

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

23 September 2016 – at a meeting of the Panel held at 11.00 a.m. at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

David Simmons	Adur DC
Len Brown (1)	Arun DC
Emma Daniel	Brighton and Hove CC
Lee Wares	Brighton and Hove CC
Eileen Lintill	Chichester DC
Alan Shuttleworth	Eastbourne BC
Bill Bentley	East Sussex CC
Trevor Webb (2)	Hastings BC
Kate Rowbottom	Horsham DC
Tony Nicholson	Lewes DC
Eleanor Kirby-Green	Rother DC
Claire Dowling	Wealden DC
Sandra James	West Sussex CC
Brad Watson OBE	West Sussex CC
Kevin Jenkins (3)	Worthing BC
Peter Nightingale	Independent
Susan Scholefield (4)	Independent

(1) Substitute for Paul Wotherspoon

(2) Substitute for Warren Davies

(3) Substitute for Val Turner

(4) Substitute for Graham Hill

Apologies for absence were received from Warren Davies (Hastings BC), Val Turner (Worthing BC), Graham Hill (Independent), Michael Jones (Crawley BC) and Paul Wotherspoon (Arun DC).

In attendance: Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner; Mark Streater, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer of the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (OSPCC); Peter Gillett, Chief Finance Officer of Sussex Police; and Ninesh Edwards and Rachel Allan (Host Authority - West Sussex CC).

Declarations of Interest

38. In accordance with the code of conduct members of the Panel declared the personal interests contained in the table below.

Panel Member	Personal Interest
Brad Watson	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership
Dave Simmons	Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership, Adur and Worthing Vice-Chairman of Safer West Sussex Partnership
Bill Bentley	Chairman of East Sussex Safer Community Board Member of the LGA Safer and Stronger Communities Board. LGA National Member Champion for domestic violence

	issues.
Emma Daniel	Member of Brighton and Hove Safe in the City Partnership Board
Eileen Lintill	Member of Chichester Community Safety Partnership
Tony Nicholson	Chairman of Lewes Community Safety Partnership
Michael Jones	Chairman of Safer Crawley Partnership
Kate Rowbottom	Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership at Horsham
Warren Davies	Chairman of the Safer Community Partnership at Hastings
Lee Wares	Applicant to funding provided by the Commission on behalf of a Local Action Team
Norman Webster	Member of Mid Sussex Partnership
Alan Shuttleworth	Chair of Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership
Kevin Jenkins	Member of Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership.
Susan Scholefield	Magistrate
Len Brown	Member of Safer Arun Partnership

Welcome

39. The Chairman welcomes the Police and Crime Commissioner and the High Sheriff of West Sussex to the meeting.

Minutes

40. The Panel asked for clarification on the date for the Commissioner's business case for the potential changes to the fire and rescue service. The Commissioner advised that this would be around the end of December 2016/beginning January 2017.

41. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel held on 4 July 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

Appointment of Chief Finance Officer

42. The Panel noted the response from the Police and Crime Commissioner that confirmed the appointment of Iain McCulloch as the Chief Finance Officer of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Annual Report

43. The Panel noted the response from the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Panel's comments on the Annual Report discussed at the previous meeting of the Panel.

Working Group Update

44. The Panel received a verbal update on the Police and Crime Plan Working Group. The Chairman advised that the group met in August 2016, and had received a presentation from officers on the Police and Crime Plan. He added that the group would be meeting again in December 2016 and would continue to keep the rest of the Panel up to date.

Medium Term Financial Forecast and Budget Timetable 2017/18

45. The Panel considered the Report by the Police and Crime Commissioner which set out the latest budget planning assumptions for the financial year 2017/18. It also contained the Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF) covering the period up to 2021.

46. The Head of Finance (Sussex Police) took the Panel through the Report. He advised that this report set out the position statement and timetable for the OSPCC. He added that a review was currently being undertaken in relation to the police grant formula, and that Sussex Police would ensure they took a full part in the consultation. He further added that the accounts had now been formally approved. These accounts assumed no precept increase as yet, and set out the budget savings that were required.

47. The Panel raised the following issues and questions of the Commissioner:

- A question was raised about the cost of asset management. *The Head of Finance confirmed that there was currently a review being undertaken of asset management, and the report would be updated consequently if changes needed to be made.*
- The Panel raised concerns that, although it had been promised that neighbourhood policing was a priority, a significant amount of the budget had been cut from this area as part of the wider savings that needed to be made. *The Commissioner explained that the local neighbourhood policing model had not been reviewed for some time. Savings did need to be made, and changes in the nature and types of crimes being committed needed to be addressed. She assured the Panel that local neighbourhood policing was still a priority, and she would continue to scrutinise the Chief Constable on the new model, and would continue to listen to stakeholders and members of the public on this issue.*
- A question was asked in terms of street drinking in Hastings. *The Commissioner was happy to talk further on this issue outside of the meeting, and advised that the member in question may wish to see if the recent local alcohol action area's pilot could be extended.*
- The Panel asked for the level of cuts to PCSOs. *The Commissioner confirmed that there had been a reduction of around 60 PCSO roles.*
- In relation to the financial provisional, as set out page 26 of the agenda, the Panel asked for a breakdown of these costs. *The Head of Finance agreed to provide a breakdown to the Panel.*
- Regarding the level of reserves currently set at 4.3%, the Panel asked if this was being reviewed. *The Commissioner advised that the lower limit had been set at 4%, providing flexibility for unforeseen circumstances.*
- The Panel asked if the interim forecast was looking accurate, in terms of the original budget. *The Head of Finance confirmed that they anticipated a balanced budget and agreed to provide a line on this issue in further reports.*
- The Panel asked when the Commissioner would have further information on the possible changes to the police grant formula. The Commissioner advised

that they had no further information at present, but would ensure that they were fully engaged in the consultation process.

- Regarding the level of savings required, the Panel asked why a surplus in some years was being carried over when significant cuts were being made to budgets. *The Commissioner advised that it was prudent to plan sensibly, and be prepared for other issues that may arise.*
- Concern was raised regarding the level of savings required, and the Panel asked if the Commissioner lobbied government for more funding. *The Commissioner confirmed that she continued to lobby government, and had effectively done so in previous years.*
- The Panel asked if the Commissioner was aware of upcoming changes to pension provision for women. *The Commissioner confirmed that she would look into this matter.*
- Regarding income generation, the Commissioner advised that she was open to this, and always looking for opportunities. She continued to work with Gatwick Airport and Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club in terms of policing costs.
- The Panel asked what options there were for an increased precept. *The Commissioner advised that the budget had been set on an assumption of no precept increase, and it was the Chief Constable's responsibility to provide evidence to her if an increase was necessary. At that point she would consult with the public.*
- The Panel questioned the level of communication that had been undertaken regarding the changes to neighbourhood policing. *The Commissioner advised that Sussex Police had undertaken a very detailed and thorough communications plan for this, and that she had been disappointed in the low turnout by local members to public meetings and roadshows.*
- The Panel asked if the Commissioner was confident that the Chief Constable had the sufficient resources to deliver the Police and Crime Plan as the detail was still being developed. *The Commissioner explained that this was an assumption based on current knowledge.*
- The Commissioner confirmed that the Police Hub was not closing in Hastings.

48. Resolved – that the Panel:

1. Notes the Medium Term Financial Forecast and Budget Timetable 2017/18

Development of Police and Crime Plan 2017-21

49. The Panel considered the Report by the Police and Crime Commissioner which set out the Police and Crime Plan 2017-21.

50. The Chief Executive of the OSPCC took the Panel through the Report. He explained that the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) had a statutory duty to set the police and crime objectives for their area through a Police & Crime Plan. The prescribed content of the Plan was set out in Chapter 3 – Section 7(1) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSRA).

51. The current Plan was approved by the Sussex Police & Crime Panel on 11 January 2013 and had been refreshed annually in accordance with Section 5(9) PRSRA. This Plan also remained valid until 31 March 2017.

52. Work on the Police & Crime Plan 2017/21 had begun and would include shaping, developing and designing community safety priorities which reflected accurately the expectations of the public. The Plan was intended to cover the (second) four-year term of office of the PCC and would again be refreshed annually. He added that a reference group had been set up, which would meet before the Panel's working group.

53. The Panel raised the following issues and questions of the Commissioner:

- The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that he would circulate the presentation given to the Working Group to all Panel members.
- The Panel asked if the objectives were unique to Sussex. *The Commissioner confirmed that they were, as they were part of her manifesto, informed from talking to local residents. She advised the Panel on what the objectives covered.*
- The Panel raised concerns regarding the objective "Strengthening local policing", as residents may feel that changes to the neighbourhood policing model contradicted this statement, since it sounded as though this meant more local policing. *The Commissioner advised that she would ensure that stakeholders and the public understood the term.*
- The Panel questioned recent concerns highlighted by the Youth Commissioner, specifically young people being victims rather than perpetrators of crime. *The Commissioner advised that Sussex Police continued to work with young people in this area.*
- The Panel asked whether more information could be put into the Plan. *The Commissioner reminded the Panel that this was a strategic document and that it was for the Chief Constable to ensure its delivery.*
- The Commissioner confirmed that "access to justice" meant ensuring new technologies were embraced to help officers and victims of crime access courts and the justice system more easily.
- The Panel was concerned that the reduction in neighbourhood policing would impact on the elderly population, and that while credit card fraud was typically addressed by the credit card companies, this was not the case for the banking industry in respect of bank fraud. *The Commissioner explained that fraud covered a multitude of issues.*
- Concerning the precept, the Commissioner advised that the Chief Constable would need to show a clear business case for any increase.
- The Chairman confirmed that all comments under this item would be included on the Working Group agenda at its next meeting.

54. Resolved – that the Panel:

1. Notes the Development of the Police and Crime Plan 2017-21.

Police and Crime Panel Work Programme 2016/17

55. The Panel considered the Work Plan of the Panel for 2016/17 (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Chairman invited the Panel to make any comments on the topics highlighted in the Work Programme and make suggestions on any further topics that should be considered by the Panel.

56. The Panel advised that scrutiny of any proposed changes to responsibility for fire and rescue services should be added to the work programme.

57. Resolved – That the Panel agreed the Work Plan.

Quarterly Report of Complaints

58. The Panel received and noted a report providing an update on complaints received in the last quarter.

Written Questions

59. The Panel received and noted the schedule of written questions submitted prior to the meeting and the responses from the Commissioner's Office (copy appended to the signed copy of the minutes).

60. The Commissioner advised that, regarding the issue of street drinking in Hastings and other towns in the county, a multi-agency approach was being undertaken to address this issue, and that Sussex was not alone in this issue.

Commissioner's Question Time

61. The Panel raised the following issues and questions of the Commissioner:

- The Panel asked whether the Commissioner could provide further information relating to performance measures and data that she used in order to evidence the Chief Constable's successful delivery of the Neighbourhood Policing Model. *The Commissioner advised that she used various data sources, including police systems as well as HM Inspection data and regular public and stakeholder meetings. She added that the Chief Constable was undertaking the new neighbourhood policing review, and that she was happy for the Panel to look at the performance measures that were being used.*
- The Panel asked if the Commissioner was confident that adequate resources were in place for Lewes Bonfire, as this year's event was on a Saturday therefore higher turnout figures were expected. *The Commissioner confirmed that she was confident the Chief Constable had the required resources in place, and she always ensured that she scrutinised the event afterwards.*
- The Panel asked if it could be involved in the design of the review of the new Neighbourhood Policing Model. *The Commissioner advised that she would ensure that the Chief Constable heard the Panel's concerns, and that any specific questions the Panel had could be sent to her.*
- The Panel raised concern over the correct recording of crime, and indicated that Sussex Police should be aiming for a figure of 100%. *The Commissioner explained that 100% was hard to achieve, and that a recent inspection had raised the Police's result from 82% to 95% which was a great achievement.*
- The Panel asked for the Commissioner to assure members that Sussex Police did not have cases of sexism in the workplace as some other police forces. *The Commissioner gave that assurance.*
- The Panel asked what work was being undertaken to ensure the recruitment, and career opportunities were there for women and BME communities within Sussex Police. *The Commissioner advised that she sat on the board of the College of Policing, where work was being undertaken in this area and she held regular governance meetings to address this topic. She added that a*

new campaign would be starting in October in order to recruit more police officers from BME communities.

- The Panel asked for the timescales in relation to the police restructure concerning police constables and sergeants. *The Commissioner confirmed that as this was an operational question she would get a response outside of this meeting.*
- The Panel asked a question concerning the commissioning of victim services. *The Commissioner explained that she would continue to help fund projects for victims, and to secure further funding.*
- The Panel asked the Commissioner for an update on the 101 service, specifically any access problems and performance measures that were available. *The Commissioner advised that progress was varied, and that perhaps the target that had been set was too high. She reminded the Panel that this was for non-emergency calls and that she continued to monitor this issue.*
- The Panel asked if the Commissioner used benchmarking data from other areas. The Commissioner confirmed that data was available online that could be used.
- The Chairman highlighted the issue of transparency in terms of decision making, and asked if the Commissioner felt her decision reporting was in enough detail. The Commissioner advised that her decision making had been audited as good, but that she would look into this issue.

Date of next meeting

62. The next meeting date of 20 January 2017 was noted.

The meeting ended at 1.55p.m.

Chairman