

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
Arnot Hill House, Arnot Hill Park, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6LU

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
STRATEGIC RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 2015
AT THE BALDERTON VILLAGE CENTRE, CORONATION STREET,
BALDERTON, NEWARK, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
NG24 3BD
COMMENCING AT 10 AM

MEMBERSHIP

(A – denotes absence)

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Pete Barker – Democratic Services, Notts County Council
Sallie Blair – Communications, OPCC
Andy Hallsworth - Sergeant
Mark Holland – Chief Superintendent
Helen Kane – OPCC
Beth Lucas – Team Leader, Volunteer Services
Andrea Naylor – OPCC
Caroline Racher – Detective Chief Inspector

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Charlie Radford.

PART A

RURAL CRIME PRESENTATIONS:

1. 'Delivering The Future / Rural Crime' – Chief Superintendent Mark Holland

Chief Superintendent, Mark Holland, explained the difficult financial background in which the Force had been operating and which would continue to be a challenge. Since 2010 the Force's budget had reduced by £42m and future reductions are anticipated. There would be an interim budget on 8th July 2015 and further budget reductions may form part of the proposals. It was important to work collaboratively in order to reduce costs. Mark also emphasised the importance of preventing demand and said that over a million calls per year are received by the police, local authorities and the NHS and the vast majority of them are from the same people, for example those who do not attend school, those who were unemployed, smokers etc. Mark explained that pilot schemes were being held in Sutton, Worksop and the City which aimed to reduce this demand.

Mark discussed how the Force would have to work differently in an era of reducing budgets. The Force currently had sergeants and PCs in the control room so that issues were dealt with immediately and without the need to send an officer to the scene. Incoming calls were now assessed and people were signposted to different organisations. He explained how the Force spent a lot of time dealing with social issues which were not really the remit of the police and for which they lacked the necessary skills. In future partners would be invited into the control room so that queries would be dealt with by the appropriate body at an early stage.

Nottinghamshire was the last force to have a 100% attendance rate at the scene of a crime. Now approximately 30% of crimes are dealt with via the phone. The aim was to reduce the number of incidents attended by 80,000. Resources were not available for attendance at every crime scene but if a series of crimes were committed this would be picked up and acted upon.

Teams needed to be organised differently to increase efficiency and this had led to the start of working from hubs and the first one had opened at Riverside. In the past there were 17 bases and policing across boundaries did not work well. Now City and County officers were briefed together as part of the same team. Examples were also given of new approaches to dealing with prisoners in custody. Previously an officer would have to drive the prisoner to the custody suite then return to the scene to examine any evidence before returning to the custody suite to wait for the solicitor/interpreter etc. Now there is the option of a PCSO transporting the prisoner while the officer sends details of evidence to the Custody Suite from the scene using a BlackBerry. It was emphasised that effective policing was not just about having numbers on the street and that there was also a need to find out what was happening behind the scenes.

Neighbourhood policing would remain the bedrock of policing in Nottinghamshire and the Force graded neighbourhoods over 5 levels. Officers would be moved according to need and deployment would not be dictated by boundaries.

Community Speed Watch initiative had attracted funding that allowed the purchase of new equipment for use across the County. 6 extra vehicles were now available for use in rural areas; an automatic number plate recognition shield had been set up in Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood. Figures showed that 30-35% of crimes in rural areas are committed by those who live outside of the area. The use of technology had facilitated the arrest of perpetrators in other Forces' areas.

Mark ended his presentation by discussing the need to change the way investigations were conducted. Vulnerable people needed to be identified so that resources could be targeted effectively particularly as budgets had been reduced and that there were fewer PCSOs.

2. 'Volunteering Vision' - Beth Lucas, Team Leader, Volunteer Services

Beth explained that she led a new section called 'Volunteer Services' that had been established in January 2015 and aimed to find ways in which citizens could assist the police.

The Police Cadet Scheme aimed to involve those who were vulnerable to crime and who were aged 16 -18 years old. The Cadets volunteered for 4 hours per month and were involved in tasks such as marshalling at county fairs. 138 Cadets had been recruited and it was hoped to increase this to 200. There were also plans to include younger volunteers from the age of 13.

There were approximately 200 Police Support Volunteers (PSVs) whose work was historically administrative but the volunteers could also assist in delivering surveys and becoming involved in corporate communications. It hoped that these numbers could be increased.

Citizens could also help by joining the Special Constabulary. There were various ranks within the Constabulary and officers had the same powers as the police. At present there were 250 Special Constables but the Force was actively recruiting and hopefully the numbers would increase to 300. There was also a new role of Rural Special Constable who would be deployed in 23 rural and open space locations. Recruitment for these posts will start on 22nd May.

3. 'Rural Crime / Wildlife Crime' - Detective Chief Inspector Caroline Racher / Sergeant Andy Hallsworth.

This presentation discussed the need to look at innovative ways of dealing with the problem of rural crime. A number of local initiatives had been put in place including awareness training for local staff, undertaking of rural surveys, recruitment of rural special constables and setting up a new web page.

Operation Jacobean targeted offenders who travelled across the County and committed burglaries, robberies and thefts. The Operation was ongoing and to date sentences totalling more than 85 years had been handed down. Many national initiatives were also now in place including the National Wildlife Unit and the National Rural Crime Network. The BBC programme, 'Countryfile', would visit the County in June and feature the problem of rural crime. Future work would include the wider use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and developing the role of Rural Special Constables.

Sergeant Andy Hallsworth explained that he was a beat officer based at Canning Circus, and worked with two staff, who were passionate about the prevention of wildlife crime. They had been working in the area for 10 years and could draw support from a variety of sources including central government (CPS/DEFRA etc) and bodies such as the Notts Wildlife Trust. Social media was also increasingly

being used by the Force and the number of responses to information posted on Twitter had been high.

During discussions the following points were raised:

- Many of those who offend in the County do not live in the County but there were now fewer divisions and the Force now worked across boundaries. The use of shared briefings also meant that all crimes would be covered regardless of the area they occurred.
- Increased collaborative work and experience had shown that it was an efficient way of working. Some aspects had been more successful than anticipated including the combined IT system where shared intelligence with Lincolnshire and Leicestershire had helped to protect rural areas. Concern was expressed that if one IT system was introduced across all Forces there would be problems similar to those experienced by the NHS when their integrated IT system was introduced.
- The Commissioner pointed out that even with the reduction in the number of PCSOs there would still be 50 more in post than when he came into office and that Nottinghamshire would still have more PCSOs than any other force in the East Midlands. It was confirmed that increased numbers of Rural Special Constables would be deployed in areas where there had been a reduction in the number of PCSOs.
- It was suggested that members of the Force attend Parish Council meetings. Chief Superintendent Holland agreed this was a positive idea and suggested attending between 2 to 4 meetings a year out of a total of 12.
- It was confirmed that following changes to legislation regarding scrap metal, only one merchant had failed a recent 'test selling' exercise. The price of scrap metal was monitored and the expectation was that the problem would come back when price of scrap metal increased.
- One of the biggest resources in terms of crime prevention / detection was the general public and a question was asked about the progress of introducing an SMS Text Alert system for the public to report any crime/suspicious behaviour. The Commissioner confirmed that there was money in the budget for an initiative and that the Force was working to identify ways of making the best use of technology. The Commissioner was aware that he had previously given a commitment to implement such measures and gave assurances that he would work on a timeline for delivery.
- The Commissioner explained that a workshop had been run recently to discuss how best to handle seasonal issues with Travellers. The Force's policy had been examined as it needed to be compliant with the law otherwise the Force ran the risk of facing litigation. The recent case of a Wetherspoon's pub being fined for banning travellers was discussed. It was explained that pubs could bar people on the basis of their behaviour but not as a result of their being part of a particular group.

PART B

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Charlie Radford, OPCC.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2014

Agreed

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S UPDATE REPORT

The Chief Constable introduced the report and confirmed that financial challenges remained and that there was a need to cope with the recent personnel changes. Overall the Force continued to deliver over a wide range of priorities.

RESOLVED 2015/008

That the report be noted.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

Kevin Dennis introduced the report and confirmed that the outturn was in line with expectations and that there were no risks to be highlighted.

RESOLVED 2015/009

That the report be approved.

INSURANCE TENDER 2015

Andrea Naylor introduced the report. The Commissioner asked about progress with the Artemis vehicle tracking system. Andrea explained that it was not fully functioning as there had been a problem with the equipment. The Chief Inspector confirmed that a vacant managerial post had been filled and consequently risk assessments and compliance plans had been completed. In future it would be possible to monitor excessive speeding and find out 'who, when and where.' This would lead to reductions in fuel costs, insurance claims and expenditure on vehicle maintenance. The Commissioner asked about insurance claims that had been outstanding for a considerable period. Andrea has spoken to legal and some of the claims had been dealt with but had not been properly closed on the system. All actions should be completed by July.

RESOLVED 2015/010

- 1) That the actions taken by the Force to reduce the number of future claims be approved.

- 2) That the work of the Chief Finance Officer in progressing old outstanding claims to conclusion be approved.

ANNUAL HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT 2014-2015

The Chief Constable informed the meeting of the successful work that had taken place and that Nottinghamshire was doing better than other forces. Injuries usually occurred at the point of arrest but they tended to be minor. The Chief Constable confirmed that the number of assaults and injuries were down.

RESOLVED 2015/011

That the report be noted.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE

The Chief Constable explained that the aim was to reduce the Force's carbon emissions by 30% by 2015. The Force was 50% of the way there and the Chief Constable was confident that the target would be achieved. There was the possibility that the target would be exceeded, particularly if the Force were able to dispose of some of its older facilities.

RESOLVED 2015/012

That the report be noted.

PERFORMANCE AND INSIGHT REPORT

RESOLVED 2015/013

That the report be noted.

VERBAL UPDATE ON THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

This item was deferred pending the forthcoming Budget in July.

QUARTER TWO 2014-15 BUDGET MANAGEMENT REPORT

Andrea Naylor introduced the report and in answer to questions from the Commissioner confirmed that targets were being met and that the various teams involved were now working as one.

RESOLVED 2015/014

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That the budget virements, as at the end of Quarter Two in Section 4, specifically section 4.4, be approved.

CAPITAL OUT-TURN AND SLIPPAGE 2014-2015

This item was deferred.

WORK PROGRAMME

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

During discussions the following topics for future reports were identified:

- Cyber Crime would feature on the agenda of the next meeting
- A report entitled 'Delivering the Future' would be brought to the meeting in September. This would identify further efficiencies and by then there should be clarity around the announcements to be made by the new government.

RESOLVED 2015/015

That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.20 pm

CHAIR