

**DYFED-POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
27TH JANUARY 2017**

PRESENT: A Lloyd-Jones (Chair);

Carmarthenshire County Council Members:-

Councillors W.G. Hopkins; W.J.W. Evans

Ceredigion County Council Members

Councillors J.D. Rowland Jones and T.H. Lewis;

Pembrokeshire County Council Members

Councillors R. Summons, T. Wilcox and S. Yelland;

Powys County Council Members

Councillors D.O. Evans, G. Jones and P. Medicott;

Independent Members

Professor I. Roffe and 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;

Ms. J. Woods –Chief Finance Officer

Officers also in attendance: -

Carmarthenshire County Council:-

Mr. R. Edgecombe – Acting Legal Services Manager;

Ms. L. Morris – Senior Press Officer;

Mrs. J. Owen – Democratic Services Officer.

Chamber, 3 Spilman Street, Carmarthen 10.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES AND OTHER MATTERS

No apologies for absence were received, however, it was noted that Councillor P Jones was not present.

2. APPOINTMENT OF PANEL CHAIR

Members paid tribute to the excellent Chairmanship provided by Mr. Edwards over the last 4 years. The Police and Crime Commissioner wished to be associated with these sentiments. The Panel requested that a letter be forwarded to Mr. Edwards tendering the Panel's appreciation.

[Councillor A. Lloyd-Jones left the meeting]

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.

[Councillor A. Lloyd-Jones re-joined the meeting]

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.

3. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

There were no declarations of personal interest.

4. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 21ST OCTOBER 2016

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel held on the 21st October, 2016 be signed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Reference was made to minute 9, Home Office Grant for Panel Activities. The Acting Legal Services Manager informed the Panel that overall the grant was sufficient for the Panel to carry out its function, however, currently Members were only able to claim for a limited number of Panel meetings. It was agreed that the item would be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.

The Police and Crime Commissioner informed the Panel that he would welcome any changes in the Panels' function and would be keen to utilise the Panel for Scrutiny purposes.

6. POLICE PRECEPT

The Police and Crime Commissioner [PCC] presented to the Panel his report on the proposed precept/budget for 2017/18, the main aim of which was to protect front line policing, reduce crime and keeping the Community Safe. In setting the precept, the PCC stated that he had consulted with the public and discussed in detail the Chief Constable's plans for staffing levels, police services and future investment needs in agreeing the Force's budget for 2017/18.

The Commissioner advised that the core components of the budget had led to his recommendation of a 3.5% total increase in the 2017/18 precept. If accepted by the Panel, that would result in a police precept of £47.303m which, when combined with central and local funding, would amount to a total budget of £96.616m, with an average band D council tax property paying £213.87, which was at a level that was 6.9% higher than the 2016/17 level.

The PCC stated that he had acted prudently in order to reflect the uncertainty which remained in relation to the future financial settlements for policing the Dyfed-Powys area, and in doing so, the medium term financial plan exhibited the loss of £5m of central funding over 2018/19 and 2019/20.

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

In response to a query on Reserves, the Chief Finance Officer stated that the general reserve currently amounted to £4.500m which equated to 4.7% of the 2017 net revenue budget and was therefore within the parameters set in the PCC's reserves policy.

Reference was given to the additional staff equating to £500k. It was commented that £500k seemed a large investment and it was asked if the amount was a necessary spend on back office staff. The PCC informed the Panel that following the ambitious programme of back office reductions, which saw a significant reduction in the number of staff, it had become apparent that those reductions were not sustainable in the longer term. Following an additional query, the PCC stated that additional back office staff included corporate support and supervision, crime recording assistance and firearms licensing.

In response to a query regarding the contributions from the Welsh Government, the PCC stated that ongoing negotiations were taking place with the Welsh Government to increase the 16% contribution, which was currently received by the Force.

It was asked, if the Home Office had been consulting on their funding formula adequately? The PCC stated that the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service had a positive stance on consultation and was actively involved in engagement. Furthermore, there was concern that Dyfed-Powys may lose a significant amount of central funding and it was understood that the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service wanted the new formula to be implemented in 2018/19 with a minimal transition period. This would require a robust consultation throughout July and August 2017.

Reference was made to Transformational Fund where it was commented that it was important to engage with the other Forces. In response, the PCC stated that the Minister and Home Secretary had recently been liaising about the benefits of transformation services and collaboration which in turn had seen a growth in the value of Transformation Funds. Furthermore, the PCC confirmed that in order to ensure that the Force was maximising its opportunities, they would be engaging with Forces across the border and other Agencies.

In response to a query regarding Cyber Crime, the PCC informed the Panel that whilst Cyber Crime continued to present significant challenges to all police forces, Dyfed-Powys Police were at the forefront in this area of work. In order to keep abreast with the changes in technology and increasing use of digital cyber related devices, Dyfed-Powys had introduced a dedicated Cyber Crime Unit and wished to invest £300k into additional analytical, training and examining skills.

There were concerns that a 6.9% increase was too much and was significantly above the predicted inflation costs. The PCC stated that over the last 3 years, comparative data showed cuts in policing by 20% year on year. Furthermore, the increase of 6.9% was a result of the previous PCC's decision to reduce the council tax precept for 2015/16 by 5% and to use reserves to fund an element of the revenue budgets for 2015/16 to 2018/19.

In response to a further query, the PCC informed the Panel that even with the 6.9% increase Dyfed-Powys Police remained the cheapest Force in Wales.

Reference was made to the PCC's plans to introduce CCTV. The PCC stated that he planned to reinvest in an appropriate CCTV infrastructure which would provide an effective, co-ordinated and timely response to Anti-Social Behaviour. The PCC added that he would have further information on the progress of this matter later in the month.

The PCC reassured the Panel that his plans and decisions were not of a political view and added that he would be happy to defend any decision made through the press. At this point the Acting Legal Services Manager informed the Panel that a press statement would be developed and published following the meeting.

RESOLVED

- 6.1. that the Commissioner's proposal to increase the Dyfed-Powys Police's precept by 6.9% for 2017/18 be endorsed.**
- 6.2. That an appropriate Press Release be issued on behalf of the Police and Crime Panel.**

[In accordance with the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel Rules of Procedures 15.4, Councillors D. O Evans, G. Jones and P. Medicott wished to record their vote as against the proposal to increase the precept 6.9% for 2017/18.]

At this point the Chair requested to adjourn the meeting for a 5 minute break 12:05pm.

The meeting reconvened at 12:10pm.

7. POLICE & CRIME PLAN

The Police and Crime Commissioner [PCC] circulated a report detailing the process undertaken to inform his Police and Crime Plan which he was required to produce under Section 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The report detailed, for the Panel's consideration, the four priorities areas and key delivery principals for policing and crime covering the period 2017-21. The Plan also reflected the key opportunities, risks and challenges to policing on a national, regional and local basis.

The PCC highlighted to the Panel that he had included a section which provided the roles and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Panel.

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

Reference was given to the Police and Crime Commissioner Roles and Responsibilities section, where it was suggested to include an additional bullet point which described how the work of the PCC linked to the Police and Crime Panel. The PCC agreed to include the suggestion into the Plan.

A question was raised in relation to the Dyfed-Powys Police estates programme. The PCC clarified that the Carmarthenshire Custody Suite would be utilised as a county-wide resource. In response to an additional query, the PCC stated that he was committed to ensuring that staff were properly dispersed across the Dyfed-Powys area.

In response to a query regarding safeguarding vulnerable people, the PCC stated that Safeguarding Boards ensure that there were strong links with the NHS. In addition, as safeguarding vulnerable people was a complex area, he planned to work closely with partner organisations through the Public Service Boards to safeguard children and young people, families and vulnerable adults, focusing on prevention and early intervention initiatives.

It was suggested that the priorities and key deliverables should form part of the press release. The Acting Legal Services Manager confirmed that Dyfed-Police and Crime Plan 2017-21 would be included in the press release. Furthermore, it was suggested that any comments regarding the Plan should be forwarded to the Acting Legal Services Manager by no later than the 10th February 2017, who would then collate and forward to the PCC accordingly. The Panel were in agreement.

It was raised that the Panel would welcome the Chief Constable and other Officer's to attend the meeting along with the PCC. The PCC agreed that this would be a positive move and that the Chief Constable would be invited to attend a future meeting.

RESOLVED, that

7.1 the report be received,

7.2 members of the Panel forward their comments on the Police and Crime Plan 2017-21 to the Acting Legal Services Manager by 10th February 2017.

8. 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 14th October 2016 to 18th January, 2017.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

The Acting Legal Services Manager informed the Panel that the PCC had invited a member of the Panel to sit on his Research Board. Should the Panel agree, Members were advised that:-

1. Members of the Panel were currently limited to claim for 5 days per year.
2. That Members should seek dispensation from their relevant Councils Standards Committee.
3. Panel Members may find it difficult to scrutinise whilst being a member of the research board.

The PCC informed the Panel that the Research Board would consist of a wide range of individuals with differing expertise and experience from outside of the Police Force in order to capitalise plans using an evidence-based approach.

The general consensus was that the Panel would benefit from the Research Board.

It was proposed that Professor I. Roffe be a Member on the Research Board, which was seconded.

It was unanimously RESOLVED that Professor I. Roffe be a Member of the Research Board.

SIGNED:

DATE: