

Minutes of the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel Meeting held on 27 June 2022

Present: Bernard Peters (Chairman)

Jackie Barnes	Tony Holmes
Adrian Bowen	Philip Hudson
Jamie Checkland (Substitute)	Martin Summers
Ann Edgeller	Keith Walker

Also in attendance: Ben Adams, Helen Fisher, Ralph Butler, Emma Christmas (Observer representing the ETAP).

Apologies: Richard Cox, Gill Heesom, Bryan Jones and Roger Lees

PART ONE

1. Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED: That Councillor Bernard Peters be appointed Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing year.

2. Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED: That Councillor Richard Cox be appointed Vice Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing year.

3. Declarations of interest

None were made at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2022

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Panel meeting held on 25 April 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Questions to the PFCC from Members of the Public

The Panel considered the questions ask by members of the public and the Commissioners written response. Neither of the members of the public were able to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the questions asked and the Commissioners written response be noted.

6. Decisions published by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC)

Details were submitted of decisions published by the Commissioner since the last Panel meeting.

1. Fire and Rescue - 001 Purchase of Fire applications – enhanced rescue pumps.
2. Police and Crime – 001 Additional capital vehicle funding.

The decision to purchase additional vehicles was not questioned but members asked if there had been an increase in cost due to inflation and if so had this meant that funding had been diverted from other budgets to pay for them? In response, the Commissioner explained that the capital reserve was reasonably strong and had covered the cost. There would be an MTFS update report to the Panel in October which would go into more detail on budgets and reserves.

RESOLVED – That the decisions be noted.

7. Commissioners Annual Report

The Chairman expressed his concern that the annual report had been circulated after the publication of the agenda and this may affect the Panels ability to question the Commissioner.

Concern was also raised on the Panels ability to monitor the recent inspection report developments/ progress when the information was not published on the Commissioners web site to enable them to see progress. It was acknowledged that Chief Constable performance and action plans were normally on the website, but this had not been available to view for a number of weeks.

The Commissioner apologised for the lateness of the report. A draft had been emailed to members prior to the meeting but was not on the panel's public website. He explained that performance information would normally be available on his web site, and he would investigate the issue.

The Annual report was presented by the Commissioner who explained the progress made against his strategic plans.

The recent HMICFRS inspections which had highlighted some failings in the system, had been included in the report and performance against improvements was being measured and was being made public through the Performance meetings held with the Chief Constable. [Public Meetings - Staffordshire Commissioner \(staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk)

The Commissioner highlighted the following from the report:

- The operating models and transformation programme would be monitored, and results evidenced. Update reports and the next Annual report would show the progress.
- Additional funds had been secured for Safer Streets and Safer Women at Night Funds.
- Clear commitment had been made through funding for Community Safety Partnerships; Victim Support Services; and services to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour; and Hate Crime Services.
- All commissioning arrangements were being reviewed.

The Commissioner thanked the Fire and Rescue and Police Services, his staff and his Deputy for their support over the past months and helping to provide services and to prepare strategies and documents such as the Annual report.

Following the Commissioners presentation and questions from the Panel, the following information was shared with the Panel. This was in addition to that provided in the written report:

- The Panel wanted to see performance against other Police authorities and Key Performance Indicators available on the Commissioners web site. The Chairman informed the Panel that unfortunately this was not currently available, and this problem needed to be addressed.
- It was hoped that the new Local Policing Model, which went live on the day of this meeting, should help to increase crime prevention as officers would have less distance to travel to attend incidents. It was acknowledged that it may take up to 12 months to gather data to demonstrate effectiveness.
- Following a question on how the effectiveness of the extra funding for Safer streets would be measured, the Commissioner explained that he expected to see an increase in the night economy; an improved feeling of safety and less street crime. The Government collected data on how the funding had been spent and set targets to demonstrate how effective it had been.
- Road Safety was an important issue which affected all areas of the county. The Deputy Commissioner gave a brief update on activities under way to improve car and road safety. Helen Fisher was invited to attend the next meeting to brief the Panel on what work was taking place.
- It was felt that the performance of the Contact Centre remains a priority but didn't seem to be improving. In response, the Commissioner stated that it remained a top priority, but it was taking time to train officers; a new Chief Superintendent experienced in contact services had been appointed; the service had undergone a recent peer review; and other force areas had visited to assist with best practise among other initiatives. Improvement needed to be seen and would be reported to the Chief Constable Performance meetings and would be included in all performance reports to this Panel.

- Thanks were expressed to the Speed Watch team, for all the work they do.
- Communicating with the Commissioner's office via email had been an issue for one member and needed to be addressed.
- The panel felt that the statistics and data in the report were interesting but they were not set in any context, so it was difficult to know if they were impressive compared to other forces or set against targets. This was comment was acknowledged.

Members of the Panel felt strongly that the public needed to be able to see the effects of the any changes made and information needed to be available on the web site.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the report be received
 - i. That the Panel respond formally to the Annual report including the feedback provided during the meeting, particularly relating to the Commissioners public web pages and information available to the public.
 - ii. That the Deputy Commissioner provide an update on the Safer Roads scheme at the next meeting of the Panel.

8. Home Office Grant 2021/22

The Panel received the annual report which provided information on the Home Office grant allocated to the Host authority which was intended to meet the costs of the administrative support and management services of the panel. The Grant allocation for 2022/23 had not yet been received.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. Annual Report on the Handling of Complaints against the Commissioner 2021/22

The Panel received the annual report which provided information on the number of complaints referred to the panel which relate to the personal conduct of the Commissioner and/or his Deputy.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10. Questions to the PFCC by Panel Members

Members of the Panel questioned/sought the views of the Commissioner on the following issues and received the responses indicated:

Question	Response
Would strikes by Barristers and or Court staff have an effect of the service?	The Commissioner felt that it would probably increase the backlog of cases waiting to be dealt with.
The Fire and Rescue service carry out inspections of high-rise flats. How was this being monitored to ensure they are taking place.	The results of a recent HMICFRS inspection report was due to be published within the next few weeks and this was one of the things looked at. This information would be included in the Commissioners Performance meetings with the Chief Fire Officer and would be provided to the Panel for information.

Chairman