

## **Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

#### **Present:**

#### **Chair**

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

#### **Committee Members**

Councillor Mohammed Khan, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Councillor Mark Smith, Blackpool Borough Council

Councillor Mark Townsend, Burnley Borough Council

Councillor Robert Rigby, Fylde Borough Council

Councillor Keith Iddon, Lancashire County Council

Councillor Jason Wood, Lancaster Borough Council

Councillor Sue Bibby, Ribble Valley Borough Council

Councillor Jackie Oakes, Rossendale Borough Council

Councillor Gareth Dowling, West Lancs Borough Council

Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council

Councillor Peter Le Marinel, Wyre Borough Council

#### **Also in attendance**

- Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Angela Harrison, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Steve Freeman, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Ian Dickinson, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- David Fairclough, Secretary
- Phil Llewellyn, Governance and Democratic Manager

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair, Councillor Alistair Bradley welcomed all to the meeting, and advised how the remote meeting would operate Apologies had been received from Councillors Afraiz Anwar, Robert Boswell, Munsif Dad, Ivan Taylor, Alistair Sinclair, Simon Hore, David Whipp, and the new Independent Co-opted Member, Mimi-El Khatam.

### **2. Minutes of the AGM Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the AGM Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 be agreed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Gareth Dowling being in attendance.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were submitted.

#### **4. Public Questions**

No public questions had been received.

#### **5. Membership of the Panel 2020/21**

Further to discussions at the last meeting, the Secretary of the Panel, David Fairclough, verbally reported that the Panel for 2020/21 would consist of 18 Members, subject to confirmation of the three 'top up' places by the Secretary of State.

The three 'top up' Conservative Members were Councillors Sue Bibby (Ribble Valley), Peter Le Marinel (Wyre) and Robert Rigby (Fylde).

David read out a list of the appointed Members to the Panel as at September 2020.

**RESOLVED** – That the update be noted.

#### **6. Appointment of Independent Co-opted Members**

David Fairclough verbally reported that following the recent recruitment process for two new Independent Co-opted Members, that one appointment had been made – Mimi El Khatam, who was unable to attend the meeting today, but was looking forward to commencing her new role.

The remaining position would remain vacant, but would be advertised again in due course.

**RESOLVED** – That the update be noted.

#### **7. Recruitment of Chief Constable**

The PCC presented his report, which informed the Panel of the retirement of the current Chief Constable, Andy Rhodes, and which outlined the timescales and process for the recruitment of a replacement Chief Constable.

The report outlined the achievements of Mr Rhodes, who would be retiring on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 following 30 years service in policing.

The timetable for recruitment was outlined, leading to the start date of the new Chief Constable on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021. It was proposed that the Secretary, David Fairclough, independently observe the recruitment process, and that the Panel would hold a confirmation hearing to consider the appointment on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

**RESOLVED** – 1) That the report be noted and that a Confirmation Hearing be held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to enable the Panel to review the recruitment process and proposed appointment in accordance with legislation.

2) That the role of the Secretary in observing the recruitment process on behalf of the Panel be noted and agreed.

## **8. Performance Monitoring Report**

The Commissioner presented his latest report, and particularly highlighted the impact of Covid-19 and related increased criminality, commenting that it made it very hard to compare statistics at the present time in a meaningful way. Funding was also a major concern in the current environment, in terms of the impact on residents and council tax collections, and also the forthcoming three year Spending Review, which was scheduled to be announced by the Chancellor in November.

The Commissioner received questions and comments from Panel Members, agreeing to provide information on the allocation of extra funding for the following - Domestic Abuse, thefts and burglary in West Lancashire and Burnley, as well for small charities working with vulnerable young people at risk of serious violence.

The Commissioner also provided a response to a question on speeding motorists and safety and advised of the work of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership and Police in this regard. The Commissioner also advised in response to a question on staff welfare and the impact of Covid on attendance, that sickness had actually reduced, but that there were welfare challenges in terms of mental health that needed to be managed as a result.

The Commissioner confirmed that the recruitment of new officers was on target, and that support roles would be backfilled when these staff were recruited to become officers.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## **9. PCC Decisions**

A report was submitted on decisions made by the Commissioner and the Director since the last meeting of the Panel on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## **10. National Review of Police and Crime Commissioners**

A report was submitted which outlined the response provided on Part One of the National Review of the Police and Crime Commissioner Model.

Towards the end of July 2020, the Government announced the review of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) model. A copy of the Local Government Association (LGA) briefing on the terms of reference was sent individually to Panel Members on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. It was noted from this that part one of the review was looking at the role of panels and chairs.

The closing date for submission to the Home Office was very short with a date of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

On 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020, the Secretary wrote all Panel Members who were provided the key research questions for part one of the review which included further information about the themes the Home Office would like to consider and invited comments.

In the short time available two responses were received from Panel Members as per the document attached to the agenda and these were submitted to the LGA on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

**RESOLVED** – That the report and response submitted be noted.

### **11. Forward Plan 2020/21**

Ahead of discussion of the report and its recommendations, the Panel received an update from Cllr Berry on the work of the Frontline Policing Task and Finish Group from the last Municipal Year, which had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

At the last meeting the Chair suggested that Covid-19 recovery and Community Cohesion were areas of the scrutiny the Panel may wish to look at during 2020/21 and it was recommended that Covid-19 action and recovery be regularly reported and be a separate agenda item for the remaining scheduled full panel meetings.

Since the last meeting all Panel members were also further invited to suggest areas for additional scrutiny this year on consideration of the Commissioners Annual Report and Performance Reports at the AGM in July 2020.

The responses were as follows:

1. Local & Neighbourhood Policing Strategy – Lead – Councillor Jackie Oakes
2. Police Response Team – Funding & Expenditure – Lead – Councillor Roger Berry
3. Violence Reduction Network – Suggested lead - TBC
4. Volunteering Services – TBC
5. Community Cohesion - Building Confidence in Local Communities – Lead - Councillor Mohammed Khan

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Volunteering Services, Task and Finish Group be carried forward to the next Municipal Year, and the Forward Plan updated accordingly.

The next steps were that Officers would liaise with the Leads and seek further nominations and arrange meetings so that work could commence.

**RESOLVED** – That:

- 1) The report from the Frontline Policing Task and Finish Group be noted.
- 2) That Covid-19 be a regular agenda item for 2020/21.

- 3) That the Forward Plan be agreed and Task and Finish Groups set up and progressed as agreed at the meeting.

## **12. LGA Annual PCP Workshop 2020**

Phil Llewellyn reported that the rearranged LGA Annual PCP Workshop would be held virtually on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020, and that feedback from the event would be given at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That the update be noted.

## **13. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual PCP Conference – November 2020**

Phil Llewellyn reported that the Annual PCP Conference organised by Frontline Associates was scheduled for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November, with the Vice Chair, Asad Laher and himself due to attend, although it looked increasingly likely that the event would be a virtual event, and that feedback would be given at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That the update be noted.

## **14. Monitoring of Complaints**

David Fairclough reported on the current position with regard to communications relating to potential complaints received up to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 in relation to the PCC, and advised that no further complaints had been received at that date.

**RESOLVED** – That the update be noted.

## **15. Urgent Business**

There were no items of Urgent Business.

## **16. Date of Next Meeting**

*The Vice Chair in the Chair as the video connection with the Chair had been lost.*

The next meeting of the Panel would be held at 6.30pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in Meeting Room A, Town Hall, Blackburn, or via Remote Meeting, directly preceded by the Confirmation Hearing for the new Chief Constable.

Signed.....Chair  
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