

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

6 July 2021

PRESENT:

Gateshead Council	Councillor A Douglas
North Tyneside Council	Councillor C Burdis
South Tyneside Council	Councillors E Gibson and J Welsh
Sunderland City Council	Councillor P Stewart
Independent Co-opted Members	Mr J Klajn and Mr A Shepherd

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

K McGuinness	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCC)
R Durham	- Chief of Staff
A Pearson	- Director of Planning and Delivery
M Tait	- Chief Finance Officer

Gateshead Council

G Morton	- Representing the Clerk to the Panel
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

APOLOGIES: Councillors P Maughan (Gateshead Council), C Johnson (North Tyneside Council), C Penny-Evans and D Wood (Newcastle City Council), C Dunbar and C Horncastle (Northumberland County Council) and D MacKnight (Sunderland City Council)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED - That Councillor Douglas and Councillor Stewart be appointed as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Panel for 2021/22 respectively.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL

The membership of the Panel for 2021/22 is as follows:

Gateshead	Councillors Angela Douglas and Peter Maughan
Newcastle	Councillors Clare Penny-Evans and Dave Wood
North Tyneside	Councillors Carole Burdis and Carl Johnson

Northumberland
South Tyneside
Sunderland
Independent Members

Councillors Christine Dunbar and Colin Horncastle
Councillors Ernest Gibson and Joyce Welsh
Councillors Doris MacKnight and Paul Stewart
Mr Jonathan Klajn and Mr Andrew Shepherd

RESOLVED - That the membership of the Panel for 2021/22 be noted.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 March 2021 be approved as a correct record.

4. FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Councillor Welsh gave an update on the National Association of Police Fire and Crime Panels.

The Local Government Association (LGA) Police and Crime Panels Workshop is to be held as a zoom meeting on Tuesday, 13 July 2021 at 2.00pm.

RESOLVED – (i) That the information be noted.
(ii) That Members interested in attending the LGA workshop contact the Clerk to the Panel.

5. PANEL OVERVIEW

G Morton gave an update on the functions of the Panel because a lot of new Members has recently been appointed. There are fourteen Members of the Panel comprising two representatives from each of the six constituent Councils, politically balanced across the Northumbria area, and two Independent Members. The role of the Panel is to support the effective exercise of the functions of the PCC and review and scrutinise the decisions made by the PCC. The Panel is also required to review and report on; the PCC's draft Police and Crime Plan and draft Annual Report, the proposed appointment of the Chief Constable and Deputy PCC and the proposed precept. The Panel is also responsible for dealing with complaints received against the PCC and this has been delegated to the PCC's Chief of Staff. Members of the Panel should have relevant knowledge or experience and make a commitment to participating fully in the Panel's work.

RESOLVED - (i) That the information be noted.
(ii) That Members of the Panel contact the Clerk regarding any training or development needs they may have.

6. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

The PCC reported that there had been a large number of new PCCs elected at the May elections. There were now eleven Labour PCCs in England and the rest were Conservative PCCs. The PCC has a lead role within the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners for workforce development and has been given a new role for crime prevention. The Government has completed the first part of its two-part review into the role of PCCs and it is intending to mandate that each PCC must

appoint a deputy of the same political party. Part two of the Government's review will focus on the Criminal Justice System and the Government is also to launch a consultative white paper on all PCCs taking on fire functions later this year.

The PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2021-25 priorities are: fighting crime, preventing crime and improving lives.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

The cost of low-level crime to South Tyneside Council and how it was affecting the community was outlined. The Council and police need to work together as part of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan to address this although there was shortage of police officers. The PCC replied that police officer numbers were being increased but it takes time for them to be trained, etc. The impact of minor crime on people's lives was recognised. The multi-agency task forces established in other areas to tackle anti-social behaviour and carry out enforcement and prevention work and divert those responsible away from committing these problems have worked well and it was planned to roll them out to other areas.

Online hate crime through social media, etc. continues to be an increasing issue that has been raised. The PCC was very aware of the impact that this was having on different parts of the community. It has to be made clear that this was not acceptable and those responsible for the abuse prevented from hiding and being invisible online. The social media companies have to take more responsibility and the public service, politicians, etc need to work together to tackle this problem.

M Tait, the PCC's Chief Finance Officer, gave a finance update presentation including public funding and Northumbria Police austerity, the Police Settlement 2021/22, core grant funding force level allocations, the 2021/22 financial year and Northumbria Police funding and how it was spent.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

The 181 recently recruited police officers were in addition to those that had been recruited to replace officers who had retired.

It was very concerning that the census data used in the Police Allocation Formula was from 2001 and also, how the changes in crime recording had affected the force. Up to date data needed to be used. It was replied that this was the intention but it needed to be addressed by the Home Office.

One of the issues was that the PCC only received one-year funding settlements which were often received very late. This makes it difficult for the PCC to consult the public on the proposed precept. A longer-term funding settlement for PCCs was required.

7. DATES AND TIMES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday, 27 July 2021 at 2.00pm
Tuesday, 19 October 2021 at 2.00pm
Tuesday, 7 December 2021 at 2.00pm
Tuesday, 1 February 2022 at 2.00pm
Tuesday, 15 March 2022 at 2.00pm