

Minutes of the meeting of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel held on 27 September 2013

Present:

Members of the Panel

Councillors:

Dennis Harvey (Chair)	Nuneaton & Bedworth Council.
Nicola Davies	Warwickshire County Council
Peter Fowler	Warwickshire County Council
Jenny Fradgley	Warwickshire County Council
Peter Morson	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Derek Poole	Rugby Borough Council
Gillian Roache	Stratford on Avon District Council
June Tandy	Warwickshire County Council

Co-opted Independent members

Robin Verso

Other Councillors

Councillor Howard Roberts

PCC Office

Ron Ball	Police and Crime Commissioner
Eric Wood	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Mark Gore	Interim Chief Executive
Rob Phillips	Deputy Treasurer

WCC Officers

Jane Pollard	Governance Advisor
Janet Purcell	Democratic Services Manager
Georgina Atkinson	Team Leader, Democratic Services
Virginia Rennie	Group Accountant

		ACTION
1	Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Phillip Morris-Jones, Warwickshire County Council and Bob Malloy, Independent member.	
2	Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Interests Robin Verso declared a personal interest as Chair of the Probation Trust.	

<p>3</p> <p>(1)</p>	<p>Minutes of Previous Meetings</p> <p><u>Minutes of the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 14 June 2013</u></p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2013 be approved as a correct record, subject to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minute 6, <i>Questions from the Panel</i>-the addition of 'having taken legal advice' at the end of the second paragraph. • Minute 8, <i>Strategic Alliance</i> -the addition of the following words in italics: 'Ron Ball commented that he continues to be asked whether there will be a merger of the forces but in his view this could not happen <i>before 2016....</i>' • Minute 8, <i>PCC - national links</i>, delete the words 'developed through the LGA.' <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p><u>Minute 8 -Special Constables, PCSOs.</u></p> <p>Councillor Peter Fowler asked when it would be possible for members to have a structure chart showing the support (officers, vehicles etc.) in the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs).</p> <p>Ron Ball reported that the new policing model would be launched the following week but that the number of SNTs would remain the same. It was agreed that the structure be obtained from the Warwickshire Police and forwarded to members.</p> <p><u>Minute 8 –Police and Crime Plan Priorities – Community Safety Ambassadors</u></p> <p>Councillor June Tandy expressed concern that some of the ambassadors were also elected members and that their role as councillor (in dealing with complaints and issues, and taking a political view) conflicts with the role of the ambassadors which she understood to be purely gatherers of information. Councillor Tandy added that she had understood that elected members could not apply to be ambassadors.</p> <p>Councillor Jenny Fradgley also asked how the role of ambassador fits in with that of a councillor. Councillor Fradgley explained that, in her role, she was often approached by constituents with specific issues and complaints whereas the ambassadors role is</p>	<p>CEx to request structure charts plus information on New Policing Model for Panel.</p>
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<p>only to pick up general themes.</p> <p>Councillor Gillian Roache added that it would be useful for local councillors to see the reports from ambassadors to avoid duplication or fragmentation.</p> <p>Ron Ball advised that, provided applicants understood what the role of the ambassador is (and what it is not), then it was not necessary to exclude councillors from taking up the role of ambassador. It appeared that some councillors had imposed this restriction on themselves but it was not a message that had come from his office. Councillor Dennis Harvey added that it should, however, exclude members of this Police and Crime Panel.</p> <p>Ron Ball assured the meeting that the ambassadors had received induction training and that it had been stressed that their role is only concerned with crime and disorder. Mr Ball reminded the Panel that this was just one important channel of information and that in order for him to be the voice of Warwickshire to the Police, he needed to synthesise as much information as possible- not just from the ambassadors- but from many other people including the public, neighbourhood watch and local councillors with whom he and ambassadors had contact.</p> <p>Mr Ball added that he appreciated the positive working relationship he had with the Chief Constable and the fact that they were in agreement on what should be the priorities for Warwickshire, but he had still to ensure he had independent information with which to hold the Chief Constable to account.</p> <p>The Panel noted that there was a vacancy for an ambassador for Camp Hill and Galley Common and was advised by Eric Wood that he had approached the local councillor for any suggestions for who may wish to take on the role.</p> <p>The Panel was advised that a review would be undertaken following the first round of meetings attended by the ambassadors with a view to ensuring a consistent approach in accordance with the brief provided to them. Ron Ball welcomed the feedback from the Panel and any other comments members wished to submit so that these could be fed into the review.</p> <p>It was agreed that a report be brought back to the November meeting on the brief given to ambassadors, a review of their working to date and the issues raised by the Panel.</p> <p>The Panel also requested that they receive an annual report.</p>	<p>PCC/CEx to report.</p> <p>PCC/CEx to prepare.</p>
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<p>(2)</p>	<p><u>Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 31 July 2013</u></p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 31 July 2013 be approved as a correct record.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Minutes of the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel Budget Working Group held on 8 August 2013</p>	
	<p>Robin Verso drew the Panel's attention to the Working Group's questions regarding the level of reserves and their intention to scrutinise this more fully at their next meeting. He added that there was a need for more information on performance but accepted that the Police and Crime Panel needed to be proactive and clear about what information it needs to undertake its role.</p> <p>Ron Ball reported that he remained cautious about the use of reserves, given the reductions in funding and bearing in mind his wish to continue the success of initiatives such as Operation X (funded to 2015 at present). The use of reserves had enabled the Force to maintain the level of PCSOs to 100, in accordance with the PCC priorities.</p> <p>Rob Phillips, Deputy Treasurer, advised that officers were looking at the reserves and would also forward information on the first quarter financial outturn. He would also be able to report on a review of the base budget by December.</p>	<p><u>Treasurer</u> to provide Q1 outturn.</p> <p>to report on reserves (November meeting?)</p> <p>to report Base budget review (December).</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>PCC Engagement Strategy</p>	
	<p>Ron Ball presented his Engagement Strategy to the Panel and drew attention to the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a more user friendly website by the end of the year. • Work with young people • Partnership working, including work with the County Council, District and Boroughs to coordinate programmes, which was of particular importance in the context of reducing council budgets that could impact on services that play a part in reducing crime. • National and regional projects (for example PCCs are being called on to contribute to the Government's consultation on Rehabilitation). • PCC is on the group looking at the restructure of ACPO and on the National Police Air Service Board. 	

	<p>Councillor Nicola Davies questioned why the meeting with Victims Support was not yet timetabled.</p> <p>Ron Ball reported that there had been protracted discussions nationally on how Victim Support services will be commissioned and there had been an attempt at regional level (with West Midlands, Staffordshire and West Mercia) to agree an alternative model for submission to Government. This, however, had not been agreed by the PCCs and had been deferred until November.</p> <p>Councillor Nicola Davies expressed concern that this needed to be resolved and that victims need to be part of the debate.</p> <p>Mark Gore gave his assurance that there was consultation through officer meetings and that he was part of the discussion at the Local Justice Board.</p> <p>Eric Wood reported that Northamptonshire has undertaken some interesting work on victim support services but there was no single solution. Warwickshire is trying to identify what will be the best model. One question is how to ensure all victims are being supported, such as victims of fraud or distraction burglary (where the impact on older people includes shortened life expectancy). He added that there is a need to strengthen officer support and connectivity with County Council services.</p> <p>Councillor Gillian Roache welcomed the focus on young people who were often wrongly viewed as the perpetrators of anti- social behaviour, when in fact anti-social behaviour is largely older people and part of neighbour disputes. Councillor Roache asked how the PCC would communicate to people on these issues, particularly those who do not have internet access, and suggested that the budget letter issued with the precept letter may be an opportunity to reach every household.</p> <p>Ron Ball welcomed Councillor Roache's comments and repeated his support for restorative justice as a way of addressing anti-social behaviour and referred to his grant to the Probation Service in support of this.</p>	<p>PCC to give update on victim support to next meeting or before if there is any information.</p> <p>PCC to consider ways of communicating with citizens.</p>
6	PCC Annual Report	
	<p>Ron Ball presented his Annual Report and reminded the Panel that this was not a full year but that the next one in 2014 would cover a whole year and be more detailed.</p> <p><u>Strategic Alliance</u></p> <p>Ron Ball reported that he remained committed to the Strategic Alliance and that governance arrangements had been strengthened with the previous Steering Group being replaced by</p>	

an 'Alliance Governance Group' (comprising the Chief Constables, Deputy Chief Constables, PCCs and Deputy PCCs of Warwickshire and West Mercia, the Chief Executives and the Treasurer). He added that the Alliance is unique and has been recognised by Government as a major achievement.

Fraud and cybercrime

The Annual Report includes reference to the refresh of the Police and Crime Plan which will include more emphasis on fraud and cybercrime. This is in response to a national increase in cybercrime whilst traditional crime is declining. Ron Ball reported that he would be meeting with the National Fraud Investigation Bureau within the next few weeks.

PCC Public Meetings

Councillor June Tandy asked what the procedure is for the public to ask questions at the PCC's 'public scrutiny' meetings. Members also questioned how they were publicised.

Ron Ball explained that he had decided to undertake his 'challenge of the Chief Constable' sessions in public. The public can submit questions but they must be notified to the PCC office in advance. The meetings are advertised through the press, on the website and by email to key people, but this will be looked at as part of the planned review as the PCC is disappointed by the low public attendance. Eric Wood added that it had been successful where a planned approach had been taken – such as the meeting in Rugby when pupils from Eastlands School had attended and asked questions of the Commissioner and Chief Constable and the meeting in Stratford that had attracted a good number of people.

Councillors suggested the PCC links with District/Borough Councils and Town/Parish Councils, residents associations as well as local radio and local papers (such as NorthTalk). Ron Ball welcomed these suggestions and any other links the Panel members may wish to forward to him.

Performance

Mark Gore tabled performance data referred to in the report.

Councillor Nicola Davies asked whether, in view of the increase in reported serious sexual offences, the PCC would include tackling this area as a priority in his Plan.

Ron Ball replied that he was pleased that the figure had increased as this demonstrated that there was an increase in people feeling able to report offences.

	Eric Wood advised that investigation of offences relied on victims being willing to pursue the offence. Councillor Davies requested that an emphasis on this be included in the refresh of the Plan.	
7	Report on the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner	
	<p>Ron Ball presented a report summarising the key meetings he had attended and some of the major issues he had handled since the meeting of the Panel in June, against each of his Plan objectives.</p> <p><u>Objective 1 – To reduce crime and disorder</u></p> <p>The PCC has approved community safety grants totalling around £270,000 (this includes approval of approximately 70% of the bids received). The PCC has also made a grant of £25,000 to Neighbourhood Watch and £40,000 to the Probation Service exceptionally over two years to develop restorative justice programmes with adults.</p> <p>It was agreed that the list of projects be circulated to the Panel.</p> <p>Ron Ball commended the work of volunteers and of Street Pastors whom he had met in Stratford and were being commissioned in Rugby. He added that he was committed to the recruitment of special constables although the speed of recruitment is restricted by the capacity to provide training.</p> <p>Ron Ball commended the good partnership working within the Criminal Justice System in Warwickshire and expressed his commitment to ensuring restructuring of agencies does not adversely affect them.</p> <p><u>Objective 2 – To Protect the Public from Harm</u></p> <p>Ron Ball reported that he had met with representatives of statutory agencies to ensure as far as possible that arrangements for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults are as robust as possible. A further meeting will take place in the autumn.</p> <p>Eric Wood referred to the College of Policing consultation on Child Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation that follows on from the findings of the serious case review into the death of Daniel Pelka. A common finding in this and previous reviews, has been that the Police are ‘not child centred’. Eric Wood offered to report back on the College of Policing work and the national guidelines that will emerge following consultation.</p>	<p>CEx to circulate list.</p> <p>DPCC to report (to November meeting if information available).</p>

<p><u>Objective 3 – To Empower Local Communities to Prevent Crime and Disorder.</u></p> <p>Members asked what criteria are applied to decide which schools have a PCSO allocated to them.</p> <p>Ron Ball advised that the deployment was made by the Chief Constable and he understood this was based on an assessment of priority areas, crime and anti- social behaviour statistics. Eric Wood added that he was aware that some schools had been removed from the scheme. It was noted that PCSOs tend to be allocated to secondary schools but that there would be value in them operating at the primary school level. Councillor Jenny Fradgley added that it would be helpful for the PCSO to operate across more than one institution and across towns.</p> <p>Ron Ball and Eric Wood undertook to find out what criteria are used and why some schools have had their PCSO removed.</p> <p>Councillor Peter Fowler requested that the hours of PCSOs be reviewed with a view to extension beyond 12 at night to cover later closing of licensed premises. He also requested a note of the extra powers that have been given to PCSOs.</p> <p>Ron Ball circulated a table showing the powers of PCSOs, including the national and local ones. Ron Ball explained that he would not wish them to be seen as police officers. They are not enforcement officers as such but can now detain people for up to 30 minutes.</p> <p>He added that PCSOs have now been given powers in relation to vehicle obstruction but are not to be seen as traffic wardens. Councillor Derek Poole reported that his information was that they were able to photograph an obstruction and send it to the police to decide if it should be dealt with.</p> <p><u>Objective 4: Deliver and Efficient and Effective Police Service</u></p> <p>Ron Ball updated the Panel on the position with regard to second stage transfer of staff of operational staff from the PCC to the Chief Constable. The proposal for 'status quo' had not yet been accepted by the Home Secretary.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that it supported the PCC view that, given the unique circumstances of the Alliance, there should not be a requirement to produce a transfer scheme.</p>	<p>PCC/CEx to report back to the next meeting (or before).</p> <p>PCC/CEx to provide list of powers to the panel and all councillors.</p>
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8	Joint Working Protocols	
	<p>Jane Pollard presented proposed joint working protocols for the approval of the Panel and tabled a revised flowchart for dealing with complaints against the PCC.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Panel approves the Joint Working Protocols as set out in the report and appended to these minutes.</p>	
9	Work Programme	
	<p>The Panel noted the programme of work which would be considered further following their workshop on 8 November.</p> <p>Eric Wood offered to bring a report on the national policing picture and how Warwickshire fits this, for the Panels meeting in November.</p>	<p>DPCC to report.</p>

The meeting rose at 12.00 noon

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Chairman