

Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel

Friday, 19 February 2021

PRESENT: Councillor A. Lloyd-Jones (Chair)

Carmarthenshire County Council Members:

Councillors K. Howell and J. Prosser;

Ceredigion County Council Members:

Councillors L. Edwards and K. Evans;

Pembrokeshire County Council Members:

Councillors M. James, S. Joseph and R. Summons;

Powys County Council Members:

Councillors D. Evans, L. George and W. Powell;

Independent Member:

Prof. I. Roffe;

In attendance from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner:

Mr. D. Llywelyn, Police and Crime Commissioner;

Mrs. C. Morgans, Chief of Staff;

Ms. B. Peatling, Chief Finance Officer;

In attendance from Dyfed-Powys Police:

Mr Mark Collins, Chief Constable

Ms Claire Parmenter, Deputy Chief Constable

The following Officers were in attendance:

R. Edgecome, Legal Services Manager

J. Laimann, Assistant Democratic Services Officer

E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer

S. Rees, Principal Translator

J. Corner, Technical Officer

Virtual Meeting - 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND PERSONAL MATTERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jim Jones (Carmarthenshire County Council) and Helen Thomas (Co-opted Member).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest made at the meeting.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 5TH FEBRUARY 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel meeting held on the 4th November 2020 be signed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (IF ANY)

No matters were raised at the meeting.

5. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - NONE RECEIVED

The Panel was advised that no questions on notice had been received.

6. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Panel received a report on the appointment of a temporary Chief Constable upon the Chief Constable's retirement in March 2021. The Panel was advised that, due to the proximity of the next Police and Crime Commissioner's elections, the Commissioner had decided not to commence a recruitment exercise at this stage and to appoint Deputy Chief Constable Claire Parmenter as Temporary Chief Constable until a long-term appointment could be made.

On behalf of the Panel, the Chair wished the Chief Constable well in his retirement and thanked him for his invaluable work for the Dyfed-Powys police force, and wished the temporary Chief Constable success during her time in office.

RESOLVED

6.1. To note the appointment of Deputy Chief Constable Claire Parmenter as Temporary Chief Constable and welcome her to the role;

6.2. To thank the departing Chief Constable Mark Collins for his work.

7. SCRUTINY REPORT ON CCTV INVESTMENT BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Panel considered a scrutiny report on the Commissioner investment into town centre CCTV. It was advised that the Panel had established a task and finish group to examine the Commissioner's investment in CCTV in several towns across the force area to satisfy itself that the investment represented good value for money and had positive benefits for the people of Dyfed-Powys.

In preparing the report, the Panel had considered information from the Commissioner about the operation of the CCTV system, carried out a public consultation, sought the views of key stakeholders and undertaken its own research.

The Panel was advised that, as a result of the investment, 150 cameras had been installed in various locations in 23 towns across the force area. Work was ongoing regarding installations in Aberaeron and Narberth. The overall capital investment was expected to amount to around £1.3 million once all cameras had been installed. The CCTV system was heavily used for crime investigation as well as the safeguarding of missing persons.

The Task and Finish Group had concluded that the investment in town centre CCTV had been very worthwhile, was of operational benefit to Dyfed-Powys Police and had helped to make the public feel safer. It has also identified several recommendations relating to the ongoing funding and monitoring of the system, potential future expansion and Privacy Impact Assessments.

Several comments were made welcoming the benefits of the CCTV investment.

In response to a query on future funding, the Panel was advised that the Midterm Financial Plan included a position for CCTV of ca. £100k annually from 2022/23 onwards.

A query was raised regarding the potential for partnership work with local business / personal CCTV, as well as with farmers' unions. The Panel was advised that partnership working with business and personal CCTV had been successfully piloted and it was envisaged that this could be expanded in the future, with due regard being given to relevant data and privacy legislation. The subject would be taken up in strategic meetings with farmers' unions to discuss how a partnership approach could help tackling rural crime.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8. RESPONSE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER TO PANEL REPORT ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Panel received a report on the Commissioner's response to the Panel report on anti-social behaviour. The Panel report, which had been presented at the meeting in November 2020, had acknowledged good work being done and had made several recommendations.

The Panel was advised on the Commissioner's response to the recommendations in relation CCTV investments, information about support services and the appeal process for victims of ASB, and the effectiveness of the Community Trigger.

RESOLVED to note the Commissioner's response to the report.

9. UPDATE ON THE RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The Panel received an update report on the response to the Coronavirus pandemic in relation to securing resources, holding to account, enhancing delivery, community safety and crime reduction, and the link with local residents.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10. POLICING PROTOCOL - PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Panel received a report on the Commissioner's performance against the powers and duties set out in the Policing Protocol.

The Panel was advised that the number of green and amber categories had changed very slightly from the previous quarter with green categories decreasing by two and amber categories increasing by two. This was due to Covid restrictions and slight circumstantial changes and would continue to be monitored.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

11. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSIONER

The Panel considered a report on decisions taken by the Commissioner during the period 20th October 2020 to 8th February 2021. The Commissioner advised that the decision to appoint the Deputy Chief Constable as Temporary Chief Constable had been made to provide stability and consistency to the force and the substantial appointment would be progressed by the elected Commissioner following the election in May 2021.

In response to a query, the Panel was advised that, following discussions with other Police and Crime Panels, it had been established that no confirmation hearing was necessary for the appointment of a temporary Chief Constable.

In response to a query on the 2021/22 Police Precept leaflets, the Panel was advised that hard copies of the leaflets would be posted to residents in all four constituent counties.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

12. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The Panel was provided with an update on the progress regarding the sending of letters on behalf of the Panel to all MPs in the Dyfed-Powys area, and the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Wales, and the Policing Minister. The letters were drawing attention to the situation at Penally refugee camp and requested full repayment of all incurred costs in the Dyfed-Powys area.

CHAIR

DATE