
NORTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AGENDA ITEM 6

Thursday, 7 March 2013 at 2.00 pm
Bodlondeb, Conwy

PRESENT:	Councillor William Knightly (Chair)	Conwy County Borough Council
	Patricia Astbury Councillor Amanda Bragg Councillor Bill Cowie Councillor William T Hughes Councillor Charles Jones Councillor Colin Powell Timothy Rhodes	Independent Co-opted Member Flintshire County Council Denbighshire County Council Isle of Anglesey County Council Gwynedd Council Wrexham County Council Independent Co-opted Member
In attendance:	Anna Humphreys Gareth Pritchard Winston Roddick	Chief Executive (Office to the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Assistant Chief Constable (North Wales Police) North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
Officers:	Ken Finch Dawn Hughes Richard Jarvis Sali Morris	Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) Senior Committee Services Officer Solicitor Administration Assistant

30. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Glenys Diskin, Terry Evans, Chris Hughes and Gethin Williams.

31. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: CODE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONDUCT**

There were no declarations of interest.

32. **URGENT MATTERS**

None.

33. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Police and Crime Panel held on 19 December 2012 and 21 January 2013 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **That the minutes of the meetings of the Police and Crime Panel held on 19 December 2012 be approved as a correct record.**

- (b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 21 January 2013 be approved as a correct record, subject to the word Panel in Paragraph 13, 2nd bullet point being amended to Plan.**

34. PERIODIC UPDATE FROM THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) provided Members with a periodic update on his recent work activities as follows:

- Attended a meeting with Home Office Ministers.
- Represented Police and Crime Commissioners at the first meeting of the newly created Criminal Justice Board.
- Met the Secretary of State for Wales both in Cardiff and locally.
- Met with the Minister for Communities and Local Government (Carl Sargeant) regarding devolved powers to the Welsh Government.
- Consulted with the Children's Commissioner, who was a statutory consultee on the Police and Crime Plan.
- Met with the Chair of the Youth Justice Board and the Manager of the Youth Justice Service – the Commissioner was very impressed with the work undertaken by this Service.
- Attended the UNISON AGM which was a good chance to answer question and hear views.
- Met with other Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales together with respective Chief Constables.
- Continued visiting police stations throughout North Wales.
- Development of the Office to the Police and Crime Commissioner and appropriate policies and procedures (Scheme of Governance).

The PCC also informed the Panel that he had undertaken a significant amount of media work, particularly in relation to the devolution of powers.

It was also reported that Independent Members had been appointed to the Audit Committee and the PCC suggested that the Panel may wish to send a representative to observe a future meeting.

The Commissioner explained to Members that after careful consideration, he had decided that there was a need to appoint a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. An appropriate appointment process would be undertaken and the Panel would also be expected to hold a confirmation hearing.

35. THE NORTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

The Commissioner presented the Panel with his Police and Crime Plan, titled 'Security at Home; Safety in Public Places'.

The Plan provided details of the Commissioner's four police and crime objectives, which focused on: reducing crime and anti-social behaviour; protecting people and reducing harm; delivering a quality service that meets the needs of our communities; and promoting a well led, organised, and skilled police force. These objectives would enable the Commissioner to address his five manifesto commitments and fulfil his duties to deliver an efficient and effective police force, which clearly demonstrates value for money and above all cuts crime.

The Police and Crime Plan would also be accompanied by an Action Plan, which would enable the Commissioner to measure delivery of the four objectives and hold the Chief Constable to account. Together, the two documents would then serve to communicate the Commissioner's intention to the public, partners, the Police and Crime Panel and other stakeholders.

The Assistant Chief Constable (Gareth Pritchard), of the North Wales Police also provided the Panel with an update on operational matters, which included the following:

- Victim based crime was down 11.2%, which was positive result, but there was still more work to be done.
- The Farmers Union of Wales and the National Farmers Union had been consulted with, in relation to rural crime. Some gaps had been identified and three officers (from the additional 51 police officers) would be appointed to support communities and look at specific problems in these areas.
- In relation to security at home, the Panel was informed that rape cases and sexual offences had increased and it was proposed to set up a Specialist Rape Team, utilising 6 of the 51 additional police officers
- On average there had been 12,000 call outs per year in relation to domestic abuse and it had been decided to enhance work in this area, by utilising 3 of the 51 additional police officers.
- There would also be 2 additional uniformed posts allocated to deal with crime investigations; these posts would be flexible, dependant on local crime issues.

In response to a query relating to policing of the coastal areas, the Assistant Chief Constable reported that a flexible approach would be adopted and additional officers would be deployed as necessary, particularly in times of high demand.

The Panel considered the Plan and there was some concern relating to the lack of performance management information and the ability to be able to measure performance in a tangible manner. Members therefore requested that the Panel was provided with regular feedback from the Strategic Executive Board (the forum for monitoring the police and crime

objectives); this would then enable the Panel to review and measure performance of the Plan, particularly against national statistics.

The Panel also had the following observations to make:

- The need for easier accessibility to the Police and Crime Commissioner's website.
- Ensuring that the published Plan was available in Libraries for those who could not access the Internet – the Strategic Director confirmed that a copy of the Plan would need to be circulated to each Local Authority in North Wales for publication.
- In relation to capital investment, the PCC was requested to give consideration to the inclusion of a facility in St Asaph within the Estates Strategy.
- OWL Patrol – the PCC reported that such bodies/interventions would be reviewed during this transitional year for their effectiveness, but the Commissioner could not guarantee that such organisations would continue to receive funding.
- The need to tackle drug crime in North Wales, in response, the Assistant Chief Constable informed the Panel that the problem was wider than North Wales and relationships were being developed with Police Officers in the North West of England. The Panel was also informed that the proceeds from such crimes were given back to communities in the form of grants for neighbourhood policing schemes.

The Panel supported the Police and Crime Plan and the Commissioner's approach in setting the strategic direction for policing in North Wales. The Panel also acknowledged the recognition of rural crime within the Plan and the Police Force's plan to deploy the additional 51 Police Officers throughout North Wales, particularly in relation to the establishment of a dedicated Rape Team; enhancing the work undertaken by Police Officers in relation to domestic abuse; enhancing the Crime Investigation Team; and reviewing back office staff to create efficiencies.

Councillor Colin Powell, the Member from Wrexham County Council took the opportunity to thank the Assistant Chief Constable and the North Wales Police for their first class response and support, following the recent murder in the Wrexham area.

RESOLVED-

- (a) That the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan titled 'Security at Home; Safety in Public Places' be supported for the reasons highlighted above.**
- (b) That the North Wales Police and Crime Panel be provided with regular feedback from the Strategic Executive Board in order to monitor progress of the Police and Crime Plan.**
- (c) That consideration be given to the inclusion of a facility in St Asaph in the Estates Strategy.**

36. **TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE NORTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

The Panel was presented with a draft Forward Work Programme for the North Wales Police and Crime Panel.

Members were requested to contact the Senior Committee Services Officer (Conwy County Borough Council), with any items they wished to be included on the Programme.

RESOLVED -

That the Forward Work Programme for the North Wales Police and Crime Panel be approved.

37. **PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2013/14**

The Panel considered the proposed schedule of meetings for 2013/14.

Members were informed that a provisional meeting had been arranged for 12 April 2013, in order for a possible confirmation hearing for the Chief Finance Officer.

RESOLVED –

That the proposed schedule of meetings for 2013/14 be approved.

(The meeting ended at 3.20 pm)
