

Minutes of the meeting of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel held on 30 November 2017

Present:

Members of the Panel

Councillors:

Richard Chattaway	Warwickshire County Council
Mark Cargill	Warwickshire County Council
Patrick Davey	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Nicola Davies	Warwickshire County Council
Neil Dirveiks	Warwickshire County Council
Tony Jefferson	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Gwynne Pomfrett	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Derek Poole	Rugby Borough Council
Andrew Thompson	Warwick District Council
Adrian Warwick	Warwickshire County Council

Independent Members

Andy Davis
Bob Malloy

Warwickshire Police

Chief Constable Martin Jelley
Chief Inspector Jason Downes
Helen Roberts, Policy Analyst

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

Neil Hewison	Chief Executive
Chris Lewis	Policy Officer
Neil Tipton	Head of Media and Communications
Philip Seccombe	Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Rob Tromans	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC)

Warwickshire County Council Officers

John Betts	Head of Finance
Sarah Duxbury	Head of Law and Governance
Stefan Robinson	Senior Democratic Services Officer

1. General

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Elizabeth Hall, Treasurer for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

2) Members' Disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

There were no disclosures of interest.

3) Chair's Announcements

The Chair, Councillor Davies, thanked the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for inviting her to the launch of the Victims Charter. She also thanked the Chief Constable for her invite to the 160th year celebration of Warwickshire Police. Both events were well received and insightful.

4) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 14 September 2017

The Chair explained that the issue of Body Worn Video cameras would be considered at a time when the Panel's work programme permitted. She highlighted that it would be useful to see how the cameras had been received by the public and the Force, and what benefits had been realised.

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Poole, asked whether the PCC had written to the Secretary of State for Justice regarding the early release of burglary offenders, as agreed at the previous meeting. The PCC said he had not done this, and needed more information before approaching the Secretary of State. It was agreed that the OPCC would liaise with Councillor Poole at the next Rugby Community Safety Partnership meeting to take this matter forward.

The public minutes, and exempt minutes, of the meetings held on 14 September 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

3. Chief Constable Update

The Chair invited the Chief Constable to deliver a presentation to the Panel. Under the terms of section 100A(3) of Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972, the update was presented on confidential terms which forbid the disclosure of the information to the public. The contents of this update can be found in Confidential Appendix 1, for Panel members and support officers who are permitted access.

4. Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The PCC introduced his report and explained that he believed PCSOs and SNTs were essential parts of local policing. He did not want to lose any SNTs as part of

the new Alliance Policing Model. He added comment to issues highlighted by the Chief Constable, including:

- The PCC funded the Rural Crime Officers
- Neighbourhood Watch Schemes were important and effective
- Speedwatch Schemes were important and effective
- A Speedwatch campaign will be launched in January 2018
- The sale of Leek Wootton in 2018 would produce several million pounds in capital receipts, and it is currently costing nearly £1m a year to maintain
- The Chief Constable and the PCC have campaigned for fairer funding to the Home Office and the Treasury, and attempted to persuade the Treasury to lift the 1.99% precept cap
- It was the right decision to freeze the level of tax precept last year in order to reduce the Force's financial reserves

The Chair asked whether the PCC was happy with the response he received from the Chief Constable to his challenge letter. The PCC said it was a comprehensive and reasonable response, but there were more questions to ask in relation to burglary dwelling, vehicle and violent offence increases. Andy Davis said that these increases were reflective of the national picture, and questioned whether the PCCs scrutiny would be better focussed on local Cybercrime and Child exploitation offences, which had seen 880% and 711% increases respectively. He also reiterated the need for there to be a public narrative about the changing nature of crime in Warwickshire. The PCC said he was focusing on the crime types that residents told him were of most concern. Neil Hewison added that Warwickshire was leading nationally in its efforts to tackle cybercrime.

Councillor Cargill said it would be useful to receive feedback from the Police on the impact and value of Speedwatch schemes. The PCC said he would consider this in January 2018 when the use of Speedwatch would be reviewed.

The PCC said that on the assumption of a 1.99% rise in the Warwickshire police precept for 2018/19, an additional £800,000 would be generated. The Chair highlighted that there had been an underspend on Police Officer pay, and an overspend on staff pay, and asked how this aligned with the PCC's ambition of protecting the number of frontline officers. The PCC said that any underspends were likely part of savings already being made. In response to further questions, the PCC explained that on the assumption of a 1.99% precept rise next year, the expectation was that the Force would need to lose approximately 70 Police Officers and 130 staff because of budget pressures. The legislation required that a referendum be held if the PCC wanted to raise the precept level above 1.99%. The PCC said that this was not an option because the costs were too high, but he would like the ability to raise the precept above 1.99% if required.

The Chair asked the PCC what his budget consultation plans were, highlighting that some PCCs had already started their public engagement on the matter. Councillor Poole added that the PCC should strengthen his consultation on the precept by consulting wider than parish councils, particularly if he were to raise the precept above 1.99%. He suggested that the PCC should seek the views of a significant sample of the population to ensure that the consultation received diverse and representative feedback.

The PCC said he had done local radio and media releases and he would be looking for support from the Panel in promoting the consultation. Neil Tipton, Head of Media and Communications at the OPCC, added that there would be an online element to the consultation, as well as adverts in the local news media and direct district and county authority engagement. A sound conclusion on the precept proposals could not be made until the Home Office settlement had been announced in December 2017. It may be that the Home Office allow PCCs to raise the precept level above 1.99% without a referendum. He also said that the consultation documents would describe the reality of the situation for local policing.

Sarah Duxbury, Head of Law and Governance, advised that it would not be appropriate for the Panel to express a view on whether to support a potential increase in the precept, without first considering a detailed budget proposal. This was scheduled for consideration on 1 February 2018. Councillors Warwick and Jefferson commented that they could see the potential merit in an increase in the precept should such a proposal be put forward.

Councillor Thompson asked the PCC how much he engaged with other PCCs on a regional basis, given the prevalence of cross-border crime. The PCC said that a Regionally Organised Crime Unit had been established to tackle wider regional issues. He had met with four PCCs regionally on a quarterly basis and liaised with other surrounding forces. Most recently, the Deputy PCC and the PCC met with neighbouring PCCs to discuss a rise in car key burglary.

Commenting on the performance report, the PCC explained that the Fire and Rescue Service were assisting with missing persons investigations, and members asked to receive more detail on this at a future meeting. Bob Malloy highlighted the role of the Warwickshire Search and Rescue group, which assisted the Police in search and rescue operations. The PCC said he would retrieve information on whether his office funded any of their work. The PCC highlighted that emergency response times had dropped and that he had carried out several visits to the control centre to understand how improvements could be made. Councillor Dirveiks advised the Panel that the Planning and Performance Working Group considered the performance report in detail on 16 November 2017. The Chair advised that the next HMICFRS Efficiency Report would be considered by the Planning and Performance Working Group.

Resolved

That the Panel requests an update on the use of Fire and Rescue staff in supporting missing person's investigations.

5. Alliance Strategic Transformation Programme

Chief Inspector Jason Downes, policing lead for the Transformation Programme, provided the Panel with an overview of the Transformation Programme. He said the Programme started in 2015 with the ambition of undertaking a Force wide review and redesign to maximise the effectiveness of the force through technology enabled change. He highlighted the Vision and Values of the Force, as outlined in the 'Looking to 2020' Plan. The vision was to protect people from harm and the values were:

- Listen and engage
- Take pride in our professionalism and standards of behaviour
- Use professional judgement and be courageous in making decisions
- Seek out better ways of working
- Lead with confidence and do the right thing
- Work in partnership to provide the best service we can

The Chief Inspector provided an overview of the Transformation Programme Structure. The Alliance Governance Group was the leading body responsible for overseeing the Transformation programme. The Transformation Board, and three sub-boards, were responsible for managing areas of work within the Programme. Neil Hewison, Warwickshire OPCC Chief Executive, represented the PCC on the Transformation Board.

The Chief Inspector said the new Alliance Policing Model sought to align resources with demand, and it was designed based on evidence to protect core policing and the frontline. The Alliance previously used up to 320 IT applications to manage its work, and it was the role of the Programme to streamline these systems and reduce duplication. Examples of this work included the implementation of Athena, the new Operational Command Centres, and the introduction of smartphones and laptops for agile working. A total of 3095 smartphones and 2623 laptops had been issued to Alliance officers, in addition to 2000 body worn video cameras.

In response to questions, the Chief Inspector clarified that all officers would be able to take witness statements on their laptops or smartphones, saving time in travel back to the office. Bob Malloy asked about Joe O'Sullivan's (Transformation Director) experience in managing this type of work. The Chief Inspector explained that Mr O'Sullivan had previously worked for the Ministry of Defence and had experience of managing transformational change.

Andy Davis asked about the desire for further technological change, beyond that already planned. The Chief Inspector said that it may be possible to use video conferencing software to allow witnesses to provide statements, or for training

courses and briefings to be delivered online. Councillor Warwick asked how vulnerable the new IT systems would be to cyber-attacks and the Chief Inspector said that all police networks were nationally approved and secure.

The Chair asked how the PCC would measure the performance and success of the Transformation Programme. The PCC said he would judge success based on the results of the quarterly performance report and victim satisfaction. In response to further questions, he added that the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) software was prioritised for terrorist and serious organised crime matters.

6. Road safety and traffic incidents

Helen Roberts, Alliance Business Analyst for the Road Safety Partnership, provided the Panel with an overview of the number of people Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) on Warwickshire's roads. She said that risk taking behaviours on the road are rising, and that some people believe there is more to be gained from driving dangerously than safely. She explained that there were several recording systems to monitor the number of KSIs, and the number of KSIs in Warwickshire had risen 26% in the last 5 years. Both Warwickshire and West Mercia underreported KSIs, and in 2017, there were 12 fatal collisions where the victim was not blameworthy (33 total).

Helen showed the Panel various tables, charts and maps to illustrate Warwickshire's road network, and where collisions took place. She highlighted that 68% of casualties and 74% of speeders were not Warwickshire residents. Poor driving and bad decisions were the reason for the majority of collisions. In response to a question about the public availability of data, Helen clarified that KSI and speeding data was available on the Warwickshire Police website.

The likelihood of a positive breath test at the roadside was 12%, and there had been no change in the number of drink driving offences recorded between 2010 and 2015. During targeted drink drive campaigns, such as over the Christmas period, increased enforcement and awareness of enforcement positively correlated with a decline in drink driving offences.

Helen concluded that enforcement levels had been relatively stable, and therefore the rise in KSIs was likely attributable to a rise in risk taking behaviours. She concluded that the reasons for an increase included:

- A change in social norms
- Conditions allow it
- People running late in congestion
- Peer pressure
- The context of different responsibilities and different life stages
- A 'Collisions happen to others and not me' attitude

She highlighted that the Alliance had experienced year on year increases in KSI casualties, and that enforcement activity had been shown to encourage compliance. The use of technology could mean increased efficiencies, but there was room for improvement in the accuracy and timing of data recording.

Councillor Cargill asked why there had been a 2% increase nationally in cycle deaths. Helen said this could be attributed to a number of factors including increased vehicle miles travelled, increased cycling or because of the increase in risk taking behaviours.

Bob Malloy asked whether there were any funding issues stopping the full use of static speed cameras, and said the data on Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) website was out of date. He said that some cameras show there were no speeding convictions over the course of a year. Helen explained that since 2013, there had been no way of measuring prosecutions per camera. It was clarified that not every speed camera housing unit contained a camera, and that the cameras were rotated to different housing units based on risk priorities. However, some cameras genuinely recorded no speeding offences in some years. The cost of a speed camera, without the housing, was approximately £37,000.

Councillor Pomfrett said he was surprised at the social acceptance of risk, and other members agreed that cultural attitudes towards drink driving seemed to be more relaxed than in previous years. Helen said that risk taking behaviours were prevalent in different social groups and that some people felt it was optional to obey the Highway Code.

The Chair asked what actions the PCC was taking to address the rise in KSIs. The PCC said that he had visited a number of different driving courses and was going to be involved with a new driving campaign in January 2018. Chris Lewis, OPCC Policy Officer, added that WCC's Road Safety Team had downsized in recent years, but they were still delivering road safety education in schools.

Resolved

That the Panel requests the PCC to provide an update in approximately six months on the work he has undertaken to bring together partners to address the rise in KSIs.

7. Report of the Planning and Performance Working Group

Bob Malloy, Chair of the Planning and Performance Working Group, provided the Panel with an overview of the Group's findings at their meeting on 16 November 2017. He said that despite changes in recording practices, there were clearly increases in actual instances of crime. He also highlighted that there had been a decline in outcomes performance and the amount of offences given an 'actions

taken' marker. The report highlighted that this was particularly concerning in relation to rape offences. Finally, Bob said the Group would be interested to see how the issues of rising crime and tighter financial pressures would be communicated to the general public. The Group recommended that the Panel consider the new Alliance Policing Model in 2018.

Resolved

That the Police and Crime Panel includes the Alliance Policing Model' in its Work Programme for 2018, at a date to be confirmed following consultation with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

8. Report of the Budget Working Group

Councillor Warwick, Chair of the Budget Working Group, introduced this report. He explained that the Group had considered various sensitive and restricted aspects of the Quarter 2 Force Finance Report, and that much of this could not be disclosed publically under the relevant legislation (Section 100A(3) of Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972). However, he explained that the budget was on target and thanked Elizabeth Hall, OPCC Treasurer, for being open and transparent at their meeting.

9. Work Programme 2017/18

The Work Programme was noted as tabled, including the addition of the Alliance Policing Model as outlined under item 7.

10. Dates of Meetings 2017-18

The Chair invited the Panel to take note of the future meeting dates:

- Friday 19 January 2018 - Precept Briefing (closed session), Shire Hall (10:30am)
- Thursday 1 February 2018 - Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall.
- Tuesday 27 February – Panel Development (closed session), Shire Hall.
- Monday 19 March 2018 (rescheduled from 26 April 2018) – Stratford District Council Offices
- Thursday 21 June 2018 - Location to be confirmed
- Thursday 20 September 2018 - Location to be confirmed
- Wednesday 22 November 2018 - Location to be confirmed

11. Any Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

12. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

There was no requirement for the Panel to move into private session.

13. Complaints

There were no updates to consider.

The meeting rose at 1:17pm

.....
Chair

