

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
STRATEGIC RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2013
AT NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY
BRACKENHURST COLLEGE, SOUTHWELL
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, NG25 0QF
COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM

MEMBERSHIP

(A – denotes absence)

- Paddy Tipping – Police and Crime Commissioner
Chris Cutland – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Kevin Dennis – Chief Executive, OPCC
Charlie Radford – Chief Finance Officer, OPCC
Chris Eyre – Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire Police
Sue Fish – Deputy Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire Police
A Steve Jupp – Assistant Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire Police
Simon Torr – Assistant Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire Police
A Margaret Monckton – ACO Resources, Nottinghamshire Police

OTHERS PRESENT

Sara Allmond – Democratic Services, Notts. County Council
Sallie Blair – Better Times
Mel Bowden – Detective Chief Inspector, Notts. Police
Simon Brooks – Police Sergeant, Notts. Police
Janice Bradley – Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Simon Fisher – National Farmers Union
Lisa Person – Office Manager, OPCC
Karen Sleigh – Programme, Research and Information Manager, OPCC
Paul Steeples – Head of Business and Finance, Notts. Police

PART A

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from ACC Jupp and Mrs Margaret Monckton.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2013

Agreed

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN HALF YEAR MONITORING REPORT 2013/14

Karen Sleight introduced the report which provided a six month update on the progress of delivery of the Police and Crime Plan 2013-18. There were seven strategic priority themes being monitored with 67 activities against the themes, the majority of which were on target but still with work to do.

Work to refresh the Plan for 2014 had begun and a Joint Strategic Assessment had been completed with a risk, threat and harm assessment against the partnership landscape. A draft of the refreshed plan was expected to be ready at the end of December and there would be consultation with partners, the Chief Constable and the public.

During discussions the following points were raised:-

- It was very important to involve partners in the Plan and include them in its development as they were key partners in its delivery. Communication with partners and the public was very important.
- The Joint Strategic Assessment had been very helpful in identifying gaps and also in deciding what to keep doing and what to stop or do differently.

RESOLVED 2013/018

That the report be noted

PERFORMANCE AND INSIGHT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

Chief Constable Chris Eyre introduced the report which set out the performance of the Force to September 2013. There was a focus on the crimes currently giving the most concern, which were burglary, retail crime and violence against the person. There was currently an increase in crime of 1.5% compared to the same time last year, but this was a reduction in crime compared to earlier in the year and it was anticipated that crime would be down overall by the end of the financial year.

There had been excellent work to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads in Nottinghamshire, with a reduction of 23.5% or 64 people between January and June 2013. Strong partnership working had delivered these results.

In relation to the three priority crime types being targeted, violent crime predominately related to domestic violence meaning that an increase in reporting was positive as it showed that victims had more confidence to come forward and report incidents. It was important to work with partners to prevent domestic violence occurring in the first place. The night economy was also a driver for violent crime and a much more robust approach was being taken including prevention work, this had led to a reduction of 5% in violent crime relating to the night time economy.

In relation to burglary new tactics had seen good results. Students had been targeted regarding crime prevention and landlords were engaged with the police regarding crime prevention. There were still challenges regarding homes with multiple occupancy and it was also important to work with new community groups moving into the area to help them better understand crime prevention both for themselves and their possessions.

In relation to retail crime a Gold Group had been established and there was now a much better relationship with some of the key retailers. The benefits of these approaches were being seen in the crime statistics.

In relation to the 'Priority Plus' areas, following the loss of funding there was generally not enough additional resources in these areas to have a positive impact, so there needed to be a change in core resources to both pump prime work in these areas but also to provide sustainability and long term impact. It was important to learn what had worked and what hadn't to develop best practice for this work in the future.

In relation to performance overall, there had been a reduction in vehicle crime and the increase in retail crime was slowing. The Force were aware of where the problems were and these were being targeted. Crime overall was going in the right direction.

During discussions the following points were raised:-

- In relation to the error rate and timeliness of prosecution files there was currently a form where all information listed had to be provided even when it was not relevant, meaning that cases sometimes failed because they were missing information from the form which was not actually relevant to the case. A lot of work was going on both internally and with the Crown Prosecution Service to resolve the issue of error rates and timeliness and progress was being made.
- The Force were already doing more than required by the new Victims Code. A new crime tracker 'Track my Crime' which enabled victims to see the progress on their case had been developed and would be launched [in the new year](#).
- The City and County Council's reviews into Domestic Violence would now be matched up, although following different timetables.
- Crime reduction could not be the only focus for the Force, it was also important for them to protect vulnerable people.

RESOLVED 2013/019

That the report be noted

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Deputy Chief Constable Sue Fish introduced the report which provided an update on Child Sexual Exploitation within Nottinghamshire and the approach being taken with partners to tackle it.

There had been a growth in public awareness of the issue following a number of high [profile](#) cases around the country.

There were a number of ongoing investigations within Nottinghamshire. NSPCC were funding a project in the city, however there was not a similar project in the county. Some work had been carried out to identify children at risk of being potential victims. The Force were proactive in looking for any issues as there were often key indicators that a child might become a victim of sexual exploitation.

During discussions the following points were raised:-

- Concern was raised regarding the lack of an equivalent to the NSPCC funded project in the county.
- It was important that the Force accepted that this could and was going on within Nottinghamshire and was proactive in investigating any potential cases and ensuring the protection of the potential victims.

RESOLVED 2013/020

That the report be noted

DEVELOPING THE COMMISSIONER'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Karen Sleight introduced the report which detailed the Commissioner's plan to develop a Social Responsibility Strategy and Action Plan.

The strategy and action plan were currently being prepared and the aim was to publish a draft strategy shortly. Appendix A of the report set out the programme for developing and implementing the Strategy.

During discussions the following points were raised:-

- The introduction of the living wage by the Force was part of this agenda.
- There were opportunities to work with the private sector companies, such as Boots Plc., on this area of work as they had been involved in this for a long time.

RESOLVED 2013/021

That the proposed programme approach to develop the Commissioner's Social Responsibility Strategy and support Action Plan be supported.

MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2013-14

Charlie Radford introduced the report which provided an update on the performance against the approved indicators for Treasury activity and the Prudential indicators.

RESOLVED 2013/022

That the two amendments to the Counterparty list criteria within the Treasury Management Strategy listed below be approved:

1. That 'A' rated banks with a current limit of 1 month is increased to 100 days.
2. That other Local Authorities with a current limit of 1 year is increased to 3 years.

REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT REPORT 2013-14: YEAR TO SEPTEMBER 2013

Chief Constable Chris Eyre and Paul Steeples introduced the report which provided an update on the financial position against the 2013-14 budget for the year to September 2013.

During discussions the following points were raised:-

- Overtimes figures had been affected by some operations, however, some funding was expected back for these.
- There were plans to achieve a balanced budget by the end of the year. Some efficiency savings were starting to have an effect, however some planned savings would be difficult to achieve as they were reliant on property savings.

RESOLVED 2013/023

That the report be noted.

PERIOD 6 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2013-14

Paul Steeples introduced the report which provided information on the actual expenditure against the 2013-14 Capital Programme to the end of September 2013.

There was currently a significant underspend, mainly due to IT and Estates. The IT project included proposals for regional working so there were delays due to discussions taking place between regional partners. The underspends in relation to estates included a regional project still in progress and also a requirement to sell a number of premises, which took time.

RESOLVED 2013/024

1. That the actual spend of £0.162m in the period and a total spend of £1.701m against a budget of £11.626m be noted.
2. That the anticipated slippage of £4.413m be noted.
3. That the addition to the capital programme of two new capital schemes totalling £0.987m had previously been approved by the Police and Crime Commissioner be noted.
4. That the other net under/overspends total of £0.157m be noted.

EFFICIENCY SAVINGS 2013/4 UPDATE

Paul Steeples introduced the report which provided an update on the current savings position against the Force efficiency plans.

Efficiency targets had been set some time ago and the Force had a much more challenging budget this year so it was important to find some big savings which was challenging. Some identified savings were well on track whilst others had been identified as having potential.

Property was the biggest challenge as the savings identified were reliant on the Force being able to leave premises and selling them.

RESOLVED 2013/024

That the report be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME

Kevin Dennis introduced the report which provided a programme of work and timetable of meetings for the Strategic Resources and Performance meeting.

RESOLVED 2013/025

That the report be noted

The meeting was adjourned from 11.35 am to 11.48 am

PART B

RURAL CRIME – ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Presentation by Simon Fisher – County Advisor for Nottinghamshire National Farmers Union (NFU)

Simon Fisher gave a presentation on the role of the NFU in supporting its members and the issues and challenges farmers were facing regarding rural crime.

Rural crime was an issue as it added costs to farming. These costs included time, the cost of replacing whatever had been stolen and an increased fear of crime.

The NFU had carried out a Rural Crime Survey in November 2012 which showed that 66% of responders in Nottinghamshire felt that police did not devote sufficient resources to tackling rural crime and 54% of responders in Nottinghamshire had experienced crime on their farms in the previous 12 months from when the survey was carried out.

In relation to the types of crimes farm businesses had suffered from fly-tipping and metal theft were the most common types of incidents at 34% and 28% respectively, followed by vehicle/machinery theft at 18% and fuel theft at 13%. Fly-tipping was of particular concern due to the close proximity of farms to residential areas, making them attractive targets for this type of crime.

There was an intention to develop the Farm Watch in Nottinghamshire. It was suggested that there should be a dedicated section on the Force website covering rural crime and the use of text alerts should be investigated.

The NFU had been asked to provide input into the Police and Crime Plan. In relation to metal theft the Union had responded that there was a need to design out crime and that any advice needed to be tailored to farmers to make it relevant to them.

Cross-border working was important for crimes such as hare-coursing and fly tipping.

NFU were happy to work with the Police to help them to understand the issues better and to develop best practice.

At the moment there were some challenges to be resolved including the perception many farmers had that there was no point in reporting a crime as the Police never did anything. It was important to communicate with farmers so they understood why it was important to report crimes and how the use of statistics helped to identify hot spots and particular crime issues.

The Newark Group headed by D/Ch Insp Mel Bowden was working very well, however there was some concern that the information was not filtering down the ranks.

Presentation by Janice Bradley – Head of Conservation Policy and Planning, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Janice Bradley gave a presentation on the work of the Trust and the issues and challenges they had regarding rural crime, particularly wildlife crime.

The Trust has over 11,000 Members and many of them felt that they wouldn't be taken seriously if they called the Police to report a wildlife crime. The Trust were often the first port of call for the public wanting to report a wildlife crime, along with the RSPCA.

The Trust was a significant land owner with 1,148ha of nature reserves right across the county.

Badger baiting was an issue and generally the people involved were not only involved in this type of crime. Badgers might be killed on site, or taken away for fights elsewhere.

In relation to poaching and lamping, cats had been killed in snares and snares had even been found in country parks which endangered the public. Deer hunting was a serious problem for example one farmer found five carcasses piled up on his land ready to be taken away by hunters.

Hare-coursing was a particular problem in Lincolnshire however there were also problems with this in Nottinghamshire and some farmers had resorted to killing the hares themselves to keep hare-courers away. In relation to fox-hunting farmers often did not feel able to stop hunts going through their land and it was difficult to ensure the hunts were legal.

In relation to Schedule 1 bird egg/chick thefts these were very valuable and were therefore targeted by criminals. There was a duty to prevent species from becoming extinct and in Nottinghamshire Peregrines were at risk due to theft of their eggs. Those involved in the sale of stolen eggs/chicks were often involved in other organised crime.

The theft of fencing and equipment and problems with fly-tipping generated huge costs for the Trust. There were also problems with arson.

In relation to livestock theft and the deliberate harm of livestock, there was deliberate worrying of cattle. All animals on Trust land were monitored daily, however there had been animals which had been butchered on site, and mutilation of livestock such as the removal of sheep's ears.

Trespassing using off road vehicles and motorbikes and the associated vandalism caused a lot of damage to the ground where vehicles were driven and people were even driving 4X4 vehicles in Sherwood Forest. The Desert was causing problems as people use the Desert and then went out elsewhere in their vehicles. People had started taking their own action against these vehicles by putting down homemade stingers, which could cause an injury to people or animals stepping on them. They were removed as soon as they were found, but they kept getting replaced. The

Force had two off-road motorbikes to go out and catch people trespassing on motorbikes etc but these were not being used as no one was trained to ride them.

Illegal fishing was also an issue.

The Trust always encouraged all staff and the public to report any rural crime, however in many cases they felt that there was no point, so rural crime was probably massively under-reported. The Force had recently provided a positive response to a badger baiting crime and it was hoped that this was a sign of improved responses from the Force.

The Trust wanted to help and work in partnership with the Police. There was a quarterly newsletter sent to members and emails were also regularly sent which could provide a conduit to get messages out. The Trust recognised that the Force were under real pressure, and this was only going to get worse.

Presentation by Detective Chief Inspector Mel Bowden – Nottinghamshire Police

D/Ch Insp. Mel Bowden gave a presentation on the work carried out under the rural crime portfolio.

The national cost of rural crime was estimated to be £53m. In Nottinghamshire rural crime was predominately in the Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood areas. In the last three months rural crime had fallen month on month by approximately 21%. Theft other and burglary offences were the main rural crimes. The theft of Landover's and tractors/plant equipment had reduced in the last two months and the Force were getting better at the monitoring of rural crimes. The Force took rural crime seriously.

The Rural Working Group had been established, which was based in Newark but covered the whole county. Having the Working Group had enabled the Force to look at some strategies to ensure the Force had suitable overarching strategies relating to rural crime. The Force were still trying hard to recruit specials and volunteers from the rural area.

In relation to patrols there was a large amount of cross-border liaison, intelligence sharing, community engagement and pre-crime engagement.

PS Simon Brooks had been doing a lot of work tactically with a number of operations with other forces locally. For example, there was cross-border working with South Yorkshire regarding burglaries in rural areas with a small specialist team sharing information and intelligence to maximise prevention and detection.

The sharing of intelligence was not always easy as Forces had different procedures, there was a meeting planned to try and address this issue.

A Rural Crime Summit was planned for 25th November to provide the opportunity for rural communities to influence policing in their area.

National work in relation to rural crime included ACPO approved property marking, PANIU database with accurate PNC recording, diesel marking, Operation Tornado, Safety by Design and work with Insurers.

Prevention work was key to encouraging people to look after their property and reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

The Force planned to continue information sharing with other forces, hold regional forums, have cross-border tasking and co-ordinated responses and improvement of local information and signposting including putting information onto the Force website.

Following the three presentations the following points were raised:-

- The Force would work with local communities to resolve issues eg local Special Constables. There was a need for the Force to think differently in how it approached rural crime and be more proactive.
- Nottinghamshire was an unusual Force area in that it had both rural and large urban areas. This created a resource issue, especially in the current financial climate and the Force did its best against all the risks it had to manage. If they didn't get the mix right they would re-visit it.
- In relation to the two off-road motorbikes the Force had, it was understood that these were taken out by officers in their own time. This would be investigated to ensure the bikes were being used.
- The cost to set up a texting service would be £5,000, as there was a cost of three pence per text. Many farmers did have internet and the question of how farmers would like to be communicated with would be raised at the Rural Crime Summit.
- The possibility of a separate section on the website relating to rural crime would be considered.
- Both the Trust and the Union sent out regular communications to their members and the Force were offered the opportunity to include an item in future communications.
- NFU Mutual who provided insurance for many farmers did provide an incentive scheme regarding the installation of tracking devices on farm equipment and many manufacturers did now include these as standard. The message of the importance of having tracking devices on farm equipment would be raised at the Rural Crime Summit. If it became standard practice to have trackers on equipment which were logged in a national database, that could then be checked as part of a second hand purchase which would help to reduce the resale value of stolen equipment.

The Commissioner thanked Simon Fisher, Janice Bradley, Mel Bowden and Simon Brooks for their presentations and contribution and also thanked Nottingham Trent University for hosting the meeting.

The meeting closed at 1.10 pm

CHAIR