

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Minutes of a meeting of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel held at Maybin Room, One Angel Square, Angel Street, Northampton NN1 1ED on Thursday 20 April 2023 at 1.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Gill Mercer (Chair)
Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Adam Brown
Councillor Jon-Paul Carr
Councillor Dorothy Maxwell
Councillor Zoe McGhee
Councillor Ken Pritchard
Councillor David Smith
Councillor Winston Strachan
Mrs Anita Shields
Miss Pauline Woodhouse

Also Present:

Stephen Mold, Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Ivan Balhatchet, Deputy Chief Constable, Northamptonshire Police
Deborah Denton, Joint Head of Communications, Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Helen King, Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Stuart McCartney, Governance and Accountability Manager, Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Nicci Marzec, Director for Early Intervention, Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer, Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Liz Wilcox, Detective Chief Inspector, Northamptonshire Police
James Edmunds, Democratic Services Assistant Manager
Diana Davies, Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Russell Roberts

Officers:

133. Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Roberts.

134. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

135. **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and reminded the Panel:

- The meeting would be webcast live and participants would need to utilise their microphones.
- The meeting was the final scheduled Panel meeting in the municipal year 2022/23 and thanked everyone for their hard work.

136. **Minutes**

RESOLVED that: the minutes of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel Confirmation hearing held in public on 11 January 2023 be approved.

RESOLVED that: the minutes of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel Confirmation hearing held in private on 11 January 2023 be approved.

RESOLVED that: the minutes of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel meeting held in public on 2 February 2023 be approved.

RESOLVED that: the minutes of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel Confirmation hearing held in public on 2 February 2023 be approved.

RESOLVED that: the minutes of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel Confirmation hearing held in private on 2 February 2023 be approved.

137. **Northamptonshire response to recommendations from the HMICFRS inspection of vetting, misconduct, and misogyny in the police service**

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) introduced the report and emphasised to the Panel that Police Officers should deliver the highest standard of behaviour and integrity. Identifying and eliminating unacceptable behaviour was vital and vetting procedures needed to be robust and effective.

The PFCC had provided additional investment to the Chief Constable for resources and a vetting management software system, which helped to attract and retain excellent staff and with the identification of individuals who did not meet the expected standards for a Police Officer.

The PFCC then introduced Ivan Balhatchet Deputy Chief Constable, Northamptonshire Police, to provide an outline of the work that the force had delivered under Operation Admiral. Liz Wilcox, Detective Chief Inspector, Northamptonshire Police, was also present to provide more detailed information on work in this area.

The Deputy Chief Constable advised that his role included the responsibility for Professional Standards within Northamptonshire Police. Nationally, the standards of discipline and crime in Policing had been subject to media attention. A team had been created to review Professional Standards within Northamptonshire Police. The

review included historic non-recent reports, criminal investigations, vetting, the disciplinary procedures, the number in the Professional Standards department, focus groups and surveys from staff.

It was recognised there was a need to build confidence with victims of crime in order that they trusted in the confidentiality of the reporting system, and would report wrong-doing by Police Officers; to ensure allegations were taken seriously; and to ensure that the right people were investigating.

Public confidence in policing, particularly amongst women and girls, was currently low and Northamptonshire Police were actively identifying inappropriate behaviours within the force to rebuild public trust.

The Detective Chief Inspector explained that she had an objective investigatory crime background with the Metropolitan Police and had transferred to work on Operation Admiral, to look at professional standards, misconduct, crime and corruption in Northamptonshire Police.

The HMICFRS report had outlined 28 recommendations specific to the Police, all had been discharged in Northamptonshire. One recommendation was rated 'Amber' as it required a change of legislation and codes of practice to vary the manner that the data stored within the Police National Database (PND) could be utilised. Further work had been identified to improve and enhance the public service and the safety within the organisation.

The Director for Early Intervention, Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer, OPFCC had decided all OPFCC staff would undergo a PND check. Although exempt, the PFCC had considered it important for him also to be included in the checks.

The vetting systems had been reviewed and investment made in a new software system, Core-Vet, to improve data collation, records and the timeliness of the extraction of data from the systems. Further improvements could be achieved by having a single vetting system, supporting a joined up approach that would help to ensure references were followed up and the force was employing the right people.

To ensure that investigations had been thorough and conducted properly the team had completed a review of 3 years of allegations of misconduct by Police Officers and staff within Northamptonshire, in line with recommendation 28 of the HMICFRS report, and reported that overall the investigations were of a good standard. Risks that were identified would be subject to review by a panel, made up of the Detective Chief Inspector and two members of the team, both detective sergeants.

A review of crime was carried out and a review of corruption matters was scheduled. On completion, the results of all reviews would be considered to ensure that investigations were being undertaken by the correct team and that the appropriate staffing resource was allocated to ensure that processes were effective and robust.

The team were conducting an exercise to ensure that PND checks had been carried out on every serving member of staff and all Police Officers in Northamptonshire

which included the PFCC and the chief officer team. The exercise was estimated to be completed by September 2023.

The team would review the information distributed in job advertisements to set the standard required and attract appropriate applicants and would continue with face-to-face interviews to assess suitability.

The force could invoke Regulation 13 should a member of staff prove unsuitable for the job. How that regulation was being applied was under review.

The PFCC commended the work of Northamptonshire Police with particular mention to the Deputy Chief Constable and the Detective Chief Inspector. As a result of internal disclosures, the force had exited a number of individuals. At the same time, the PFCC emphasised that the majority of the force were dedicated public servants, committed to making Northamptonshire safer.

Northamptonshire had the highest number of Police Officers than ever before. Both time and effort had been invested into the vetting process to improve the quality of officers entering the force. A former Metropolitan Police Officer, who worked for Northamptonshire Police, had reassured the PFCC that the extent of any issues in Northamptonshire Police was not comparable.

The Panel considered the report and members raised the following points during the course of their discussion:

- The cost implications of focussing on public confidence.
- The importance that public confidence played in the effectiveness of the force.
- Potential to roll out the same vetting procedures for the Fire and Rescue Service.
- The importance of inappropriate behaviours being challenged.
- Delivery of a training module to new recruits to address professional standards, misconduct, crime and corruption.
- The potential for more communication with the public to give assurances regarding changes being made against serving police officers – for example, by live streaming hearings
- Efficacy of naming individuals in advance of a guilty verdict.
- Delivery of a training module for all staff on Subconscious Bias.
- How far the use of Regulation 13 restricted the former officer/staff member in terms of future job opportunities in policing, for example by preventing them from transferring to another force.
- The limitations of a DBS check.

The PFCC made the following points during the course of the discussion:

- Regulation 13 was considered a performance mechanism and its use to dismiss a member of staff did not mean that they were corrupt: it could be used when an individual was not performing to the required standard.
- Northamptonshire Police did not have the same scale of issues as the Metropolitan Police, but they were not complacent and recognised that there

were changes and improvements to be made and confidence measures to be implemented.

- The results of consultation on the PFCC's proposed police precept were a measure of public confidence in the force. Despite current financial pressures more people said they were willing to pay more for policing in Northamptonshire than previous years.
- Further information would follow on the HMICFRS report on culture in the Fire and Rescue Service and work done with regards to culture and vetting.
- A decision had been made for complaints from the public to pass through the OPFCC. The OPFCC had engaged IPSOS in 2022 to produce an independent assessment of perceptions of safety in Northamptonshire. The report was expected in May 2023 and would provide an independent sense check and a level of assurance and confidence in the direction of change.
- Work that built public confidence in policing was considered to be important and an area for investment. There was a healthy balance of the funding in both policing in Northamptonshire, and the public confidence work being carried out.
- Northamptonshire Police were proactive in their approach to responding to the recommendations from HMICFRS and ensuring that their response was right.
- Each force was taking their own approach to responding to the recommendations, and it would be difficult to benchmark Northamptonshire Police with other forces.
- Whilst both the police and the Fire and Rescue service relied on public confidence, the police had the power to deprive people of their liberty, which increased the importance of high standards of conduct.
- Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service had carried out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks on staff for around 15 years and they would carry out a review.
- The new Chief Fire Officer had been tasked with ensuring a healthy vibrant culture that people wanted to work in.
- Northamptonshire Police had employed around 700 new Police Officers, which should help bring about a new culture and improve attitudes towards crimes like domestic abuse.
- The force remained committed to, and would continue to invest in, improving public confidence, that was not an over investment, the force had also achieved a significant increase in the number of police officers in Northamptonshire with representation from an ethnic and diverse perspective.
- Resources had been doubled in neighbourhood police officers that had been deployed and would be repeated. Their approachability, visibility and ties with the community all built confidence and trust.
- Confidence was also built through various areas of police work including the work of the Youth Team, ACE Workers, Neighbourhood Teams, the Flare App and the Safer Streets Team.
- One word change in the College of Policing Guidance regarding naming of individuals had cause considerable debate. Forces relied on legislation to help address the issues in relation to dismissal. There was also the presumption of innocence and an arrest did not automatically imply guilt of a crime.
- Whilst the force had a Professional Standards department, the Fire and Rescue Service did not. However, developing a combined Human Resources

function for both services would provide reassurance and sharing and combining information and adopting one vetting process would make it more likely that the Fire and Rescue Service would prevent issues arising that could cause it to receive complaints.

- The future of policing could involve Artificial Intelligence (AI) programme, AI overlaid on to Closed-circuit Television (CCTV) which could be utilised for crime prevention. The computer could identify when smoke would lead to a fire, recognise aggressive behaviour by assessing a person's gait, or identify a make of gun or knife.

The Deputy Chief Constable made the following points during the course of the discussion:

- Investment had been made to improve the team with no end date
- The force was undergoing an exercise to ensure that its culture and behaviours were right beyond those actions recommended by the HMICFRS or outlined in the Casey report.
- Procedures for officers transferring between forces were being tightened up.
- Powers to dismiss officers were operated by means of a panel of independent police officers or the Chief Constable could dismiss officers on accelerated hearings, which would be held in public.
- There were known issues in Northamptonshire Police, and the review was considered as an opportunity to invest and ensure the right people were in post. Anyone dismissed would be placed on a National Barring list, preventing their re-employment within the force.
- PND checks would be carried out on all officers, including senior officers.
- Work was being done with staff to provide appropriate reporting routes, giving consideration to confidentiality.
- The force was directing staff to engage with Voice for confidential support.
- The force was ensuring the right routes were in place to ensure victims and survivors could report in confidence and know action would be taken.
- The Chief Constable could exit people on accelerated hearings, and Regulation 13 would be used when officers were identified, during their probation, as either inappropriate for the job, or as a means to exit staff in misconduct matters. There would be no right of appeal if dismissed under Regulation 13 and individuals would be flagged to prevent them joining another force.
- The vast majority of police officers and staff were brilliant, carrying out amazing work for the public.
- The force was being proactive in holding people to account, engaging with the public to offer reassurance that officers and staff would be held to account for their standard of behaviour.
- The force had a great organisation and staff and would identify the few that did not meet that standard and exit them.
- The force had strict rules on reporting names of individuals and the circumstance of their dismissal to ensure the right outcomes are made.
- Work was ongoing to make improvements, so that staff felt comfortable to report inappropriate behaviours.

The Detective Chief Inspector made the following points during the course of the discussion:

- The team took a long-term view, by identifying the legacy behaviours they would be better placed to make changes, beyond the recommendations made in the HMICFRS report. Additional areas identified for review and improvement included crime, corruption, misconduct and staffing levels.
- Public confidence was required to police by consent, therefore investment and improvement was at a priority.
- On conclusion of the individual reviews they would identify investigators with the appropriate skill sets to deal with complaints and the method of reporting that would give the public most confidence and dispel historic perceptions of police investigating themselves.
- Work would be done to review and change the operating model to ensure investigations sat in the right area with the appropriate level of resource.
- Change needed investment, recognition and engagement.
- Consideration being given to the training and development of police officers started from the initial job advertisement to ensure the right calibre of candidate applies; included ongoing training and development; and would also explore the possibility of training through the University of Northampton.
- A cultural change was required. Operation Admiral was focussed on the crime and misconduct element and linked to team Stronger Together who focussed on cultural change. They would deliver Unconscious Bias Training where required and provide advice and suggestions to Operation Admiral. Operation Admiral also worked with Professional Standards recognising that people make mistakes and required a forum to ask questions without judgement, reflection to identify areas for change and improvement and to receive guidance.

RESOLVED that:

The Panel notes the Northamptonshire response to recommendations from the HMICFRS inspection of vetting, misconduct, and misogyny in the police service.

138. **Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Estates Strategy Update**

The PFCC introduced the report and advised that delivering an effective and efficient estate for both Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service was particularly challenging in the current economic climate. The PFCC went on to highlight the following points:

- The OPFCC had carried out a review of the joint estate to assess affordability and suitability to provide best value.
- The proposed project for a joint garage hub in Earls Barton would not proceed due to a significant rise in development costs. The building would be sold and consideration given to alternative means of delivering a joint facility.
- His ambition was for a 15 - 20 year estates strategy to ensure resilience for future PFCCs.
- He would continue to progress plans for collaborative working reflecting the changing economic climate.

The Panel considered the report and members sought a greater understanding of the following matters during the course of their discussion:

- The capacity to accommodate all staff in the current estate.
- Plans regarding the sale of Kettering Police Station, which sat vacant, and the allocation of sale proceeds.
- Ownership and future plans for Towcester Police Station.
- List of property proposals for disposal, and how this would affect policing in those areas.
- The location of the current fleet workshops.
- The balance between disposal of assets and the impact of police presence in the community.
- The potential to generate a benefit from assets that were surplus to requirements other than by disposing of them.
- Marketing potential of Police Boxes.
- The potential for the PFCC to share a final list of surplus assets with the Northamptonshire local authorities and to work together to identify potential future uses, for example, as sites for the construction of social housing.

The PFCC made the following points during the course of the discussion:

- Should all staff physically attend the work-place buildings would be close to capacity.
- The Estates Strategy would consider modern methods of working, capacity, condition of the buildings and their locations.
- An outside property organisation had been engaged to assist with drawing up a master plan.
- The draft Estates Strategy was awaiting approval by the Estates Board.
- The police control room at Wootton Hall would need updating or a new building sought.
- North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) owned part of Kettering Police Station, and the OPFCC had incurred significant challenges working with NNC to sell the property. Recently significant progress had been made and they could be in a position to be sold as a joint asset soon.
- The appropriate percentage of the sale proceeds would be allocated to NNC.
- Towcester police station was not currently on the market due to a challenge through the planning process relating to its previous use, which had held up the process.
- The OPFCC was looking at a strategy to avoid situations that cause delays by taking a long-term view considering how buildings would be used in the future, including the possible further development of existing sites, maximising the estate on land that was already owned, considering location, suitability of highways access points, future housing developments and affordability.
- Consideration of the future Fire and Rescue estate would link to the operational cover review being carried out by the Chief Fire Officer.
- Kettering and Corby police stations had been vacant for some years. Officers operated primarily from the Northern Accommodation Block.
- He had addressed Police Officers' visibility within communities and invested in mobile technology to measure Police Officer activity time on patrol. This was supported by providing places for rest and administrative work, balancing modern working with visibility in the community.

- The OPFCC was also working on the ability for the force to share buildings, on unmanned fire stations and on co-location where two buildings were in close proximity. It was considering the Milton Keynes model for a Super Station for Police and Fire.
- Data collected from the fleet vehicles enabled a review of areas being patrolled.
- Repairs for the Fire and Rescue Service were carried out in Moulton Logistics Centre and the fleet for police at Wootton Hall. The plan was for both to move to one location and consideration was being given to the options available.
- The importance the public gave to buildings within the community was considered. However, keeping outdated buildings could limit the number of officers employed and visible within the community.
- The estate also included Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) radio sites and locations that could be disposed of or in some cases, where sites were required for masts, transferred to national government.
- The OPFCC would look at alternative ways to create revenue from estates and better ways of disposing of assets, which was why outside experts had been engaged to support the estates review. This might include applying for Outline Planning Consent prior to disposal of assets to steer the development towards initiatives like local green housing or other ways of getting better value for the public. This would create opportunities to work with both North Northamptonshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council or the NHS.
- A more detailed Estates Strategy could be available to be presented to the Panel in the Autumn. This was likely to involve a hub and spokes model with consolidation to bigger sites in significant and strategic locations within the area. The review would enable informed decisions to be made for future proofing the estate.
- Whether there was a market for Police Boxes was unknown. There were five in total and where they were leased the OPFCC was exiting the leases. Options for potential use of buildings that were owned and provision for local groups were being explored.
- The OPFCC did work with both Northamptonshire local authorities regarding estates and would welcome the collaboration.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The Panel notes the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Estates Strategy Update.
- b) The Panel requests the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to present the new version of the Commissioner's full Estates Strategy to the Panel in 2023/24.

139. **Police, Fire and Crime Plan Delivery Update**

The PFCC presented the Police, Fire and Crime Plan Delivery update and highlighted the following points:

- This update presented to the Panel provided a comprehensive review of recent work being undertaken to deliver the priorities set out in the Plan.

- Northamptonshire had been chosen, as one of the 16 areas in England and Wales by the Home Office, to participate in a new crackdown on anti-social behaviour. This attracted additional funding of £2 million to support either new 'hotspot' enforcement areas or a trial of a new 'Immediate Justice' scheme.
- Successful Safer Streets funding bid had now attracted in excess of £3 million of funding to the county. The scheme had delivered 650 new doors, alley gates, security lighting for a number of property schemes and a major extension of North Northamptonshire's CCTV network.
- A successful pilot scheme to support businesses in Northamptonshire to improve investigation of shoplifting and other retail crime would be established permanently and extended to the west of the county.
- Reports to the Flare App had enabled data to be analysed, problems areas identified and follow up action taken.
- The Chief Fire Officer had been tasked with ensuring the concerns raised in the HMICFRS report in relation to embedding values and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in the Fire and Rescue Service were addressed.
- The update demonstrated the breadth of work done by the OPFCC.

The Panel considered the report and members raised questions on the following areas during the course of their discussion:

- The quantity and scope of schemes and initiatives being undertaken and the risks of overlap with similar projects, for example between night time medical patrols in Kettering and the new SNOvan for the north of the county.
- Whether adding a Star Rating to the Flare app would help with raising public awareness of the app and encouraging usage.
- The 18 parishes that were awarded funding from the Road Safety Community Fund were mainly in the west. Was there scope to do more in the north of the county: Irthlingborough was one area there with road safety issues.
- Communities would find it helpful if in-person Joint Action Group (JAG) meetings were resumed.
- Improved safety of nightlife once ID Scanning implemented.
- It may take time to see the results of some of the changes being made.
- The increase prevalence of graffiti in the county.
- The impact of more visible policing in the county was still not very apparent.
- The St George ward in Northampton had been allocated a second Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) but they had not been available for work since.
- In 2022 a young man was attacked and threatened with a knife and no action had been taken by the police. A similar incident recently had resulted in a fatality in Kingsthorpe. A system review was required and action needed to be taken to protect and support the community.
- Complaints from residents regarding drug dealing in Kingsley had been reported to the police but officers had advised that only 3 minor incidents had been reported. The systems in place were not supporting the community.
- Implementation of a serious incident action plan to provide immediate support to the local community.
- Flare app cards could be distributed to all councillors to promote it.
- The merits of holding serious Incident drills.

- Work being undertaken with the Fire and Rescue Service in relation to houses in multiple occupation (HiMOs) and the buildings included in the definition of HiMOs.

The PFCC made the following points during the course of the discussion:

- Some projects detailed in the report were time limited or had different focuses. All related projects were designed to work together.
- The Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative (SAVI) and Pub Watch scheme were two different schemes. Pub watch would run for 6 months and the new SNOvan would be active by the summer.
- The Flare Ap was well advertised and may be extended in the future.
- He was cautious about the implementation of Star Ratings intended to promote the ratings of an app.
- ID scan technology that would identify the age of an individual would be more effective than Photo ID cards. The technology would enable the identification of known individuals and could be used by the police to identify attendees at a venue should there be an incident. Training on the system had been provided to the trade.
- Having different authorities in the north and west of the county had meant that a Road Safety Community Fund scheme could be piloted in the north. The increase in successful prosecutions that had resulted had led to the scheme being rolled out to the west.
- Advertising of the Road Safety Community Fund and the availability of funds could be included in briefings for Ward and Parish Councillors, held at 4–6 weekly intervals. Further information and details of how to apply could be found on the OFPCC website
- The Road Safety Community Fund was topped up from money collected within the county including monies paid for speed awareness courses.
- Consideration could be given to modifying the format for local JAG meetings.
- Licensing SAVI was designed to encourage the rating of an establishment in order to improve standards in clubs.
- He had discussed licencing standards with the Chair of West Northamptonshire Council's Licensing Committee with a view to emboldening the licensing function to raise the standards expected of establishments.
- Ensuring public safety would have economic benefits.
- He would speak outside the meeting concerning issues raised relating to the St George ward.
- Graffiti was not a police responsibility. He would facilitate a discussion with the relevant local authority portfolio holder.
- Councils had briefings to identify how the Council and police could work together to address some of the challenges that schools face in relation to dealing with serious incidents.
- The 'Right Person Right Care' approach would be a challenge, but would ensure policing was focused on crime and not dealing with mental health issues. People having a medical episode would be identified to enable them to be supported by medical practitioners. Medical provision would be available in the control room to support staff.
- Recruitment to PCSO posts was ongoing and involved some challenges, including that a number of those recruited to PCSO posts had left to become

full time officers. PCSO recruitment could be given more attention now that the force had its highest ever number of full time officers, using resources recouped by the OPFCC when the force was not using them for PCSOs.

- 16 police force areas were granted funding for a pilot to crack down on anti-social behaviour from the 43 in the country as a whole. It would be a Northamptonshire wide project, how it would be administered required more thought and collaboration with the other areas. Consideration was being given to Immediate Justice, or conditional caution. It would be an opportunity for collaborative working and sharing of ideas.
- A significant societal change was required to make carrying knives unacceptable. The response to risks connected with knives needed to be a joint effort, involving parents, schools and police.
- He could provide further information to the Panel on action being taken in Northamptonshire to implement the new Serious Violence Duty.

The OPFCC Director of Delivery made the following points during the course of the discussion:

- The paramedic qualified staff out in the night-time economy initiative came through the grants awarding process and would provide a service in Kettering until the new SNOvan purchased for the north was fitted out.
- Both the Youth Team and the Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) were involved in the immediate response to the recent fatal incident in Kingsthorpe and worked with the school for their response to support young people and the school. Young people directly affected were taken on to CIRV. Exodus provided extra support over the weekend. A plan was developed with the local authority after the immediate response. Learning had been taken from the incident.
- The Safeguarding Board had agreed the creation of an education subgroup as part of the safeguarding board they had agreed the actions in relation to this particular response and a group tasked to work with relevant parties to develop a crisis management pack for head teachers
- The standard crisis management pack would be issued to schools. Schools could be encouraged to carry out serious incident drills as part of a teacher training days. Once a plan has been developed conferences would be set up for schools to facilitate conversations around the incident. Head teachers would be issued with a pack which would include a list of key contacts for them to contact in the event of an incident to get advice or guidance on how to use an implement the pack and how to work with the public and Gold Commanders.
- There was a need to work together to address societal change in relation to knife crime. The OPFCC had increased the focus with the Knife Angel, roll out of additional bleed kits, amnesty bins, and had provided comprehensive education packages for schools.

15.45 - The meeting was adjourned in response to a fire alarm.

16.05 - The meeting reconvened.

In attendance:

Councillor Mercer, Councillor Smith, Councillor Maxwell, Councillor Pritchard, Councillor Carr, Councillor McGhee, Councillor Strachan, Miss Pauline Woodhouse, Mrs Anita Shields, James Edmunds and Diana Davies

The Chair explained, to the public live stream that the meeting had been adjourned in response to a fire alarm.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The panel notes the Police, Fire & Crime Plan Delivery Report.
- b) The Panel requests the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to present a report on the impact of implementing the Serious Violence Duty as part of the Panel's future work programme.
- c) The Panel requests the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to present a report on the impact of delays in the Criminal Justice System as part of the Panel's future work programme.

140. Fire and Rescue Authority Finance Update

The Chair noted that the PFCC and OPFCC officers had needed to leave due to the delay in the meeting resulting from the adjournment. Any questions on the report could be dealt with outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED that:

Panel members send any questions on the Fire and Rescue Authority Finance Update to the Panel Secretariat to arrange for answers to be provided by the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

141. Policing Finance Update

The Chair noted that the PFCC and OPFCC officers had needed to leave due to the delay in the meeting resulting from the adjournment. Any questions on the report could be dealt with outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED that:

Panel members send any questions on the Policing Finance Update to the Panel Secretariat to arrange for answers to be provided by the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

142. Police, Fire and Crime Panel Work Programme

The Chair introduced the report setting out the work programme, which was based on the standard agenda item but reflected that this was the last meeting of the year. The report therefore invited the Panel to highlight the items that it wanted the successor Panel to give consideration to including in the new work programme for 2023/24. The Chair subsequently noted that scrutiny work on Early Intervention was ongoing and the Panel had also identified additional items of future business earlier in the current meeting.

The Panel considered the report. In response to a question the Democratic Services Assistant Manager advised that the item in the work programme relating to the recruitment of independent co-opted members reflected that the term of the post was 4 years and recruitment would need to take place in the summer of 2024. The Panel had previously sought a third co-opted member and was currently carrying a vacancy.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The Panel notes the report.
- b) The Panel recommends that its work programme for 2023/24 should include the following matters:
 - A report from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner on the new version of the Commissioner's full Estates Strategy
 - A report from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner on the impact of implementing the Serious Violence Duty
 - A report from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner on the impact of delays in the Criminal Justice System.

143. **Complaints and Conduct Matters Update**

The Democratic Services Assistant Manager presented the report, which advised that one new complaint relating to the PFCC had been recorded during the period September 2022 – March 2023. This complaint had been subject to Informal Resolution by the Panel's Complaints Sub Committee.

The Chair invited Panel members to raise any points relating to the report that they wished the Panel to consider. Panel members suggested that it could be useful to include comparison statistics on numbers of complaints in future reports.

RESOLVED that:

The Panel notes the Complaints and Conduct Matters Update.

144. **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 4.20 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____