

DYFED POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

28TH JULY 2017

PRESENT: A Lloyd-Jones (Chair);

Carmarthenshire County Council Members:-

Councillors K. Howells, T.J. Jones and E. Morgan;

Ceredigion County Council Members

Councillors K. Evans and L. Edwards;

Pembrokeshire County Council Members

Councillors M. James, R. Summons and S. Joseph;

Powys County Council Members

Councillors D.O. Evans, L. George and W. Powell;

Independent Members

Professor I. Roffe;

Mrs. H.M. Thomas;

In attendance from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner:-

Mr. D. Llywelyn - Police and Crime Commissioner;

Mrs. C. Morgans - Chief of Staff;

Officers also in attendance: -

Carmarthenshire County Council:-

Mr. R. Edgecombe - Acting Legal Services Manager;

Ms. D. Williams - Assistant Media and Marketing Manager;

Mrs. J Owen - Democratic Services Officer.

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen 11:20am – 1:20pm

1. APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2017/2018

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor A Lloyd-Jones be appointed as the Panel Chair.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Councillor Alun Lloyd-Jones be appointed Chair of the Panel.

The Chair sought nominations for Vice-Chair, it was proposed that Professor I. Roffe be the Panel's Vice-Chair, which was seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Professor I. Roffe be appointed Vice-Chair of the Panel.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND PERSONAL MATTERS

No apologies for absence were received.

The Chair congratulated the Police and Crime Commissioner on the birth of his baby son.

The Chair wished to express his appreciation to the former Panel Members for their contribution to the Panels work over the last year.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

4. MINUTES

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel held on the 27th March, 2017 be signed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Minute 7 – Agenda Item, Media Item

It was commented that the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel required a higher profile as Panel Members were receiving queries from the public as to what was the role of the Panel. The Police and Crime Commissioner stated that he intended on working closely with the Panel to engage with them and include them in some of the activities that he undertakes which in turn would raise the public awareness of the Panel.

5.2 Minute 9 – Agenda Item, Home Office Grant for Panel Activities

In response to a query, the Acting Legal Services Manager confirmed that the grant of £71,895.00 had been received. The Panel were reminded that any underspend would not be permitted to be rolled over into the following year and that any work carried out in any one year must not exceed £71,895.00.

6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER.

The Panel, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 12 and 28 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, received for consideration the Annual Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for 2016/17.

The following questions/issues were raised on the report:-

- A query was raised regarding the percentage of earmarked reserves, in the absence of the Chief Finance Officer the Police and Crime Commissioner stated that he would forward the information onto Panel members.

- Reference was made to the Commissioner's pledge to re-invest in the CCTV infrastructure in 2017/18. A query was raised regarding the timescale of this project. The PCC stated that line of sight tests had been carried out and that the project team were currently undertaking an analysis of the Wide Area Network (WAN) infrastructure, which is required to transfer large amounts of data.
- In addition the Commissioner informed the Panel that initial work would be carried out in Carmarthen which would be then extended to Llanelli and Ammanford over the next 6 months.
- In response to a query raised in relation to having a resilience plan in situ, the Commissioner stated that during his election pledge he stated that he would not require a Deputy. Whilst he felt this was a positive move, the extra workload was recognised. However, the Panel was re-assured that the Office had a close working relationship and boasted a plethora of experience.
- Following a query, the Commissioner updated the Panel with the latest position on the Criminal Justice Board. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the Police Accountability Board was scrutinised by the Quality Assurance Panel and that any learning outcomes identified would be implemented.
- It was raised that the meeting held on 27th January, 2017 (Minute 9 refers) resolved that following the invitation of the PCC that Professor I. Roffe would be a Member of the Research Board. However, the invite had not yet come to fruition. The Commissioner apologised for the oversight and would ensure that this would be rectified prior to the next meeting.
- In response to a query regarding the level of percentage on reserves, the Commissioner stated that no level had been set. The current levels mirror those set within other Unitary Authorities which were scrutinised by the Joint Audit Committee and that the Wales Audit Office were part of the Committee.
- The Panel raised that there had been considerable difficulties with the conduct of Travellers and requested that the Commissioner consider this matter further. The Commissioner stated that this matter would need to be considered in partnership with the Welsh Government and Local Authorities. Furthermore, he would be happy to assist in any research should the Panel decide to consider this matter as part of a Task and Finish Group.
- A query was raised regarding the changes in air support arrangements for and if any ongoing evaluation was taking place. The Commissioner explained to the Panel that this was a very complex matter and that he sat on the Strategic Air Service Board which ensured that the more rural parts of Wales had a voice.

In response to an additional query, the Commissioner stated that Capital finance was set as a Board to the National Secretary and that a contribution of £200k per annum was currently being made, a substantial reduction from £850k per annum.

- In response to a query regarding the use of drones, the Commissioner stated that drones from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service had been utilised at incidents such as the Kerosene Oil Leak at Nantycaws, Carmarthen and that he would consider purchasing drones in the near future.
- Following a concern raised in relation to domestic abuse and its effect on children. The Commissioner was asked, if he was confident that there was provision for children who were in this position? The Commissioner informed the Panel a study had been carried out by Public Health Wales - Adverse Child Experiences and that he hoped to receive £6m funding in order to support the outcomes of the study.
- In response to a comment on Sexual Abuse and child grooming, the Commissioner stated that 11 School Liaison Officers work as part of a national curriculum to prevent and safeguard children against such crime along with ongoing work by the Cyber Crime Unit.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.

7. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSIONER

The Panel received, for information, a report detailing the decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner for the period 19th January 2017 to 21st March, 2017.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, that the report be received.

8. POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

The Panel received for consideration a report on the Police Accountability Board, the public forum by which the Police and Crime Commissioner scrutinised the work of the Chief Constable and held him to account.

The Commissioner stated that he would encourage representation from the Panel to attend the meetings as an observer, in order that Members could satisfy themselves first-hand that he was robustly scrutinising the Chief Constable and the work of the Force. Furthermore, the Commissioner stated that there were other public meetings such as the Joint Audit Committee which may also be of interest to Panel members.

The Panel noted that the Police Accountability Board meetings were held quarterly in different locations around the force area with the next meeting being held in Narberth.

It was suggested and agreed that those Panel Members who are located in the same area as the location of the Board meeting would attend and provide a report to the next Panel meeting. It was further agreed that a Member of the Panel would attend the Joint Audit Committee as an observer.

The Acting Legal Services Manager informed the Panel that he would liaise with the Commissioners Officer and forward more details to Panel Members in due course.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that

- 8.1 The report on the Police Accountability Board be received;**
- 8.2 Panel Members located closest to the location of the meetings would attend the Police Accountability Board and Joint Audit Committee meetings as an observer;**
- 8.3 Panel Members observing meetings would formally report on the findings to the Panel at its next meeting.**

9. TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Panel considered a report which sought the Panel's decision as to whether or not to form a Task and Finish Group to undertake a piece of pro-active scrutiny into a particular issue, identify the issue to be scrutinised and appoint Panel Members to the group.

Following a discussion, it was agreed to set up in principal a Task and Finish Group following a training session which would be arranged in September 2017 and that the Group would comprise of Mrs Helen Thomas (Independent Member) and one Councillor from each Unitary Authority.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOVLED that

- 9.1 the report be received;**
- 9.2 the a Task and Finish Group would be set up and that a topic would be finalised, following the training session in September;**
- 9.3 the Task and Finish Group to comprise of Mrs H. Thomas and one Councillor from Each Unitary Authority.**

10. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel considered a draft Forward Work Programme which took into account both statutory requirements placed upon the Commissioner and Panel, and the proposed timetable for the implementation of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan. The Programme would be subject to review.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Forward Work Programme be endorsed.

11. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FOR THE COMMISSIONER

The Panel considered a report on Questions on Notice for the Commissioner which would facilitate a greater public engagement in the work of the Panel and raise the profile of individual member's contributions to panel discussions.

The Panel considered the proposals would to amend the procedure as set out in the report.

Panel members commented that the proposals would allow public questions to be received and formally recorded whilst providing the Commissioner and his team to prepare an informed and in-depth response.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 11.1 To receive the report on Questions on Notice for the Commissioner;**
- 11.2 To allow the public to submit questions to be put to the Commissioner at the next quarterly Panel meeting. The requirement for 10 working days' notice in writing to be retained.**
- 11.3 To allow Panel members to submit written questions on notice to the Commissioner at the next quarterly Panel Meeting and that the requirement of 10 working days' notice in writing to be adopted**
- 11.4 That both these items be retained as standing items on the agendas of all quarterly meetings even if there are no questions to be put.**
- 11.5 That it is the Chairs discretion to limit the total number of questions to be considered on any one agenda in order to ensure the proper conduct of the remaining Panel business;**
- 11.6 That in relation to public questions, the person putting the question need not attend the meeting, given the travelling distances involved;**
- 11.7 That this approach be adopted on a trial basis initially until the Panel AGM in 2018.**

12. 6TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR POLICE AND CRIME PANELS

The Panel received for consideration a report which included a programme on the 6th Annual Conference for Police and Crime Panels hosted by Frontline Consulting at the Scarman Conference Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry on the 6th November 2017.

It was commented that this would be an excellent networking opportunity. It was therefore proposed that the Vice Chair attends the Conference along with any other Panel Members who would like to attend. This was agreed.

RESOLVED that the Vice Chair attends the 6th Annual Conference for Police and Crime Panels on the 6th November 2017 along with any other Member who would like to attend.

CHAIR

DATE