

DYFED POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

FRIDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2024

PRESENT: Professor Ian Roffe (Independent Member)(Chair)

Carmarthenshire County Council Members:

K. Howell and K. Davies

Ceredigion County Council Members:

E. Evans, K. Evans and W. Thomas

Pembrokeshire County Council Matters:

J. Grimes

Powys County Council Members:

L. George, W. Powell and L. Rijenberg

Independent Member

Mrs H.M. Thomas

In attendance from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner:

Mr D. Llywelyn – Police and Crime Commissioner;

Mrs C. Morgans – Chief Executive

Mrs N. Davies – Chief Finance Officer.

Also Present (In Person):

R. Edgecombe, Legal Services Manager

S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator

M. Runeckles, Members Support Officer

K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, Powys County Council, - Llandrindod Wells, Powys - 10.30 am - 12.35 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND PERSONAL MATTERS

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Simon Hancock (Pembrokeshire County Council).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Member	Agenda Item No	Interest
Mrs H. Thomas	All items	Any discussion concerning the Living Wage – A Family Member is involved in the discussions

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 24TH JULY 2024

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel held on the 24th July 2024 be signed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (IF ANY)

Minute Item 4

An update was requested in relation to the review of the School Programme. The Police and Crime Commissioner advised that following the Welsh Governments previous decision to withdraw financial support for the programme across Wales, he had decided the programme would continue within the Dyfed Powys Force area. Currently there were 14 school officers engaged with visiting all primary and secondary schools in the area and he was exploring the possibility of extending the service to include higher education facilities including, 6th forms and universities. The Commissioner also confirmed that following a discussion with fellow Police and Crime Commissioners across Wales regarding portfolios, he was responsible for the Children and Young People Portfolio and would be leading and engaging with the youth justice service within Wales and the Welsh Government.

5. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

5.1 - Question from Councillor Liz Rijnenberg

According to press reports, in Dyfed Powys people from Black Minority Ethnic backgrounds are 4 times more likely to be stopped and searched than their white counterparts. Could the Commissioner advise how he is assured that reviews have been undertaken on all such cases, that they are robust and thorough and that systems are in place to share good practice.

Response from the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Commissioner advised that currently, within the Dyfed Powys Police Force area approximately 2% of the population were Black or Asian, representing a small minority. However, in examining statistics, whilst they represented a small portion of the public, fluctuations in the statistics could be dramatic in comparison to the whole of the population.

The Commissioner advised that in relation to the issue of stop and search practices within the force area, a sergeant would scrutinise 20 stop and search records on a monthly basis which was then followed by a further audit undertaken by Inspectors who were required to audit five random stop and search records each month to assess whether actions taken were appropriate in the context of age, vulnerability, and the removal of clothing as part of a strip search. Additionally, a further 100% audit of all stop and search records was undertaken where they involved either self-defined or officer -defined ethnicity. The findings of those reviews were then fed into the quarterly Ethical Use of

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

Police Power (EUPP) meetings where they were scrutinised and attended by a representative of the Commissioner's office to maintain oversight and to identify any matters for escalation to the Commissioner.

The Commissioner advised that any learning requirements identified from the reviews were fed back into the Force's Learning and Development services and Special Operations training. All reports, with Force comments, were published on the Commissioner's website. There were also plans to introduce a QR code for persons subjected to a stop and search to have access to their corresponding record. Consideration was also being given to Youth Ambassadors engaging with schools to scrutinise stop and search incidents via anonymised scenarios of real situations

5.2 - Question from Councillor Liz Rijnenberg

The need for police officers to be visible and responsive remains important in delivering most aspects of the Police and Crime Plan. How is the Commissioner assured by the Chief Constable that the channels of communication between the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and stakeholders such as individual members of the public, councillors and community groups are sufficient to facilitate this.

Response from the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner responded that Police visibility is valued by communities and was seen as an area of policing crucial for deterring crime and building community trust.

He advised that there had been a slight change in the operating model of the neighbourhood policing teams with their rebranding as Neighbourhood Policing and Prevention Teams (NPPTs). As part of the new arrangements a new strategy and delivery plan had been developed incorporating a community engagement strategy with the plan's operation being monitored and recorded

As part of the new strategy, the performance framework required NPPT's to publish monthly priorities and to hold regular community meetings. The strategy also introduced new governance arrangements. Additionally, he advised he was becoming involved with the community roles to maximise ways of working with the force, with the outcomes being relayed to the inspector responsible for the NPPT's

The Commissioner in response to a question regarding the delivery plan and performance framework, confirmed they would be cascaded to force inspectors and local authority policing areas. Additionally, efforts were being made to encourage County and Town and Community Councils to become more engaged with the force.

A question was asked about rules around the number of hours officers must be 'on the beat' for visibility. The Commissioner advised that whilst there was no rule as such, there was a target for them to be out of the station for 70 - 75% of the time. However, the level of visibility varied from area to area and there was a

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

need to obtain consistency between those areas. It should also be noted that officers not on the beat were still doing important work responding to incidents / undertaking investigations. The new NPPT's addressed the issues of visibility, and the engagement strategy would provide proof of its success which could then be shared with community leaders. He confirmed the Force needed to do more to share its activities with the public.

5.3 - Question from Councillor Ken Howell

Since establishment of the Dyfed Powys Police Rural Crime Unit, how has the Commissioner been assured that it has been effective in reducing rural crime and helping to deliver the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan

Response from the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Commissioner advised the Unit had been effective in reducing rural crime with its main focus being as a contact for the community and regularly visited the community and markets etc to maintain a visible presence. He also ensured the team unit was effective by maintaining regular contact with the sergeant in charge of the unit to discuss its activities. Additionally, he met with representatives of farming unions and Welsh Government to discuss rural crime and to understand and identify any weaknesses.

He advised that whilst the unit had recently suffered with staffing issues it had now been incorporated within the restructured NPPT's. He confirmed the situation had improved over recent years.

5.4 - Question from Councillor Ken Howell

During the run up to the Police and Crime Commissioner elections earlier this year, I engaged with many voters in my Ward, and I was surprised at the indifferent, and even on occasion hostile attitude towards the Police. Is the Commissioner concerned that Dyfed Powys Police is losing the trust of the populace, and if so, how can that trust be regained?

Response from the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Commissioner responded that this was something that forces across the UK faced and whilst he had witnessed a reduction in the public's confidence with the police over recent years, the recent consultation to inform the new Police Plan had revealed that two-thirds of the respondents had confidence in the police locally.

The Commissioner added that whilst he was not surprised with the reduction in confidence across the UK, in so far as the Dyfed Powys Force was concerned it was imperative it communicated better with the public, highlighting its good work and addressing negative issues out of the force in order to maintain the highest possible levels of professionalism

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

The Panel referenced that most of those who were antagonistic towards the police were so as a direct result of a disappointing experience with the way the police had addressed / engaged with them.

The Commissioner referred to his role as the victim champion where he regularly received feedback on how the force could improve and advised it was his intention to undertake a full training audit to ensure communication training was effective and efficiently delivered.

The Panel referred to the new engagement strategy for the NPPT's and stressed the importance of not under valuing the role of community leaders involving community leaders

The Commissioner agreed there needed to be a greater level of engagement, including with Town & Community Councils, and to ensure consistency of service across the force area.

6. REVIEW OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

[NOTE: Mrs H. Thomas had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Panel, in accordance with the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 reviewed the Police and Crime Plan for the Dyfed Powys Police Force developed by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The following observations/comments were raised on the report:

- In response to a question on the precept funding for 2024/25, the Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed he would ensure the wording in the Plan was amended to clarify that the £332.03 precept was based on Band D properties.
- Reference was made to the fact Panel members were aware of both good, and indifferent responses, to the plan and clarification was sought on how the Commissioner would ensure a consistent approach to neighbourhood policing.

The Commissioner, advised that the force had developed a new Performance Framework, which included the Neighbourhood Policing and Prevention Teams, detailing how the force engaged with the Community

- With regard to a question on the regularity of meetings of the Police Accountability Board, the Commissioner accepted there had been a time lag since the last meeting held in March 2024, and that the next meeting to be held on the 5th November, 2024 would have a new focus on performance.

Reference was made to the importance of members of the Police and Crime Panel being invited and attending meetings of the Accountability Board. The Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed that Panel members were welcome to attend these scrutiny meetings to see how he held the Chief Constable to account. He also advised that as public

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

attendance at the meetings was low, future meetings would be webcast to reach a wider audience.

- In response to a question on whether the police estate affected the Plan's operation, the Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed that it did not and that it was hoped it enhanced the Plan. He advised that the operation of the estate was currently under review as the force addressed the challenge of the digital world and how it responded thereto. He cited the provision of the new facility at Dafen and the new custody suite and to how the estate strategy could enhance the way the force policed crime. Whilst recognising the need to modernise, there was a financial consequence associated therewith and that would prove to be challenging with the demands on the capital budget subsequently impacting the revenue budget. However, the force while needing to be modern, must also recognise and not lose sight of the public's desire for a police presence within their areas.
- The Panel's attention was drawn to a recent visit to a Panel Members ward by officers from the force's headquarters with expertise in the built environment and how that environment could help address issues of Anti-Social Behaviour within Communities. It was suggested it would be beneficial if those officers could liaise with officers from each of the 4 County Councils to share that expertise.

The Police and Crime Commissioner in response welcomed the suggestion and advised that in preparing the Plan, it was recognised it needed to be more strategic, as opposed to prescriptive, and to ensure communities took advantage of the advice available. He advised he would consider the above suggestion on officers meeting with council officers.

- In response to a question, the Police and Crime Commissioner advised whilst there had been a 200% increase in the number of people responding to the Plan consultation, there was room for further improvement. In that regard he would be looking to adopt a more blended approach to future consultations to include in person, digitally and within the community

RESOLVED that the Review of the Police and Crime Plan be supported and that the Panel inform the Police and Crime Commissioner that it had no recommendations to make thereon.

7. REVISED GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

[NOTE: Mrs H. Thomas had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Panel received a report prepared by the Police and Crime Commissioner on a review he had undertaken on the governance arrangements by which he held the Chief Constable to account. It was noted the revised arrangements would replace the previous Policing Board and Police Accountability Board.

The following observations/comments were raised on the report:-

- Reference was made to the changes being introduced as part of the Police and Crime Commissioners new Governance Arrangements and an

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

acceptance made that both the Policing Board and Police Accountability Board had run their course and change was required. Having regard to the numerous changes introduced and being introduced, a view was expressed that it was important the Panel was apprised of those for example:-

- Some 12 months had lapsed since the force received the outcome of the Peer Review and the Panel would need to see any changes introduced as a consequence of the review findings
- The Commissioner had referred earlier in the meeting to the precept and to the new control centre and the Panel should be informed of their progression
- It was acknowledged that changes, such as the new Neighbourhood Policing and Prevention Teams, could affect staff morale and it was important for the Panel to see how those changes were proceeding.
- In response to a question relating to Terms of Reference for both the Select Committee and Community Engagement, the Chief Executive for the Commissioners' office advised that terms of reference for the Select Committee were currently being drafted but there were none relating to Community Engagement.

The Police and Crime Commissioner further advised that the Select Committees terms of reference would be bespoke and more thematic. With regard to community engagement, he confirmed it was important the arrangements therefor clearly detailed the work to be undertaken.

- The Police and Crime Commissioner referred to the forces' future investment requirements and advised he would be liaising with the Panel Chair thereon prior to the forthcoming finance seminar. With regard to financing generally, he advised any changes introduced by the new UK Government such as the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee may impact on those finances.
- In response to a question on the Panel's visibility under the new governance arrangements, the Commissioner advised that was a matter for the Panel to consider. However, he welcomed Panel member attendance at meetings of the Strategic Board and the Select Committee.
- In response to a question on the operation of the Commission Board, the Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed its work would now be undertaken by the Strategic Performance Board.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed he would be liaising with the newly elected Members of Parliament for the force area.
- Reference was made to Community Engagement and to whether the Commissioner had focussed on the cost framework to ensure there was no underestimate of the level of resources required. The Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed he had the necessary resources to support him which included the Head of the Professional Board and Head of Assurance.

RESOLVED that the revised governance arrangements by which the Police and Crime Commissioner held the Chief Constable to account be noted.

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

8. DECISIONS MADE BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Panel considered a report on decisions taken by the Commissioner between 13th July, 2024 to the 11th October 2024.

The Panel noted that Section 28(6) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires it to review decisions made and actions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of his functions and to also make such reports and recommendations to the Commissioner in relation to those decisions and actions as the Panel considers appropriate.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

9. POLICING PROTOCOL - PERFORMANCE REPORT

[NOTE: Mrs H. Thomas had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Panel considered a performance report in relation to the Policing Protocol for Q2 of the financial year 2024-25.

It was reported that this Quarter has seen the change in performance of a number of actions, 1 actions had changed from Amber to Green and 3 had moved from Green to Amber.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10. OPCC BUSINESS PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT

[NOTE: Mrs H. Thomas had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Panel received the Progress report of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Business Plan for Quarter 2 – 2024/25. The report outlined the progress that had been made in delivering the requirements of the business plan in alignment with the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan.

It was noted that the report highlighted a number of changes in RAG status during Quarter 2.

The Commissioner's Chief Executive referred to the OPCC Business Plan progress report and the Policing Protocol Performance report (discussed in minute 8 above) and informed the Panel that due to a number of cross cutting themes between the two, it was proposed that from April 2025 they would form one Operational Report.

The following issues / questions were raised on the report:

- In response to a question on immediate justice, the Panel was advised that related to new government proposals on restorative justice which

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

were currently being examined by the Assistant Chief Constable. It was noted that while there may be additional funding requirements associated with any new proposals, they could not be fully assessed until such time as the Government published its proposals

- With regard to a question on the discontinuance by the Pembrokeshire Community Safety Partnership of its participation in the Home Office's Domestic Homicide Review, the Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed the discontinuance only related to that specific pilot and the Partnership itself would continue.
- In relation to a question on the Sexual Abuse Service, the Police and Crime Commissioner advised the new Individual Sexual Advisory Service was different to the Sexual Abuse Services. He advised that with regard to the proposed new Sexual Abuse Referral Clinic (SARC) at Bronglais Hospital its approval was currently awaiting Welsh Government sign off for the associated capital investment and that he would provide an update thereon at a future Panel meeting.
- In response to a question relating to the White Ribbon Campaign, the Commissioner confirmed the force's involvement therein including, its attendance at a number of campaign events

RESOLVED that the report be noted

CHAIR

DATE

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.