Chair

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

Committee Members

Councillor Ben Aitken, Fylde Borough Council
Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council
Councillor Paul Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Councillor Julie Gibson, Lancashire County Council
Councillor Peter Gibson, Wyre Borough Council
Councillor Sue Graham, Burnley Borough Council
Councillor Terry Hill, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Councillor Andy Kay, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Councillor Adrian Lythgoe, Rossendale Borough Council
Councillor Liz Oades, Fylde Borough Council
Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Borough Council
Councillor Munsif Dad, Hyndburn Borough Council
Councillor Ivan Taylor, Blackpool Borough Council
Altaf Baghdadi, Co-opted Independent Member

Also in attendance

- Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire
- Angela Harrison, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Steve Freeman, Section 151 Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- David Fairclough, Secretary, Lancashire Police & Crime Panel
- Phil Llewellyn, Executive and Councillor Support Manager, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Councillor Alastair Bradley welcomed all present to the meeting and asked that people introduced themselves.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Joyce Plummer.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th October 2016

The Minutes of the held on 19th October 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

4. Public Questions

No Public Questions had been received.

5. Membership and Attendance at Meetings

Members were reminded that the Panel received a report on the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requirements in respect of the constitution of Police & Crime Panels at their AGM in June 2016 and also in October 2016.

In Lancashire, given the current make up and controlling influences of Councils, a proposal was drafted to retain the political balance as the following:

Labour 10	Conservative 6	Lib Dem 1	Independent Member 1
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The Panel at the AGM in June considered this option and an alternative option based on 9-7-1-1 as outlined above. However, the Panel could not agree this alternative option but did determine that a further consultation would be undertaken with Member Authorities to ascertain if any controlling group would release a seat on the Panel to achieve this alternative option. The Secretary on behalf of the chair contacted all Councils on 24th June 2016, 8 July 2016 and 21st October 2016 but did not receive any proposals for a change of their nominated person (seat) on the Panel. In the circumstances the panel needed to confirm their membership and it was proposed that the Panel confirm:

Labour 10	Conservative 6	Lib Dem 1	Independent Member 1
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The Panel were asked to consider the constitution of the Panel in view of the above and the requirement to 'agree' the membership in order to achieve the 'balanced appointment objective', including the requirement for the Panel to be politically balanced.

It had also been a concern that the attendance at the meetings had on occasion been limited and that some members have not yet attended an induction session. The pattern of attendance and induction record was set out in the report submitted.

Members of the Committee were reminded that under the Lancashire Police & Crime Panel Arrangements as approved on 15th November 2013, each constituent council may send a substitute member to meetings, as notified to the Secretary to the Panel. This substitute member would be permitted to act as a substitute member with full voting rights at meetings of the panel and any task Groups appointed by the Panel. A substitute member must be from the same party as the member appointed by the constituent council. If the Panel member was an independent councillor, then any substitute must also be an independent member. Substitute Members could also attend Induction sessions so they were fully familiar with the role, function and responsibilities of the Panel.

RESOLVED –

1. That the political balance of the Panel for 2016/17 – Elected Members (plus 2 Independent persons) remained on the following basis:

Labour 10	Conservative 6	Lib Dem 1	Independent Member 1
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2. It be noted that under the Lancashire Police & Crime Panel Arrangements as approved on 15th November 2013, each constituent council may send a substitute member to meetings, as notified to the Secretary to the Panel.

6. Appointment of Additional Independent Co-opted Member to the Police & Crime Panel

A report was submitted which provided an update on the appointment process for the appointment of independent members of the panel following the end of term of appointment of Mr Paul Richardson, Independent Member.

As reported at the June meeting the Local Government Association had produced guidance on how Police and Crime Panels should go about appointing independent co-opted members, and following a process in the summer in accordance with these arrangements, a recruitment panel of three members of the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel, Councillor Paul Elms, Councillor Peter Gibson and Independent Co-opted Member Altaf Baghdadi considered the application received and interviewed the applicant.

Unfortunately an appointment was not able to be made and arrangements were made to re-advertise the opportunity.

Stefanie Baron – HR Manager at Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council designed a recruitment campaign and drafted a new more engaging advert to try to appeal to a wider audience. This advert went live 5 December 2016 on Blackburn with Darwen Borough Councils website and was also sent to all the Authorities in Lancashire to post on their websites. A corresponding press release was also drafted to be circulated by each Authority through their press channels to ensure wider reach of the campaign, all Authorities were encouraged to also utilise their social media channels too.

The advert for the role closed on Friday 13 January 2017. Councillor Paul Elms reported that two applicants had been shortlisted and it was hoped an appointment could be made prior to the next meeting.

A further update report would be submitted to the Panel at their next meeting.

RESOLVED –

That the progress for recruitment of a new Independent co-opted member of the Panel be noted.

7 Police and Crime Commissioners Budget 2017/18

The Panel received a report which set out the latest financial position for the Police and

Crime budgets in Lancashire for 2017/18 and the proposals in relation to the Council Tax precept.

The Police and Crime Commissioner had a statutory requirement to set an annual Police and Crime budget and, as part of that process, to consult with the Police and Crime Panel regarding any proposals in relation to the council tax precept.

The report covered the current financial position that reflected the changes in the level of resources, additional cost pressures, reductions in the cost base and the identification of additional savings agreed by the Commissioner since setting the budget for 2016/17. The report set out;

- The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) that covers the 3 year period from 2017/18 – 2019/20
- The revenue budget for 2017/18
- The council tax proposal for 2017/18
- The proposed capital investment programme for 2017/18 and future years
- The Commissioner's reserves strategy

In addition the report set out the advice of the Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the level of reserves as required by section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2017/18 to 2019/20 was framed in the context of the provisional financial settlement for Lancashire published on 15th December 2016.

In the period 2010/11 to 2017/18 core government funding for Lancashire has fallen by £52.6m (23%). This included the reduction in 2017/18 (compared to 2016/17) of £2.514m (1.3%) as announced by Government on 15th December 2016 in the provisional finance settlement.

Within the provisional settlement no specific information on grant funding had been provided beyond 2017/18 however, in 2017/18 funding for Lancashire had reduced by 1.3% from that provided in 2016/17. It was clear that government grant would continue to reduce in future years with the Government stating that to maintain total funding it was assumed that every PCC would increase Council Tax by the maximum amount permitted under referendum principles. It was therefore assumed in the MTFS that government funding would reduce by 1.3% per year in 2018/19 and 2019/20 (i.e. at the same level of reduction as that experienced in 2017/18).

In the 2016/17 budget report approved by the Commissioner in February 2016 it was identified that further savings of £16.7m up to 2019/20 were required.

The Commissioner had approved additional savings of £6.4m in delivering the revised funding gap which meant that the Commissioner and the Constabulary had identified a total amount of savings of £82.5m from 2011/12 to 2019/20 to date. To meet the outstanding funding gap a further £14.9m of savings needed to be delivered. This meant that by 2019/20 total savings in excess of £97m would have been delivered since 2011/12 which was the equivalent of 32% of the 2011/12 original revenue

budget.

In developing options the Commissioner and the Chief Constable looked to protect front line services and drive out efficiencies wherever possible whilst maintaining service delivery. The approach together with the overall approach to managing the financial position was recently recognised as good practice by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) from which Lancashire Constabulary was again rated as 'good' in the recent Police Effectiveness Efficiency and Legitimacy 'Peel efficiency' inspection.

The provisional police grant for 2017/18 was announced on 15 December 2016. Lancashire has been allocated £190.024m which is a reduction of £2.514m on the funding for 2016/17. In future years it was assumed that government funding would reduce by 1.3% per annum to reflect the allocations provided with the 2017/18 provisional settlement and the statement from the Home Secretary that funding would be protected only if Commissioners' increased Council Tax by the maximum amount permitted under referendum principles, which for Lancashire was currently 2% per year, to offset the reduction in government grant.

The Home Office was reviewing the funding formula used to allocate funding to individual PCCSs in future years and intended to implement the outcome of the new review in 2018/19. The proposal was due out for consultation in February 2017 which would provide an indication of the impact on funding for Lancashire that would result. At this stage there was little information available to provide a forecast in the MTFs however the impact could be significant so the Commissioner and Chief Constable had determined that the potential impact should be recognised in the MTFs. The impact shown in the MTFs reflected the lowest end of the scale of potential reduction in funding that the last review of the formula produced as there was no other information available upon which to base the projection.

The report further outlined the key pressures and savings considerations together with a number of risks and uncertainties relating to:

- finalisation of the settlement;
- specific grant allocations;
- future level of top-slicing;
- partner funding for PCSOs;
- replacement of Airwave
- review of the Police Funding Formula;
- Impact of cuts to Local Government Funding.

A draft capital programme was currently being developed and would be approved by the Commissioner in his budget report in February 2017. The Commissioner would also identify the funding for the capital programme as part of the decision and would consider the optimum use of the resources available to him in doing so. This would include using some of the strategic reserves that had been set aside under the Commissioner's Medium Term Financial Strategy in recent years.

The current draft capital programme was set out in the report submitted and related to

IT strategy, Accommodation strategy, Vehicle Replacement Programme and Other Schemes.

It was clear that a significant amount of the investment being made in future years would be from the Commissioner's reserves reflecting the Commissioner's reserves strategy that had been reported to the Panel in previous years. This had been developed specifically to fund essential investment which was needed to enable the constabulary to transition into a re-shaped service that maintained services to the citizens of Lancashire within a significantly reduced level of funding.

The Commissioner held two types of reserve, General reserves that were available to support the revenue budget and provide security should the organisation face an unexpected issue that realises a call on its resources. The forecast level of these general reserves for 1 April 2017 was £11.9m or 4.5% of the 2017/18 revenue budget.

There are also a number of earmarked reserves for specific purposes that were forecast to total £30.7m at the beginning of 2017/18 and were detailed in the report submitted.

The Commissioner's reserves would be fully committed by 2019/20 and would therefore not be available to support the revenue budget during that period.

As part of the budget setting process the Commissioner was required to consider whether or not to propose any changes to Council Tax. It had been announced by DCLG that any proposal to increase Council Tax by 2% or more must be approved by a local referendum. It had been confirmed that there would not be a Council Tax freeze grant available in 2017/18 for Commissioners that did not increase their precept.

The Commissioner proposed to increase Council Tax in 2017/18 by 1.99% which would give a Council Tax of £165.45 for a Band D property and provide additional income of £1.356m.

The Commissioner would examine the budget proposals and identify further savings to meet the remaining funding gap of £0.387m identified above for 2017/18. These would be confirmed as part of the decision to approve the final 2017/18 revenue budget in February 2017.

The Futures team were identifying further proposals to meet the savings gap in future years that would be considered by the Commissioner over the next 12 months as part of the ongoing financial planning process.

The Commissioner had undertaken an in-depth survey with the people of Lancashire to ensure their needs are taken into consideration when setting the Council Tax precept. Further details of the consultation and market research were made available as an appendix to the report at the meeting.

The telephone research undertaken independently of the office to market research industry standards, asked 1,400 people (100 in each of the 14 district areas) if they wanted to freeze the precept, increase it by 2% or more. The result was 72.8% support for an increase of 2% or more.

Face to face engagement and an online survey continued until 20 January and these results were included in the appendix to this report and presented to the panel at the meeting.

The Police and Crime Panel's response to the Commissioner on the precept proposal must be made by 8 February 2017. The Commissioner would be unable to set a precept until the end of the scrutiny process was reached and should the Police and Crime Panel veto the proposals, the Commissioner had to submit a revised precept for consideration of the panel to which the Police and Crime Panel must also respond. A further response from the Police and Crime Panel had to be received by 22 February 2017 after which the Commissioner had to respond formally to the Police and Crime Panel setting out the precept for the forthcoming year.

Members of the Panel then questioned the Commissioner on his proposals in particular in relation to Capital Receipts, Total Reserves, Funding Formula changes, MTFs, Premises Estate and PCSOs funding.

The Commissioner, assisted by Steve Freeman, gave responses to the various questions raised.

The Chair then asked Members to consider the recommendations in the report.

The Panel then moved to the vote and the recommendations were carried.

RESOLVED –

That the Police and Crime Panel:

- Note the details of the 2017/18 provisional police finance settlement and the overall impact on Lancashire's budget;
- Note the report on the public consultation undertaken in respect of the proposed precept level;
- Concur with the Commissioner's proposal to increase the council tax precept by 1.99% in 2017/18;
- Make arrangements to ensure that a formal written response to the proposals is sent to the Commissioners by 8 February 2017;
- Note the proposed capital investment programme for 2017/18 and future years; and
- Note the proposed use of the Commissioner's reserves in 2017/18 and future years.

8. Contact Constabulary Force Control Room

A report was provided to Members of the Panel with details of the approach being taken by Lancashire Constabulary to tackle performance issues in the Force Control Room.

At its meeting on the 19 October 2016, Members expressed their concerns about the continued poor performance of the Force Control Room (FCR) and asked the Commissioner for a report at the next Panel Meeting on the approach being taken to

tackle performance issues in the FCR.

The Commissioner received a report setting out the latest performance of the FCR and outlining the approach being taken by Lancashire Constabulary to tackle performance issues at the Strategic Scrutiny Meeting on the 5 January 2017. A copy of the report was attached at Appendix A.

It was clear from the report that this reporting period has continued to be challenging for the FCR. Increases in the number of calls received compared to corresponding months in 2015 continued to show large percentage increases in line with that experienced during the summer period.

The increase in Public Safety related demand had continued unabated; with a rising trend of urgent deployments to Missing Persons, Concerns for Welfares, Collapsed and Ill people.

With Local Authorities also facing further significant budget reductions, it was expected that this in turn would increase the demands faced by policing services in future years, particularly in relation to individuals with mental health issues. Information in the report covering the period April 2016 to December 2016 was presented to illustrate the significant changes experienced.

The Commission highlighted some of the key areas of the Action Plan submitted, which included the employment of 45 new operators, appointment of analysts as well as the forthcoming Peer Review.

The Commissioner answered Panel Members questions, making particular reference to lengthy calls handled by the team, which were often as a result of complex welfare issues. Analysts would be looking at staffing levels and predicting peak times.

The Panel agreed that this item would continue to be reviewed over the coming months to monitor the effectiveness of the new arrangements.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

9. Police and Crime Panel Performance Monitoring Report

A report was submitted to provide Members of the Panel with an update on progress in delivering the current Police and Crime Plan (the Plan) for Lancashire 2016-2021 including a performance report in relation to the success measures contained within the Plan and a brief outline of other key commissioner activity.

The report covered the ‘third quarter’ from the 20 October 2016 to 6 January 2017.

The report was presented in four sections:

The report attached at Appendix A containing key performance data for the headline measures. Attached at Appendix B was the note of the Strategic Scrutiny Meeting held on the 5 January 2017. Performance measures shown in full in Appendix C, with the

latest performance data shown where appropriate or a short comment for measures with an outcome focus. The Plans and Strategies were shown in Appendix D along with the lead officer responsible for delivery and progression.

The Commissioner did not highlight any areas of his report but asked the Panel for any questions they may have.

Fracking

Councillor Liz Oades asked the Commissioner to look at the strategic implementation of fracking on Lancashire communities and its impact on policing resources, road traffic and anti-social behaviour, and commented that companies should pay for the policing.

In response, the Commissioner advised that the police needed to remain independent and could not be funded by a private company. Steve Freeman advised that costs would be monitored, and if costs met the threshold required, approaches would be made to the Government.

Early Action

In response to questions about the level of partner support, in particular Lancashire Care NHS Trust, the Commissioner advised that some support had been withdrawn from some mental health staff, and funds for this initiative was very important and that he had invited Minister Brendan Lewis to see the Early Action proposals but he was yet to receive a response.

Land and Buildings

The Commissioner was asked why the Police were leasing back its premises on Bonny Street in Blackpool from Blackpool Council which had recently been sold.

The Commissioner and Steve Freeman explained that other tenants were involved and the new build would not be ready until later in 2018 and the arrangement with Blackpool Council was on an exchange basis.

Appendix A – Ensure the Public has confidence in the Police service

Reference was made to Lancashire being ranked 6th out of 8 forces in satisfaction figures for ease of contact for Burglary, Vehicle Crime, and Violent Crime. The Commissioner advised that he was concerned about this and this was being monitored.

The Chair requested that future reports be issued as soon as possible in order that Members could look at and submit questions in advance. The Chair also requested that any further questions be submitted to Phil Llewellyn after the meeting.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

10. Police and Crime Commissioner Decisions

Members received a report which highlighted decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Director, under delegated authority in the period since the last meeting of the 19th October.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

11. Community Safety Partnerships

A report was submitted which provided Members of the Panel with an update on the funding allocated to each of the Community Safety Partnerships and the funding still available to them in 2016/17.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

12. Recruitment of Chief Constable – Verbal Update

The Chair and Secretary provided an update to the Panel on the latest position and key timelines relating to the appointment of a new Chief Constable for Lancashire.

The key timelines were as follows:

Closing Date:	13 th February 2017
Shortlist:	15 th February 2017
Interviews:	28 th February and 1 st March 2017
Stakeholder Engagement:	28 th February 2017
Confirmation:	16 th March – pre meeting for the Panel, ahead of Confirmation Hearing on 20 th March 2017.

RESOLVED –

That the update be noted.

13. Lancashire Victim Services Task and Finish Group

Panel Members received a report outlining the progress so far by the Task and Finish Group that had been scrutinising Lancashire Victim Services.

Following discussions by the Panel at the last meeting in October relating to the Commissioner's re-commissioning of Victim Services and the identification of this area for scrutiny in the Forward Plan for the Panel, it was agreed that a Virtual Task and Finish Group would be set up to look further into this.

Councillors Roger Berry and David Whipp volunteered to sit on the Task and Finish Group and meet with the Commissioner's Office.

The above Councillors met with officers from the Commissioner's Office on Friday 9th December 2016 at County Hall.

Since the meeting, the Commissioner's Office have forwarded several documents to Councillors Berry and Whipp, including the presentation they received at the meeting on the 9th December, a SMSR Report on Lancashire Victim Services, Service Specification (from recent Ender Documents) for the service from 1st April 2017 and Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Performance Reports from Victim Support.

Councillors Berry and Whipp have also been invited to attend future Quarter Performance Review meetings between the 24th January and 27th January 2017.

Councillor Berry reported on a productive meeting that Councillor Whipp and himself had had with officers and were awaiting further performance information and that they would report back further at the next meeting.

RESOLVED -

That the report be noted.

14. National Conference for Police and Crime Panels

Phil Llewellyn reported on the Fifth National Conference for Police and Crime Panels held in Birmingham on 20th November 2016.

Frontline Consulting held their Fifth National Conference for Police and Crime Panels on 20th November 2016 at the Council House, Birmingham

The Conference, as well as being a good opportunity to hear about the latest policy developments was also a good opportunity to meet representatives from other Police and Crime Panels and share good practice.

The Conference was very well attended, with representatives (Councillors and Officers) attending from Police and Crime Panels across England and Wales.

A number of presentations were delivered, in particular a presentation entitled 'Power Check' outlining a first term review of PCPs carried out by Grant Thornton and Frontline Consulting, which looked at the effectiveness and strength of relationships with their PCCs, and made recommendations for effective working which focussed on three key areas – Stakeholder Engagement, Work Stream Planning and Member Development.

A number of workshops were available on topics including Regional Collaboration, Complaints Handling and Working with new PCC.

The Conference provided a good opportunity to hear of the experiences of other PCPs and to make new contacts in other PCPs.

The Chair made reference to the similar issues across the country and of the

usefulness of making links with other Panels across the country.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

15. Lancashire Police and Crime Panel Forward Plan 2016/17

Following discussions at the AGM in June and at the October meeting the Forward Plan had been updated to reflect key areas of activity for the remainder of the year.

The Secretary would liaise with the PCC on the production of more detailed information to be prepared and circulated in advance of the March and July 2017 meetings to facilitate full and detailed scrutiny.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

16. Monitoring of Complaints

Members received a report setting out the current position with regard to communications relating to potential complaints received to date in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

As reported in October 2016 since the commencement of the Panel in 2012 there had been 25 recorded communications which at the outset were described as potential complaints against the Commissioner. Many of these communications however did/do not relate directly to the conduct of the PCC and therefore did not, under the terms of the governing regulations, come under the jurisdiction of the Police & Crime Panel.

Many communications received focus on the alleged conduct of police officers or the Chief Constable, and these were matters for which there were other complaints processes.

It was noted that there had been no formal complaints registerable under the Regulations (Approved Procedure) since the last meeting. Such complaints would always be reported, after receipt, at the next available Panel meeting.

RESOLVED –

That the update in relating to communications and complaints be noted.

17. Urgent Business

There were no items of Urgent Business.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting on 7th February would now not take place due to the decision taken regards the budget today, and therefore the next meeting would be held on 3rd April 2017 at 6.30 pm. at County Hall, Lancashire County Council.

SignedChair
2017