

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Tuesday, 17 September 2024.

Present: Councillor Tony Riordan (Chair), Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE (Deputy Chair), Councillor Peter Chaney, Mayor Chris Cooke, Councillor John Coulson, Councillor Graham Cutler, Mr Paul McGrath, Councillor Ian Morrish, Councillor Karen Oliver, Councillor Paul Rowling, Mr Luigi Salvati, Councillor Janet Thompson, Councillor Karen King and Councillor Mike Young

Officers: Steven Newton (Governance Director (Monitoring Officer)) and Alison Pearson (Governance Manager)

Also In attendance: Matthew Storey (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) and Lisa Oldroyd (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)

Apologies: Councillor Rob Darby and Councillor Chris Jones

PCP 16/24 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

PCP 17/24 **Minutes of the meetings held on the following dates and attendance matrix**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2024 and the attendance matrix for 2024-25.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2024 be agreed as a correct record and the attendance matrix be noted.

PCP 18/24 **Recent Disorder Events - Chief Constable to attend**

The Chief Constable attended the meeting to brief the Panel on the Police's response to the disorder events that had occurred in Hartlepool on 31 July 2024 and Middlesbrough on 4 August 2024.

He stated that a full Public Order Public Safety Command had been stood up lasting over three weeks to support local, regional and national requirements.

As a result of the disorder there had been:

- Over 250 crimes recorded
- 117 Suspects arrested
- 88 Suspects charged
- 32 Suspects currently remanded in Custody
- 23 Suspects jailed with sentences totalling 43 years and 6 months
- 44 Suspects identified yet to be arrested
- 143 Suspects yet to be identified

- Total costs of the Policing Operation had been in excess of £660,000

He also noted, however, that the response to the events had also had a positive impact on public confidence in the police.

As part of the Panel's ensuing discussion, the following comments and issues were noted:

- It was expected that the financial cost of the operation would be covered by national Government with little, or very limited impact at a local level. It was expected this would also include funding for the compensation scheme.
- Deprivation appeared to be a factor contributing to the disorder events.
- The Commissioner had continued to reinforce the concerns about the funding formula at a national level and shared a copy of a letter he had sent to the Home Secretary in that regard.
- There had been support for all Officers involved in the operation with the force welfare team contacting each officer individually.
- The leadership and communication by District Commanders at a local level had been excellent.
- The communications from the Commissioner and his Office had also been excellent and well received.
- The Commissioner had spent time with various groups and individuals who had been affected by the disorder. As a result of this, there seemed to be a stronger shared desire to look for opportunities for positive change and to support community cohesion and a Hate Crime Strategic group was being formed.

RESOLVED that the Panel's thanks to the Commissioner, the Chief Constable and the Force for their response to the recent disorder events be placed on record and the Chair write to the Chief Constable, on behalf of the Panel, to that effect.

PCP 19/24 **Quarterly Performance Update**

The Commissioner presented his Police and Crime Plan Performance Summary report which covered the Quarter 1 period of 2024/25. In presenting his report he highlighted the positive work that had taken place as part of the Safer Streets 5 Programme, the virtual reality work with Teesside University as part of the work to tackle violence against women and girls and the launch of the youth focused custody suite in Middlesbrough police station.

As part of the ensuing discussion, the following questions and comments from Panel were raised:

- There appeared to be a less visible presence of PCSO's. The Commissioner stated that this was an area he was focusing on. There were staff abstractions at times to support response policing, but there was a PCSO recruitment drive planned for January 2025.
- A member questioned whether the reduction in non-999 calls correlated

with a reduction in reports of crimes? The Commissioner advised that the reduction in non-999 calls reflected a national trend. He was confident that residents knew how to report non-emergency issues, including through an increased use of digital reporting through other means such as the COPA app. He emphasised the importance of non-emergency reporting in building up intelligence to be able to tackle issues more effectively.

- Whilst the figures during the reporting period showed a reduction in total domestic related recorded crime, there was still lots to do. Violence against women and girls and neighbourhood policing were priority areas for the Home Office and education work was an important element of the strategies to address these issues.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
20/24** **Communication, Consultation and Engagement Update**

The Commissioner presented his report detailing the communication activity of the PCC's office since the last meeting.

A Panel Member asked if it was possible to make the connection between the communications activity and the strategic objectives, once the Police and Crime Plan was agreed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
21/24** **Commissioner's Scrutiny Programme**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the Police and Crime Commissioner's scrutiny programme.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
22/24** **Decisions of the Commissioner**

The Police and Crime Commissioner made all decisions unless specifically delegated within the Scheme of Consent/Delegation. All decisions demonstrated that they were soundly based on relevant information and that the decision-making process was open and transparent.

In addition, a forward plan was included and published on the OPCC's website which included items requiring a decision in the future. This was attached to the report.

Each decision made by the Commissioner was recorded on a decision record form with supporting background information appended. Once approved it was published on the OPCC's website.

Decisions relating to private/confidential matters would be recorded; although, it may be appropriate that full details were not published.

Decisions made since the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel were

attached to the report.

In relation to the 'Rewire' programme (helping people with criminal records into employment), a member asked whether the Force employed people with criminal records. The Panel was advised that the Force did employ such people, but subject to vetting and risk assessments.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
23/24**

Members' Questions to the Commissioner

Question 1 – the following question had been submitted by Luigi Salvati for response by the Commissioner

'Accepting that both Cleveland Police and the relevant Local Authorities in the Force area have responsibilities to ensure parking regulations are adhered to, how does the commissioner assure himself that the Force is appropriately discharging them'.

The Commissioner responded that in the main, local authorities are responsible for parking issues. The police are able to issue fines in some circumstances where there is an obstruction and will undertake targeted operations from time to time taking account of resources and priorities.

The Chair asked the information on the Force's website could be reviewed to give clearer guidance dealing with an obstruction.

Question 2 – the following question had been submitted by Paul McGrath for response by the Commissioner

'Cybercrime is rapidly growing and has become incredibly lucrative for criminals. Could the commissioner outline the Cleveland police strategy to tackle this and whether high level IT skills are embedded in recruitment strategies or whether specialist training is offered to new recruits?'

The Commissioner responded that there was a dedicated cyber crime unit and all officers were regularly briefed and given ongoing training with emerging methods for tackling the rapidly changing nature of cyber crime. There had previously been a fraud financial advocate in place which had been very successful in helping victims get reimbursement. A similar post was now being funded through a partnership arrangement between the Police, local authorities and trading standards.

Question 3– the following question had been submitted by Councillor Graham Cutler for response by the Commissioner

'After campaigning hard, Loftus police station was re-opened 6 years ago and staffed with a part time team that many East Cleveland residents and businesses rely on. Positive relationships have been built between the community and the team which has given residents and businesses a great sense of security and confidence to report crime. I understand the force is undergoing a restructure in its staffing which includes the East Cleveland area.

How can the Commissioner make sure the benefits of the improved relationships and confidence in East Cleveland aren't lost in any change?'

The Commissioner responded that he had reviewed this position through his own scrutiny arrangements. He advised that shift patterns had changed, but he had been assured by the Redcar Neighbourhood policing team that this would have no impact. The location of the station would remain unchanged and the base would remain in Loftus. He committed to keep the situation under review though his own scrutiny arrangements.

**PCP
24/24** **Police and Crime Panel's Annual Report**

Members considered the draft content of the Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2023-24. No issues or queries were raised.

RESOLVED that the draft content of the Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2023-24 be agreed.

**PCP
25/24** **Appointment Process for Non-Political Independent Members**

The Panel considered a report setting out a proposed process and draft documentation for the appointment of two non-political independent members in light of the impending expiry of the terms of office of the existing non-political independent members on 1 February 2025.

RESOLVED

1. The arrangements for the appointment of non-political independent members as detailed in paragraphs 4-6 of the report be agreed.
2. A selection sub-committee be established to appoint and conduct shortlisting and interviews to determine the most suitable candidates prior to formal appointment by the full Panel.
3. The sub-committee comprise the following panel members:

Councillor Karen Oliver (Hartlepool)
Councillor Janet Thompson (Middlesbrough)
Councillor Chris Jones (Redcar and Cleveland)
Councillors Tony Riordan and Norma Stephenson OBE (Stockton)
4. Authority be delegated to the Governance Director and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Panel Chair and Vice Chair, to amend and finalise the arrangements and associated documents, should it be necessary to do so.

**PCP
26/24** **Public Questions**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**PCP
27/24** **Forward Plan**

Members reviewed the Forward Plan for the Panel 2024-25.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan 2024-25 be noted.

**PCP
28/24** **Exclusion of the Press and Public.**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**PCP
29/24** ***Complaint Update**

The Panel considered a report of the Monitoring Officer detailing a new complaint matter that had been received.

RESOLVED

1. The Panel be confirmed as the relevant Panel for the complaint matter.
2. The complaint be recorded as a complaint and notified to the Commissioner.
3. No further action be taken in respect of the complaint matter.