

North Yorkshire County Council

Police and Crime Panel

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11 January 2018, commencing at 10.30 am at Selby District Council, Doncaster Road, Selby.

Present:-

Councillors: Val Arnold (Ryedale District Council), Michael Chambers MBE (Harrogate Borough Council), Peter Dew (City of York Council), Mel Hobson (Selby District Council), Carl Les (North Yorkshire County Council), Russell Lord (Richmondshire District Council), Peter Madeley (Craven District Council), Peter Wilkinson (Hambleton District Council).

Community Co-opted Members: Paula Stott.

Julia Mulligan (Police and Crime Commissioner)

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority appointed observers: Councillor Tony Richardson (Vice Chair, NYFRA)

Officers from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner: Fraser Sampson (Interim Chief Executive Officer), Michael Porter (Chief Finance Officer), Will Naylor (Head of Policy and Projects) and Tom Thorp (Policy and Scrutiny Manager).

Officers from NYCC: Suzanne Truman (NYCC Finance), Diane Parsons (Panel Secretariat).

Apologies:

Councillors: Ashley Mason (City of York Council), Sandra Turner (Scarborough Borough Council)

Community Co-opted Members: Santokh Singh Sidhu.

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority appointed observers: Councillor Andrew Backhouse (Chair, NYFRA)

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

252. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2017, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

253. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Val Arnold notified of an interest in the item regarding the Police and Crime Commissioner's local business case on governance of the Fire and Rescue Service (Item 7), in respect of being a current Member of the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. The same declaration was notified by Councillor Tony Richardson.

254. Public Questions or Statements

A public statement had been submitted in advance of the meeting, and agreed by the Chair, from Gwen Swinburn. The Chair advised that although the submission had been received after the deadline, the Chair is able to exercise some discretion on this point and had determined that the statement could be brought.

Gwen Swinburn firstly expressed concerns at the PCC's budget consultation as she felt there had been a lack of information made available by the PCC to the public about the implications of the various options.

Miss Swinburn also referred to discussions held at the previous Panel meeting with regard to the performance of the OPCC and the Civic Disclosure Unit (CDU) within the police force in dealing with Freedom of Information Act (FoIA) requests. She sought to emphasise for the Panel that she felt the PCC's attitude to secrecy and giving opaque answers to FoIA requests is causing huge delays and resulting in a breakdown of trust and confidence in the PCC. Miss Swinburn referred in particular to a recent FoI request submitted around how many Chief Executive Officers are being paid for at the OPCC and where the response provided did not include on-costs for those staff.

As a final statement, Miss Swinburn commended the professionalism of the Panel and its arrangements. She stated that in contrast, she felt the conduct of the PCC at the previous meeting had shown a marked lack of respect to the Panel members and urged them to take action if this conduct occurred again.

The Chair thanked Miss Swinburn and advised that the Panel would deal with considerations about the PCC's consultation at Item 9. In relation to concerns about the performance of FoIA request handling, the Panel will consider this matter as a further agenda item on 6th February 2018 and as such will revert to the issues raised then.

The PCC commented on Miss Swinburn's point regarding there being potentially two Chief Executive Officer salaries being paid by the OPCC. The PCC reminded Members that as there is an HR process underway, this has to be followed through to its conclusion and no information can be shared prior to then. The PCC confirmed that a Decision Notice will be published once the process has concluded. The PCC offered to provide a briefing for the Panel in private session. The Chair advised that the Panel would need to reflect on this offer later in the meeting as there was currently nothing formally itemised on the agenda to move into private session.

255. Progress on Issues Raised by the Panel

Considered -

The report of the Panel Secretariat advising on the progress on issues which the Panel raised at previous meetings and other matters that have arisen since the last meeting and which relate to the work of the Panel.

The Chair advised that information had been provided by the OPCC in response to the item listed on evidential testing for drink driving under Item 11. As such, the response would be considered as part of that item.

Resolved -

That the report be noted and the information provided considered under Item 11.

256. Update following presentation of the Panel's Annual Report to the Scarborough Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Board

Considered -

The report of the Panel Secretariat updating on issues raised by the Scarborough Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Board ("the O&S Board") on 13th December 2017, and seeking comments from the PCC to assist in responding to the Board.

The Chair advised that Councillor Sandra Turner had attended the meeting with himself and the Secretariat officer, to give the Panel's annual report. Diane Parsons outlined in brief the key issues raised by the O&S Board. The PCC commented on each as follows:

101 non-emergency service: concerns over poor performance and the need to use local points such as police stations to report issues.

Scarborough Police Station is one of the busiest stations in the county and has some of the longest opening hours so the PCC has no concerns about its accessibility for the local community. With regard to concerns about moving the reporting of concerns to the 101 system, the PCC felt this move had been unavoidable and it would not be appropriate to consider reversing this development at this point in time.

Potential for extending the role of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

New legislation which came into force in 2017 does enable the Chief Constable to give more powers to PCSOs but these haven't been conferred in North Yorkshire as of yet. The Chief Constable is looking at the implications of the new legislation and where new powers could be conferred. There are a number of powers which legally a PCSO cannot do such as stop and search and the power of coercive arrest. The OPCC has been engaging informally with PCSOs and with Unison on this. There are some mixed views around the new powers. For example, some PCSOs would be keen to take statements, whilst others are concerned that this may start to dilute the core purpose of a PCSO in their community-focussed role. The Chief Constable therefore needs to give this careful consideration.

Sustainability of local Neighbourhood Watch schemes

The Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) scheme in Scarborough is not affiliated to the national scheme and as such has its own arrangements. The local scheme is awaiting a new Chair and it is hoped this appointment will help the scheme to develop further. North Yorkshire Police (NYP) have been working to re-invigorate and support these schemes locally. The Deputy PCC advised that the national NHW scheme is undergoing a restructure which may have resulted in a dip in central support for local schemes and it was also noted that the national scheme is not going to fund local NHW schemes, so there have been a number of changing circumstances at play.

Councillor Richardson raised a concern by way of follow-up to the issue around the PCSO role with respect to policing in the York area. This was with regard to a concern that there are insufficient (warranted) officers in York and a perception that PCSOs therefore often have to attend as first response to an incident. The PCC acknowledged the concerns raised in relation to the restructuring of the policing teams in York but confirmed that PCSOs are not first response officers. A review of neighbourhood policing will be carried out in due course. This was initially intended to look at the implications of changes in the York area but will be taken force wide. The review has been delayed due to the implications of the work at Kirby Misperton as this is having knock-on effects on local policing teams. The PCC felt it important that the review picks up issues resulting from the recent changes to neighbourhood policing rather than impacts occurring as a result of the policing of the fracking protests. The PCC offered to provide an update to the Panel on progress with this at the next meeting.

Resolved -

That the Panel:

- (a) note the update provided and responses provided by the PCC;
- (b) share these responses with the Chair of the Scarborough Overview and Scrutiny Board;
- (c) will take a short verbal update on progress regarding the planned neighbourhood policing review on 6th February 2018.

257. Members' Questions

Councillor Mason submitted a question in writing in his absence, as follows:

The sale of historic police memorabilia, medals, portraits and other historically significant items has recently been rearranged for the end of January 2018 after it was originally postponed. I have been contacted by several serving and former police officers who have expressed their concerns at the loss of these important items. There seems to be little public record of what meetings have taken place and what attempts have been made to repatriate items, bar some press statements from North Yorkshire Police. This matter has not been handled in the best way and lessons need be learned to avoid a similar incident occurring again.

Will you agree [Commissioner] to put the sale on hold and meet with me and a representative from NARPO York to discuss this matter further, with the aim of rehousing these items? There is no immediate need to sell these items as they will bring in a very small return as they are largely of sentimental and historical value. Will you also agree that if any auction does go ahead it will be done at a local auction house in North Yorkshire?

The PCC acknowledged that the sale had not been handled well by NYP in the initial stages. A working group had been established in 2015 which identified 92 lots and the approach agreed then was to retain, donate and auction. It was deemed then that some items should be retained at Newby Wiske Hall, some will be displayed in a cabinet at the new Police HQ and other items have been accepted by Ripon Police Museum. The remainder were then put up for sale and the PCC acknowledged that engagement at that point did not take place with organisations such as NARPO. NYP has a contract in place with Wilson's (auctioneers), who have a specialist sale of police memorabilia in Scotland.

The PCC felt it was quite right that the auction had initially been put on hold following the feedback regarding the handling of the process. However, more comprehensive discussions have been held with stakeholders since then, including NARPO. NARPO have also emailed to indicate their support for the auction at the end of January. The PCC has also written to NARPO to apologise for the initial poor handling of the process. As such, the PCC declined to arrange a further meeting with Councillor Mason as engagement with NARPO has now taken place, they are supportive and the work being undertaken by NYP has been committed to improving the process. Further to follow-up questions from members, it was confirmed that NYP would be happy to speak to anyone with a legitimate interest in repatriating particular items such as sporting memorabilia, before the end of January. The auction will also be accessible online.

Councillor Peter Dew had submitted a question in writing to the PCC in advance of the meeting as follows:

Members of the Panel have received emails from a Mr Tony Nixon and also from an "Eddy Cochran" which allege that the Chief Constable, when previously employed as a senior officer at Greater Manchester Police, was responsible for a decision to stop investigations

into grooming gangs in Rochdale. Can you give an assurance that such allegations have been properly investigated?

Fraser Sampson confirmed that the OPCC had received the correspondence and that he has written back to Mr Nixon to advise that he will be looking into this. The correspondence referred to the Chief Constable's time at Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and Mr Jones has served in other forces since then, including North Yorkshire. Mr Sampson will be reviewing the extent to which the matters raised have already been considered within the jurisdiction of the previous forces and statutory agencies and establish whether there are any new matters which haven't been raised and dealt with until now. He will then look at these and revert to Mr Nixon shortly. Councillor Dew was clear that it isn't the duty of the Panel to investigate such allegations against the Chief Constable but wanted to ensure that the matter was being handled appropriately. Both Councillor Dew and the PCC acknowledged the importance of looking at such complaints at face value.

Councillor Peter Wilkinson asked a question regarding North Yorkshire having the highest record for wildlife crime; in particular the pursuit of raptors and some of the lowest prosecution rates. He sought reassurance from the PCC that this is being taken seriously. By way of response on this point, the PCC highlighted the Chief Constable's commitment to review the rural crime strategy, and the good work which has been acknowledged nationally of wildlife crime officers within NYP. Councillor Wilkinson discussed with the PCC how the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) treats such crimes and whether any further influence could be brought to bear. This is a developing area of work with the CPS and other partners in terms of ensuring appropriate prioritisation of such crimes and ensuring that the impact on victims is also fully understood. The PCC also highlighted that there are links to organised crime in relation to the illegal killing of deer and hare coursing. Work is underway to look at the totality of crime in rural areas as this is not fully understood. There is also some good practice to learn from in other areas. A follow-up question from a Member identified that the review of the rural crime strategy will include timescales for improvements and it was agreed that the PCC would provide a further briefing on this issue for a future Panel meeting.

Councillor Mel Hobson voiced concern about drugs problems among young people in his locality and wondered if more could be done via NYP to educate through the schools. The PCC acknowledged the concerns and agreed to provide Councillor Hobson with more detail on what's being done in Sherburn-in-Elmet. A follow-up question identified that the PCC will also be publishing details of further local surgeries shortly.

Resolved –

That the PCC will provide:

- a) a further update on the rural crime strategy to a future Panel meeting; and
- b) further information for Councillor Hobson in response to concerns raised regarding drugs use among young people in his locality.

258. PCC's Local Business Case regarding governance of the Fire and Rescue Service

Considered -

The verbal update of the PCC regarding the process underway for the Home Office to give consideration to her local business case to take oversight of the governance of the Fire and Rescue Service.

The PCC confirmed that the independent assessor's report has gone to the Home Secretary and the OPCC are awaiting the decision. There is no clear timetable at present

for this; some PCCs in a similar position have been advised that they will hear by the end of January but the Home Office has been cautious about setting a timeframe.

Resolved -

That the verbal update regarding the local business case be noted.

259. HMICFRS Inspection Reports on Police Efficiency and Policy Legitimacy (2017): Plans for Improving Areas of Service with NYP

Considered -

The report of the PCC regarding the recent PEEL reports from HMICFRS on the Efficiency and Legitimacy of North Yorkshire Police.

Councillor Wilkinson referred to the £1.6m in efficiencies to be found in ICT, estates supplies and services as identified within the PCC's draft precept proposal, and asked the PCC if she felt able to achieve the improvements identified following the PEEL Efficiency report at the same time as looking to reduce the budget on capital expenditure on ICT. The PCC advised of key ICT-related developments now in place or underway since the publication of the PEEL report, which she felt had brought about a more confident outlook on the points raised by HMICFRS. Potential savings have also been identified across the force and a significant piece of work is about to start to look at the operational shape of NYP and how this will need to evolve.

Paula Stott queried the lack of detail in the PCC's report, feeling it needed harder detail around targets and timescales and be less "conditional" in the language used around consideration of solutions, such as around the idea of an Ethics Board. The PCC agreed to provide this. The PCC also stated that work is underway to improve NYP's ability to understand demand, particularly demand occurring as a result of cuts made to other (external) services. Paula Stott also referred to the finding of the Legitimacy report regarding greater support being provided to the independent advisory groups (IAGs) to enable them to function effectively. In Santokh Sidhu's absence, she raised the concern that the Harrogate IAG is not currently financially sustainable as the VCS are unable to provide support longer term.

The Deputy PCC responded that a piece of work is underway to look at the three IAGs (York, Scarborough and Harrogate), how they are structured, where they are located and to review how their work could be better co-ordinated across the patch; particularly on themed issues germane to all areas. There are also gaps in coverage by the IAGs within the force area. The groups cannot be funded by NYP because they perform a scrutiny function. They similarly cannot be advised what to do or how to operate because they are independent.

A wider piece of work is underway to look at making the activities of a range of independent bodies which provide scrutiny and support to NYP, including the IAGs, operate more effectively. This will also look at how they can integrate more with similar panels operating within the County Council and City of York Council. It will take six months to look at this in the round. One option is to look at whether a full-time post within the OPCC is required to help co-ordinate schemes such as the Youth Commission and other groups.

Resolved -

That the Panel:

- (a) note the PCC's report; and

- (b) take an updated report with further detail on planned improvements measures as a result of the PEEL reports at a future Panel meeting.

260. Service Priorities and Setting the Precept

Considered -

The report of the PCC setting out context for the policing precept 2018/19, which will be formally put to the Panel in February 2018.

The Chair thanked Fraser Sampson and Michael Porter for providing a briefing on the precept at the Panel's recent Finance Working Group meeting and invited other Panel Members to join meetings of this group in future.

The PCC provided some context to the approach taken to the ongoing public consultation. The questions used in the survey are the same as those used since the PCC took up office. They have been fairly simple questions as the options available have been fairly contained to date. The government had announced the flexibility for PCC's to raise the precept by up to £12 (per Band D property) in 2018/19 halfway through the consultation so the survey had accordingly been adjusted. The PCC has also used a research agency to help with the process. The PCC has been clear with the Chief Constable that if the precept is raised then NYP will have to bid for money via a business plan setting out priorities for spend. A leaflet will be produced by the PCC for the public explaining how monies raised are being spent.

Michael Porter set out some of the 'headlines' around the funding landscape for policing and assumptions which have been factored into drafting the precept proposal. These included:

1. Government recently announcing flexibility for all PCCs to raise the precept up to £12 (Band D) in 2018/19.
2. Government grant has been frozen at £75.66m for the next two years.
3. There is an assumption of 'real terms' increase by the government. This includes assuming tax base growth at 1.34% and that the level of inflation will be around 1.5%. However, the tax base is expected to be less than that in North Yorkshire this year and inflation levels are too low in relation to what is being seen locally. Pay awards, which are outside of the PCC's control, have also been agreed for officers at 2%. The same offer has been rejected on the staff side, so there is a possibility that the final award may be even higher.

Mr Porter emphasised that if the PCC did not by take up the flexibility to raise the precept to £12, then significant savings would have to be made to services within NYP. It was highlighted that there is no additional money coming to PCCs in 2018/19. Further increases in pay awards will need to be met by the budget that the PCC has set and no additional monies will be made available by the government if awards are higher than expected.

Mr Porter stated that the potential to raise to £12 therefore only enables NYP to meet its costs; some of which, such as pay increases, have been unavoidable. However, there would still be a need to transform the service and achieve value for money to be able to translate savings into other parts of the organisation. The government will still expect to see efficiencies being made, even with the recent flexibility provided.

Mr Porter explained that a balanced budget can be achieved for the next four years but reserves will need to be drawn on. This represents £1.8m being drawn down in 2018/19 bringing general reserves to £4.6m. This equates to 3.2% of the net budget requirement. Mr Porter stated that he was comfortable with these levels but that if the transformation

plans aren't delivered by the force then he would reassess the plans and the adequacy of the reserve levels.

Further to queries from the Panel, Mr Porter clarified that the £12 increase refers to the Band D property increase and all other Council Tax bands would as such be pro rata.

Councillor Wilkinson highlighted two areas of concern:

- a) the level of reserves: a concern that it may not take many unforeseen circumstances to draw down the remaining £4.6m;
- b) the reduction in the Capital Programme: a concern related to the longer term risk to sustainability if investment (e.g. in ICT and infrastructure) is held back for more than a couple of years;

He indicated however that he was reassured that there is no borrowing in place. He felt that this gives a level of flexibility to look, if needed, at borrowing for capital expenditure, e.g. against buildings.

Further to a query regarding the planned £4.4m savings over next 12 months, Mr Porter expanded that these would come via staffing savings, ICT, estates and a management review. NYP has also been asked to look at the level of supervisors as it has more Sergeants, Inspectors and Chief Inspectors than other forces relative to PCs. A shift pattern review has been underway in consultation with the unions as this impacts on supervisory numbers and this is timetables to be implemented from April 2018. NYP is also an outlier in terms of the numbers of staff in the middle of the organisation. Where there are vacancies in some areas they will be held.

Councillor Wilkinson reiterated concerns regarding the forecast assumptions and that there is a risk of higher-than-expected pay awards, higher overtime, in addition to the fact that the safety camera vans (SCVs) have not generated the income that had been forecasted. Mr Porter agreed that overtime is a concern and that NYP are expected to get this right. It was noted that NYP has come forward with business cases and in some instances – such as for body-worn video – they have been rejected because they were not affordable.

The Chair queried the OPCC's analysis of the public consultation results, bearing in mind the additional question regarding the £12 rise was incorporated part-way through the process. The Panel were advised that as the OPCC had an indication of this flexibility prior to starting the consultation, residents who stated they would be prepared to pay more than 1.99% were asked how much more so that these results can be correlated with the answers given subsequently to the additional question.

Further detail on the public consultation, which ends 28th January 2018, will be provided to the Panel for its next meeting on 6th February when it will consider the PCC's formal precept proposal.

The Panel meeting was adjourned from 12:25pm to 1:00pm for a short break.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

261. 101 Non-Emergency Service: Progress Update on Improvement Measures and Future Planning

Considered -

The report of the PCC updating on performance of the 101 non-emergency service (deferred from November 2017).

The Deputy PCC highlighted that average call waiting times for both 999 and the 101 service in December 2017 had gone back up slightly. This was not unexpected, particularly as New Year had been the busiest ever such period for both services. The Deputy PCC highlighted that consideration was being given to longer term sustainability of the improvements seen. The extraction of crime recording from the Force Control Room (FCR) had resulted in some unanticipated consequences in terms of resilience and these are being assessed.

The Chair asked about the planned investment of £1m to the FCR. The PCC advised that an indicative figure of £1m had been received initially but more recently the force was seeking more than this. A detailed business case will be required. The PCC was clear that further work will be needed to bottom out exactly what NYP needs and to ensure that investment is cost-effective and affordable, as well as ensuring that NYP has given due consideration to the logistics and planning for higher numbers of staff in the FCR. The PCC advised that she would be happy to return to this at a future Panel meeting.

Councillor Richardson highlighted a concern that PCSOs locally have been spending a lot of time in dealing with nuisance calls and queried what plans are in place at NYP to deal with this. It was agreed that further detail would be provided on the action plan for dealing with nuisance calls.

Paula Stott commended the passion, commitment and dedication of staff in the FCR following a recent visit there by some of the Panel members. However, she was concerned that on speaking to the staff they had solutions to some of the issues being experienced but no one was asking them for their input. The PCC acknowledged that there has been a traditional 'top-down' culture within NYP but that encouraging challenge and feedback is important and there have been some recent improvements such as staff engagement tools.

The PCC was asked about the scope for further promotion of Crimestoppers, to which it was clarified that this organisation is intentionally independent of NYP but there are opportunities to work with them on certain campaigns. The OPCC is also undertaking a community mapping exercise with partners to ensure that local channels of communication into communities are properly keyed into.

Resolved -

- a) that the Panel note the report provided;
- b) that the Panel take a further update on 101 performance, including an update on plans for investment into the Force Control Room, at a future Panel meeting; and
- c) that the PCC will provide further information in relation to the handling of nuisance calls.

262. Road Safety Strategy: Overview of Initiatives and Evaluation of the Safety Camera Vans

Considered -

The report of the PCC on the Road Safety Strategy.

The PCC highlighted the partnership efforts behind the 95 Alive Road Safety Strategy, which runs in its current form to 2020. The Deputy PCC described the financial challenges facing the partnership and it was further highlighted that the Safety Camera vans (SCVs) have had no investment since they increased in number from 6 to 12 around 18 months ago. The smaller vehicles are more agile although there is a risk of less visibility. Another public survey on road safety will be produced in due course to get feedback on the implementation of the additional SCVs and their impact.

Members were particularly keen to discuss the impact of the SCVs on road safety, with reference to the Newcastle University study which had identified that their implementation had resulted in a reduction of casualties. The Deputy PCC highlighted that the SCVs are also now reducing other traffic violations such as driving without seatbelts. Further to a query from a Member it was clarified that the Newcastle University study team had taken out of their analysis any industry factors which may otherwise impact on vehicle speeds, such as vehicle speed control.

The Panel were also keen to understand the assessment of the placement of the vans, particularly where it was felt that the SCVs had not been placed directly in a reported 'blackspot' area or where it was unclear at which point they were measuring speed from. The Deputy PCC clarified the factors involved in assessing an appropriate location, based around KSIs (where speed is a factor), community concerns and whether it is a known motorcycle route. Sometimes SCVs will be placed further down from a 'blackspot' area in order to be safe and safely visible but will still impact on the traffic flow.

Councillor Richardson asked about the implementation of low light speed cameras and whether other force areas are trialling these. It was agreed that further information would be provided to clarify.

Councillor Wilkinson raised a concern regarding the reported increase in numbers of motorists having been stopped and tested positively for drink driving over the recent Christmas period in North Yorkshire; particularly as this appeared to go against a wider trend nationally. The Deputy PCC indicated that further work is required to understand whether the increase is attributable to there being a greater number of offences taking place or whether it is because of a more proactive approach to identification. It was agreed that further information would be provided around this.

Concerns were also raised by the Panel in relation to drug driving and the PCC noted that North Yorkshire has the highest numbers of stops for drug driving.

In relation to the information provided at Appendix 3 of the report in relation to evidential testing of drink driving, it was agreed that it would be established with Santokh Sidhu as to whether he felt this sufficiently answered his question from the previous Panel meeting.

It was noted that the Road Safety Strategy is slightly out-of-date in terms of individual partner members and that it will need to be revised to reflect any changes.

Resolved -

- a) That the Panel note the report;
- b) that information on low light cameras be provided by the OPCC to Councillor Richardson;
- c) that further information regarding the assessment of the recent increase in drink driving be provided to the Panel;
- d) that the Secretariat officer verifies with Santokh Sidhu whether the question on evidential testing from the November 2017 Panel meeting has been fully answered in the OPCC report.

263. Exclusion of the Public

Resolved -

The PCC invited the Panel to consider whether to receive information in closed session regarding the confidential process underway in respect of the substantive Chief Executive Officer. Members unanimously agreed to take this verbal report and that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for this item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to

the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006. As such, all members of the public and press left the meeting at this point.

264. Update from the Sixth Annual Conference for Police and Crime Panels held on 6 November 2017

Considered -

The report of the Panel Secretariat updating on issues considered at the Sixth National Conference for Police and Crime Panels held on 6 November 2017 at Warwick Conference Centre and seeking agreement of the Panel to two key proposals arising from that Conference -

- (a) a financial contribution from North Yorkshire Panel to facilitate the setting up and management of a national, representative body for Panels, through the LGA; and
- (b) a proposal for establishment of a regional Panel network, with options for administration and funding.

Diane Parsons highlighted the benefits to Panel Members and officers of attending the annual Frontline conference and urged Members to attend again later this year. It was notable that the Home Office was not represented at the event and that Panels do not appear to be represented within the Home Office working group on police complaints reform.

Councillor Wilkinson spoke in support of the proposal for national representation for Panels via an LGA Special Interest Group and also in favour of the proposal to join a Yorkshire and Humber regional Panel network. Members agreed these proposals and that the option for facilitation of the regional group via Frontline Consulting would be taken up. It was noted that the Panel may also benefit from links with Panels in other areas such as Cleveland and Durham but that the Yorkshire and Humber network provided a useful starting point.

Resolved -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That it be agreed in principle to provide a subscription (up to £500) to support the establishment of a Special Interest Group for Police and Crime Panels nationally.
- (c) That the Panel contribute £500 (to be reviewed after twelve months) to the formation of a regional Panel network for Yorkshire and the Humber, facilitated by Frontline Consulting.

264. Work Programme

Considered -

The report of the Panel Secretariat, inviting the Panel to consider its Work Programme.

Resolved -

That the Panel note the report provided.

The meeting concluded at 2:15pm.

DP