

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th June 2017

Present:

Chair

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

Committee Members

Councillor Adrian Lythgoe, Rossendale Borough Council
Councillor Andy Kay, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Councillor Geoff Driver, Lancashire County Council
Councillor Mark Smith, Blackpool Borough Council
Councillor Sue Graham, Burnley Borough Council
Councillor Clare Cleary, Hyndburn Borough Council
Councillor Ben Aitken, Fylde Borough Council
Councillor David Whipp, Pendle Borough Council
Councillor Terry Hill, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Councillor Paul Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Councillor Jacqueline Mort, South Ribble Borough Council
Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council
Abdul Mulla, Independent co-opted member

Also in attendance

- Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire
- Angela Harrision, Officer of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Andy Rhodes, Incoming Chief Constable Lancashire Constabulary
- David Fairclough, Secretary Lancashire Police and Crime Panel
- Phil Llewellyn , Executive and Councillor Support Manager

1. Appointment of Chair

The Secretary of the Panel, David Fairclough requested nominations for the Chair of the Panel for 2017/18. Councillor Alistair Bradley was nominated by Councillor Terry Hill, which was seconded by Councillor Andy Kay.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Alistair Bradley be appointed as Chair for the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

2. Appointment of the Deputy Chair

The Chair requested nominations for the Vice –Chair of the Panel for 2017/18. Councillor Terry Hill nominated Councillor Paul Elms which was seconded by Councillor Andy Kay.

RESOLVED - That Councillor Paul Elms be appointed as Vice Chair of the Panel for 2017/18.

3. Membership 2017

It was reported that following the local elections on the 4th May 2017, the political balance and the panel had been recalculated and the balance that achieved political balance across the 15 local Authorities was as follows;

18 Elected Members (plus 2 independent persons) on the following basis

Labour 9	Conservative 7	Lib Dem 1	Independent Member 1
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This reflected the number of seats won across the County and respective Council's and the respective controlling parties on each Council.

As reported previously Local Authorities combined must "agree" to the balance of the Panel and the Home Office powers to intervene and make appointments if agreement could not be reached locally, though it had been made clear that the best Panel arrangements were those which were locally determined.

Each Local Authority in the Lancashire Police Area had been consulted and the following representatives have been nominated to date to serve on the Panel for 2017/18.

Local Authority	Representative(s)	Political Party
1. Blackburn with Darwen	Andy Kay	Labour
2. Blackpool	Ivan Taylor (tbc)	Labour
3. Burnley	Sue Graham	Labour
4. Chorley	Alistair Bradley	Labour
5. Fylde	Ben Aitken	Conservative
6.	Liz Oades	Independent
7. Hyndburn	Clare Cleary	Labour
8. Lancashire	Geoff Driver	Conservative
9. Lancaster	Brendan Hughes	Labour
10. Pendle	David Whipp	Liberal Democratic
11. Preston	Robert Boswell	Labour
12. Ribble Valley	Paul Elms	Conservative

13.	Terry Hill	Conservative
14. Rossendale	Adrian Lythgoe	Labour
15. South Ribble	Jacqui Mort	Conservative
16. West Lancashire	Kevin Wright	Labour
17. Wyre	Roger Berry Peter Gibson	Conservative Conservative

The Panel were asked to consider the constitution of the Panel in the 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.

The Panel last year agreed that all Members new or continuing should attend an induction session. The Panel was asked to endorse this approach and also ask that the induction session was also open to any persons who were likely to be substitutes during the year as provided for in the Terms of Reference / Panel Arrangements.

RESOLVED -

i) That the balance of the Panel 2017/18 – Elected Members (plus 2 independent persons) on the following basis be approved.

Labour 9	Conservative 7	Lib Dem 1	Independent/Other Member 1
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ii) That the appointments made be agreed and that these be confirmed as the full membership for 2017/18.

iii) That the Secretary be requested to arrange an induction for all Members before the next full meeting of the Panel and that all Members be expected to attend.

4. Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillors Ivan Taylor, Brendan Hughes, Robert Boswell, Kevin Wright, Peter Gibson, Liz Oakes and Altaf Bagdhadi, the Independent Co-opted Member.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd April 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd April 2017 were agreed as a correct record subject to the amendment of the following (min 9). 40,000 people were referred to the Victims Service (not 4,000).

6. Declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interests received.

7. Public Questions

No public questions have been received.

8. Presentation by the incoming Chief Constable Andy Rhodes and Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw

The Commissioner introduced the presentation by referring to the excellent work of the outgoing Chief Constable Steve Finnigan and the ambition to maintain the excellent work of the force despite the ongoing cuts and the challenges such as funding, and he was pleased to report on the recent senior appointments including Andy Rhodes and his confidence in the new management team being dynamic in leading the force going forward.

Andy Rhodes thanked the panel for the opportunity to attend and gave an overview of the direction of the force. The scope of the presentation would mainly focus on Prioritisation, Context and Challenges. Key areas included Neighbourhood Policing, which was a key focus and the force had a very good record as evidenced by PEEL and HMIC inspections but could be improved – he emphasised how the trust and confidence of communities was key.

The issues facing the police force had changed considerably over the last 20 years with cyber-crime, historical sex offences and mental health all taking up significant amounts of officer time with ongoing monitoring of information a key focus, ie the information and intelligence relating to counter terrorism.

Demand numbers on the Contact Centre was consistent however more recently calls were taking longer due to the increase in cross service calls relating to mental health, social services etc.

The focus going forward would be on a PLACE based model- Neighbourhood policing V2, with duplication avoided, integrated working and less referrals to MASH. Frontline officers would be equipped to make digital referrals at the scene and get it right first time. There would be nine PLACE based areas within Lancashire with prevention the aim before matters escalated. This would be supported by a significant investment in digital working. There would be a need to reskill staff with an emphasis on keeping the public informed throughout investigations, to build trust and confidence. Local policing would be protected and Operations Support staff (roads, dogs, firearms) would be assigned to deal with matters such as Fracking, to ensure staff could focus on local policing and having police on the beat.

At this point members of the Panel asked questions on the presentation and made observations and in particular on the need to get the message out to communities and change perceptions on local policing and on the importance of collaborative working with local authorities, whether Unitary or District. It was noted that Mental health was taking up a significant portion of officer's time, but support from Mental health professionals had declined due to cuts. In terms of the timescale for

Operations Staff to police the fracking sites, this was imminent and would involve rest day working so officers were not taken off local duties and use of Operations Staff on a 50/50 split basis.

Concerns were also raised about the closure of local police stations particularly in rural areas and the need to have a consistent offer and good response if the local desk was no longer available

Part two of the presentation followed which focused on the counter terrorism and the changing nature of attacks such as the Nice and Bataclan attacks and in the U.K. a combination of low tech and sophisticated attacks. Lancashire had recently provided mutual aid to GMP following the Manchester Arena attack and Community Impact Assessments and the monitoring of hate crime had been very time consuming and there had been massive increases in reporting since the Manchester and Borough Market attacks which had led to resource issues for the Metropolitan Police and Greater Manchester police and the diversion of staff from other forces.

More work was needed at a local level with schools and social services to identify potential suspects/ vulnerable targets and also an emphasis on cyber activities as some people self-radicalised, officers needed to monitor this and work with internet providers.

The Chair and Panel thanked the incoming Chief Constable for his presentation.

RESOLVED- That the presentation be noted.

9. Police and Crime Commissioner Decisions

A report was submitted which contained information published on the Commissioners website, a number of decisions had been made since the report to the panel at its last meeting on the 3rd April 2017.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

10. Lancashire Police and Crime Panel forward plan 2017/18

The Secretary David Fairclough reported that the Panel had previously identified areas of particular interest that the Panel would focus on as special interest areas 2017/18 at its earlier meetings and these are included on the draft plan.

These were:

1. Front Line Policing (Due to report in September 2017)

2. Police and Crime Plan (Due to report September 2017)

3. Victim Services (Due to report March 2017)

The Panel were invited to consider if they wish to include additional/new areas for scrutiny for inclusion in the Forward Plan.

The draft Forward Plan for Municipal Year 2017/18 was attached at Appendix 1.

The Panel then discussed membership and timings for scrutiny of these three topics.

RESOLVED-

1. That the Forward Plan for the Municipal year 2017/18 be agreed;
2. That the membership of the Task and Finish Groups be confirmed as follows:
 - i) Frontline Policing, that David Whipp, Roger Berry and Paul Elms to report in September 2017.
 - ii) Police and Crime Plan report to be submitted to the September meeting following the Commissioners consultation across the summer with stakeholders. Whole panel scrutiny with final report in December 2017;
 - iii) Victim Services - Clare Cleary and Terry Hill and other Member TBC to report in March 2018.
 - iv) Budget – dedicated meeting in January 2018 with report on the One Public Estate.
 - v) Task Group – In Spring 2018 with the topic to be confirmed.

11. Task and Finish Group – Frontline Policing

A report was submitted which advised of the re-commencement of Scrutiny of Frontline Policing by the Task and Finish Group following earlier previous scrutiny of this topic and sought to confirm Membership of the Group.

Members of the Panel were reminded that a Task and Finish Group looked at this topic during the 2015/16 Municipal Year and reported back to the meeting of the Panel in January 2016.

It was agreed that this item would be looked at again in 12 months and be added to the Forward Plan for 2016/17.

Following subsequent discussions on the Forward Plan and this item at the October meeting it was suggested that this matter be considered at the March (now April) meeting as this area was under review by Lancashire Constabulary. At the meeting on 19th October 2016, Councillors David Whipp, Paul Elms and Roger Berry volunteered to sit on the Task Group.

At the April meeting of the Panel this matter was discussed and it was considered appropriate to wait until the AGM meeting when Membership of the Panel would be known, post Elections and Council Appointment processes.

The Panel were invited to consider membership of the Task and Finish Group and the necessary working arrangements for scrutiny of this topic.

RESOLVED- That David Whipp, Roger Berry and Paul Elms serve on this Task and Finish Group and report back on their work to the September meeting of the Panel.

12. Police and Crime Panel Budget 2016/17

Members received a report which outlined Panel expenditure for 2016/17. The Government had committed to providing limited funding to cover the costs of maintaining Police and Crime Panels. The host authority for a Police and Crime Panel in a Police force area would receive annually up to £53,300 for costs of administering Panels and up to £920 for expenses for expenses per member (maximum 20 Panel members). This had been confirmed again by the Home Office for 2016/17 but no commitment has been made to funding for future years had been received.

Home Office funding was provided by a grant agreement which was paid in arrears to Blackburn with Darwen as the host authority.

As part of the agreement to fund Police and Crime Panels the Home Office stipulated that for 2015/16 onwards a transparency requirement was attached as a condition of the single grant payment to allow public scrutiny of PCP spending. This now required PCPs to publish, as a minimum on their website, details of all their expenditure including all Panel administration costs and individual Panel claims for expenses and allowances.

Attached at Appendix 1 was a breakdown of projected costs and expenditure as submitted to the Home Office in early March for the Grant claim for 2016/17.

RESOLVED – That the Panel noted expenditure for 2016/17 which would be published on the PCP website.

13. Timetable of meetings 2017/18

Members reviewed a report which set out a proposed Timetable of Meetings for 2017/18.

Based on feedback during 2016/17 it was proposed that Panel meetings were held around three weeks after the Commissioners scrutiny meetings in order that the most up to date performance information could be submitted to the Panel in a timely fashion.

The proposed dates for meetings had been selected to meet required statutory deadlines/processes and to ensure that Panel Members were presented with the most relevant information available. An extra meeting had been scheduled, with a meeting now in December and the January meeting being devoted to one item agenda – to consider the Commissioner's Precept proposals.

In accordance with previous decisions of the Panel it was suggested that future meetings rotate between Preston, Blackburn and Blackpool and also be held both during the day and in the evening.

The next scheduled meeting after the AGM was due to be held at Blackburn Town Hall on 20th September 2017. Officers were also looking for a suitable date when an induction meeting would be held for new Members of the Panel (existing Panel Members would also be invited as it will give an opportunity to refresh existing knowledge.

The timetable of meetings for 2017/18 was as follows:

DATE/TIME/VENUE
Wednesday 20th September 2017 10.00am in Meeting Room “A” at the Town Hall, King William Street, Blackburn.
Monday 11th December 2017 6.30pm in Cabinet Room “C” The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston
Monday 22nd January 2018 (Precept only) 6.30pm in the Cabinet Room “C” The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston.
Tuesday 6th February 2018 (If required – dependant on Precept decision) 10.00am in Meeting Room “A” at the Town Hall, King William Street, Blackburn.
Monday 12th March 2018 6.30pm in the Cabinet Room “C” The Duke of Lancaster Room County Hall, Preston
Monday 2nd July 2018 –AGM 10.00am in Conference Room 3A and 3B, Bickerstaffe House, Blackpool.

RESOLVED -That the Timetable of Meetings for 2017/18 be agreed.

14. Monitoring of Complaints

A report was submitted which set out the current position with regard to communications relating to potential complaints received to date in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Many communications received focused on the alleged conduct of Police Officers or the Chief Constable and these are matters for which there were other complaints processes.

There have been three further communications of this nature recently and the potential complainants had been advised of the appropriate complaint process. A fourth communication was related to an application for a license which has been

referred to the appropriate office in the Lancashire Constabulary. A fifth communication referred to a complaint about an officer from the OPCC which has been referred accordingly to the OPCC for consideration and the sixth communication related to a press release which was again referred to the OPCC for consideration and attention.

It could be noted therefore that there have 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 relation to Communications and Complaints be noted.

15. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Panel would be held on Wednesday, 20th September 2017 at 10.00am in Meeting Room A, Old Town Hall, Blackburn.

Signed.....Chair
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