

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th July 2018

Present:

Chair

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

Committee Members

Councillor Andy Kay, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Councillor Geoff Driver, Lancashire County Council

Councillor Munsif Dad, Hyndburn Borough Council

Councillor Ben Aitken, Fylde Borough Council

Councillor Brian Rollo, Preston City Council

Councillor Ken Hind, Ribble Valley Borough Council

Councillor Ged Mirfin, Ribble Valley Borough Council

Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council

Also in attendance

- Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire
- Angela Harrison, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- David Fairclough, Secretary to the Panel
- Phil Llewellyn, Governance and Democratic Manager
- Councillor Jonathan Saksena, Preston City Council
- Mark Cooper – Greymalkin Consultants

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillors Ivan Taylor, David Whipp, Margaret Foxley, Kevin Wright and Liz Oades.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were submitted.

The Panel initially discussed whether the remainder of the meeting should be held in private (Part 2) as indicated on the agenda for the meeting.

Following discussion, it was agreed that item 3 – Staff Restructure – Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, would be discussed in the public (Part 1) part of the meeting.

3. Staff Restructure – Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Commissioner presented a report which advised the panel of his decision to appoint a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

In summary at the meeting, the Commissioner advised that due to the size of the County, an increased workload and more burdens on his position and office that an individual would be sought on a part time basis who would need experience of engagement and working in a political environment.

The Commissioner cited examples of other Commissioners, many of whom had Deputies and Assistants, and who paid them at higher rates.

The Commissioner was questioned on why he was looking to re-establish a position that was one of the posts disestablished by himself in 2014, on income grounds, and now with less money available he was looking to appoint a Deputy, where the money was needed in other areas, such as recruiting/retaining PCSO's.

In response the Commissioner advised that it was the right decision at the time to disestablish the posts, but circumstances had changed since and the decision had not been just about resources. The Commissioner indicated that he was mindful of the costs, hence his decision to appoint part time and on a lower rate of pay than most other similar positions. The Commissioner advised that he considered the appoint value for money, and that an advert for the position was due to be placed the next day.

Members of the Panel discussed the matter and stated the reasons as to why they felt that the decision of the Commissioner could not be supported, namely:

- Lack of justification of the reasons for the appointment
- Resources would be better used in localities for Frontline Policing where the public had seen reductions of resources and closures of front desks (particularly in rural areas)

In response to a question about who the post was accountable to, Angela Harrison advised that the post, although a political one, was accountable to her, although there would be a relationship with the Commissioner politically.

Following discussion, the Panel agreed that the Commissioner be requested to reconsider the matter and report back to the September Panel meeting with full justification for his proposals, whilst noting that the Commissioner had the right to proceed with his decision in the meantime.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Panel urges the Commissioner to reconsider his decision and report back to the September meeting of the Panel with full justifications for his decision, whilst noting that the Commissioner had the right to proceed if he chose to do so; and

2) That if the Commissioner did still proceed with the Appointment, that the Secretary of the Panel, David Fairclough, oversee the HR process.

Ahead of Agenda Item 4 – Update Presentation – Governance Arrangements for Fire and Rescue Service – there was a further discussion on the reasons for the item to be held in the private (Part 2) part of the meeting.

Following a vote on keeping the meeting in Part 1 or moving into Part 2, which was tied, the Chair, having taken advice from the Secretary, used his casting vote and the decision was made that the rest of the meeting would be held in Part 2.

**AT THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC WERE
EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING**

4. Update Presentation – Governance Arrangements for Fire and Rescue Service

Further to the report presented to the Panel at the AGM meeting on the Commissioner's proposals to assume responsibility for Fire Governance in Lancashire, the Panel received a presentation from Mark Cooper, the Consultant appointed by the Commissioner which outlined the potential benefits and improvements that a change in Governance arrangements could deliver.

The Presentation was made up of three parts:

- Why change is necessary
- What changes are required
- How these changes can be achieved

Additionally, two further confidential slides at the end of the presentation were presented, which gave details of potential indicative savings in terms of staff, buildings and governance arrangements, for which cost estimations were changing on a daily basis, but dependent on the model adopted, it was projected that significant savings could be achieved.

The Commissioner advised that he had noted the opposition to his proposals, but that those who opposed them were in favour of looking at greater collaboration between the Police and Fire Services, and suggested a working group be set up involving various parties to consider what elements of the Business Case could be

delivered, and that he would suggest this at his meeting with the Fire Authority later that day.

Members of the Panel each commented on the presentation and proposals, indicating:

- Although the reduced emphasis on governance now being suggested by the Commissioner was welcomed, the Fire Authority was far more democratically accountable than one individual, and fragmentation of services would not be beneficial
- Greater collaboration should be the main focus for the Commissioner, not changing governance arrangements
- The Lancashire Fire and Rescue service received excellent feedback and had delivered efficiencies, why change a system that is working
- One size does not fit all, accountability and democracy are key, the services operate in different ways, there are cultural differences and there is a need to be cautious
- North West Ambulance Service are missing from the conversation

(Councillor Andy Kay in the Chair as the Chair had to leave the meeting).

In response, the Commissioner advised that collaboration with the Police and Fire was being investigated as the two services were coterminous, unlike the North West Ambulance Services, but that could be something to be considered in the future. There were real benefits to shared services, but the Commissioner recognised the concerns about the Governance proposals, and advised that he was quite happy not to pursue these, and would discuss other collaboration opportunities with the Fire and Rescue Service instead, and potential collective governance.

Angela Harrison in response to a request for the consultancy costs, advised that she would contact Councillor Driver with details.

There then followed discussion on what could be reported back to fellow Councillors, and it was indicated that it would be better to wait until the Commissioner had met with the Fire Authority to see if they accepted his proposal.

RESOLVED - That the Presentation be noted, and be circulated to the Panel, minus the confidential slides, after the meeting. It was also noted that the minutes of the Part 2 discussion be published.

Signed.....Chair
2018

