

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

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

#### **Present:**

##### **Chair**

Councillor Andy Kay, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

##### **Committee Members**

Councillor Ben Aitken, Fylde Borough Council

Councillor Geoff Driver, Lancashire County Council

Councillor Munsif Dad, Hyndburn Borough Council

Councillor David Whipp, Pendle Borough Council

Councillor Margaret Foxley, Pendle Borough Council

Councillor Brian Rollo, Preston City Council

Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council

##### **Also in attendance**

- Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Angela Harrison, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Ian Sewart
- David Fairclough, Secretary
- Asad Laher, Head of Governance
- Phil Llewellyn, Governance and Democratic Manager

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

The Vice Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillors Alistair Bradley, Ivan Taylor, Liz Oades, Tony Martin, Adrian Lythgoe, Brendan Hughes, Caroline Moon, Rupert Swarbrick, Ged Mirfin, Kevin Wright and Independent Co-opted Members Altaf Baghdadi and Abdul Mulla.

#### **2. Minutes of the meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019**

**RESOLVED** - The Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were agreed as a correct record subject to the removal of Chris Graham under 'Present' and inclusion of Superintendent Ian Dawson under 'Present.'

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

### **3. Declaration of interests**

Councillor Geoff Driver declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 – Police and Crime Commissioner Decisions.

### **4. Public Questions**

No public questions had been received.

### **5. Presentation on the Lancashire Volunteer Partnership and Our Lancashire**

Ian Sewart, LVP Manager, delivered a presentation on the Lancashire Volunteer Partnership which focussed on the important role played by Volunteers and the benefits for all parties from their involvement in public services.

The benefits of the Partnership included supporting vulnerable people to become stronger and building community resilience and reducing dependency on statutory services. A multi-agency approach was in place and case studies were presented which highlighted some of the positive outcomes that had been achieved.

Our Lancashire was a new Social Action Network for Lancashire, which involved a new online platform and engagement process, which would lead to better co-ordination of activities and an effective database of social action leaders. This initiative also involved a new uniformed community champion role, which would be piloted in Lancashire. The presentation also outlined the next steps to roll out the initiative.

Ian Sewart answered a number of questions on the initiative and it was agreed that Phil Llewellyn would circulate the slides from the Presentation after the meeting.

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

### **6. Performance Monitoring Report**

The Commissioner updated the Panel on the latest performance monitoring information for the third quarter which covered 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

Members of the Panel asked the Commissioner a number of questions on his report, in particular in relation the 30% increase in recorded crime, which was greater than many other forces and the Commissioner was asked what was being done to address this, in particular via the scrutiny process. The Commissioner advised that as referred to at previous meetings, all forces were yet not on the same inspection regime and could not be compared like with like at present, and also changes to the way crimes were recorded had significantly impacted on the figures. The Commissioner advised that he had challenged the Chief Constable via the scrutiny process in place and would continue to do so, but other factors such as austerity had

affected staffing to the tune of 800 less officers on the beat, and the key was managing public expectation whilst increasing confidence in the Force.

Issues were also raised about the Sleuth software that had replaced Connect and the increased times for completing paperwork for officers in the Force Control Room and on the beat. The Commissioner advised that he was aware of issues and these were being monitored.

Gaps in PCSO recruitment was also raised, with the Commissioner advising that he would look into this, but that there tended to be a delay in filling vacancies due to the funding process.

In terms of Stop and Search in Lancashire, it was felt that there was a need for a clear policy – the Commissioner advised that there was a clear policy, but with a focus on certain areas, this could lead to a spike in figures.

Finally, the Commissioner agreed to provide the Vice Chair with details of the £1.3M savings achieved via more effective procurement processes.

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

## **7. Police and Crime Commissioner Decisions**

A report was submitted which highlighted decisions made by the Commissioner and Director since the last Panel meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

Angela Harrison following a question on scrutiny of the Community Action Fund Application process, advised that applications would continue to be signed off by her Office.

During discussion of the report, the meeting moved briefly into Part 2 to discuss item no. 2018/55 Disposal of Property (restricted) and then moved back into Part 1.

**RESOLVED-** That report be noted.

## **8. Members Allowances and Expenses**

Further to recent reports on this topic, a report was submitted recommending that any proposals for changes to the Panel's existing practice for the payment of expenses/ allowances be deferred to the AGM in July.

**RESOLVED** – That pending legal confirmation that any payments agreed by the Panel could be reimbursed from the Home Office Grant any proposals for changes to the Panel's existing practice for the payment of expenses/allowances be deferred to the Annual General Meeting later this year.

## 9. Verbal Updates from Task and Finish Groups

The Panel received verbal updates on the progress of the Task and Finish Groups as follows:

### 9.1 Contact Management

Councillor David Whipp advised that there had been issues agreeing a suitable meeting date and that he could not provide a meaningful update as a solo Member, but invited another Member to join him in scrutinising the first six months of the POD. The Vice Chair agreed to join Cllr Whipp in this scrutiny.

### 9.2 Frontline Policing

Councillor Roger Berry reported similar issues to those experienced by Cllr Whipp in getting Members together, but that a meeting had been held on 26<sup>th</sup> February with Terry Wood, Assistant Chief Constable, and he outlined the main points discussed, which included the pressures on police time due to issues such as Mental Health and the need for the Police and Health Professionals to work together on this issue.

The Task and Finish Group had been advised that Response rates to 999 calls were better than the target times, and the number of call operators employed had increased.

Two drones had been funded from the Proceeds of Crime Act and were being utilised.

Updates were unable to be provided for the remaining Task and Finish Groups as members were not present.

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

## 10. Draft Timetable of Meetings 2019-2020

A draft timetable of meetings for 2019/20 was submitted (as outlined below). It was proposed that the Annual Induction Session be held directly after the AGM, in the afternoon of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 (existing Panel Members would also be invited as it would give an opportunity to refresh knowledge). Traditionally the AGM had been held in Blackpool each year, but it was considered sensible to move the meeting to Blackburn as Host Authority, with subsequent meetings taking place at either Chorley, Preston or Blackburn - (Chorley reflecting the current Chairs Council and having good motorway links) and County Hall, Preston being a central location).

<b>DATE/TIME/VENUE</b>
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 –AGM &amp; Annual Induction Session (amended see below)</b> 10am in Blackburn Town Hall, followed by Annual Induction after lunch.

<b>Wednesday 18th September 2019</b> 10am at Chorley Town Hall.
<b>Monday 9th December 2019</b> 6.30pm Blackburn Town Hall
<b>Monday 20th January 2020 (Precept only)</b> County Hall, Preston.
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (if required –dependant on Precept decision)</b> County Hall, Preston.
<b>Monday 9th March 2020</b> 6.30pm Chorley Town Hall.
<b>Monday 6th July 2020 – AGM &amp; Annual Induction Session</b> 10am in Blackburn Town Hall, followed by Annual Induction after lunch.

The Commissioner advised that due to another conflicting meeting (with other PCCs and CCs) he would be unable to attend the AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> July and requested that if possible, the meeting be moved. Following discussion, **it was agreed that the AGM meeting be moved back a week, to Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 10.00am at Blackburn Town Hall.**

**RESOLVED** – That the Timetable of Meetings for 2019/20, as amended at the meeting, be agreed and that the final version would be submitted to the AGM with full venue details.

### **11. Monitoring of Complaints**

A report was submitted which set out the current position with regard to communications relating to potential complaints and complaints received up to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**RESOLVED** – That the update in relation to Complaints be noted.

### **12. Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

### **13. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Panel (AGM) would be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 10.00am at Blackburn Town Hall.

Signed.....Chair  
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