



GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel held on Friday 26 July 2024 commencing at 10.00 am.

**PRESENT
MEMBERSHIP:**

Cllr Beki Aldam	Cllr Sajid Patel
Cllr Ray Brassington	Cllr George Porter
Cllr Philip Burford	Cllr Anne Radley
Cllr Daryl Corps	Cllr Steve Robinson
Cllr Gareth Kitchen	Stella Tams
Cllr Di Martin	Cllr Brian Tipper

Substitutes: Cllr Graham Beale, Cllr Colin Hay

Apologies: Kingston Myles, Cllr Victoria Atherstone, Cllr Joe Harris

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Cllr Steve Robinson was elected as Chair for the year 2024/2025.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Cllr Sajid Patel was elected as Vice-Chair for the 2024/2025 year.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4.1 The Chair welcomed the new members of the Police and Crime Panel.

4.2 He also confirmed that Kingston Myles, an independent panel member, had stepped down from the Panel due to his work commitments. The Chair and Panel thanked Kingston Myles for his valuable and insightful contribution to the Panel.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record.

7. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) - INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE

- 7.1 The Chair introduced Chris Nelson, the Police and Crime Commissioner, to present his Commissioner's update, Annual Report and draft Police and Crime Prevention Plan. He was supported by Nick Evans, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Ruth Greenwood, Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Kirsten Fruin, OPCC Assistant Chief Executive – Victims and Commissioning, and Victoria Bishop, OPCC Performance and Accountability Manager.
- 7.2 The Commissioner reflected on his re-election in May 2024 and confirmed that his pre-election discussions with constituents had led him to changing one of his six priorities in the Commissioner's Crime and Prevention Plan from 'Empowering local communities' to 'Improving confidence in and within policing'.
- 7.3 The OPCC gave a presentation introducing the Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Prevention Plan. The plan is a requirement of the 2011 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act; the purpose is to set the tone for policing in the county. The Plan which will be effective from 2025-2029 was based on the Commissioner's manifesto but also involved consultation with stakeholders. It was hoped that the plan would be ready by Autumn 2024.
- 7.4 The Plan outlined the Commissioner's Six Priorities which were:
1. Creating Safer Communities
 2. Tackling violence against women and girls
 3. Strengthening your constabulary
 4. Targeting the causes of crime
 5. Supporting victims and reducing reoffending
 6. Improving confidence in and within policing
- 7.5 When asked about whether the Police Race Action Plan would be included in the Police and Crime Prevention Plan, the Commissioner confirmed that the Race Action Plan and Better Together would be included in the Police and Crime Prevention Plan's actions.
- 7.6 Responding to a Member's question about petitioning the new government to bring in reforms to the police, prison and prosecution services, the Commissioner stated that he regularly petitioned the government both publicly and privately.
- 7.7 Responding to members' questions about the shortage of prison spaces, it was explained that new command groups had been formed to deal with operational matters. The Commissioner reassured the Panel that those who had committed serious crimes would not be released early and that he would push back against any early releases that he did not agree with. An Officer clarified that

every prisoner who was released underwent a risk assessment on release. She agreed to share this information with the Panel.

ACTION – Victoria Bishop

7.8 Following the Manchester airport police violence news headline, a Member asked for reassurance that this level of violence would not be used in Gloucestershire. The Commissioner expressed his belief in the use of minimal force in policing. In Gloucestershire, officers were taught in training that they would be held accountable for any force they used. It was emphasised that Gloucestershire Constabulary had a zero tolerance for any officers or staff members who failed to meet expectations in relation to the use of force.

7.9 The Chair questioned when average speed cameras would be installed in Gloucestershire. Nick Evans, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, stated that there had been four roads identified and the first cameras were expected to be installed in Autumn 2024. When questioned about the locations of the new cameras, he informed the Panel that he needed to seek clarity on whether he could make that information public.

ACTION – Nick Evans

7.10 A Member raised concern that some police speed watch vans were being placed in areas that were not being used to improve road safety but instead to make money. The Deputy Commissioner asked to arrange a meeting with the Member to discuss the locations in more detail.

ACTION – Nick Evans

7.11 Responding to a Member's question about how intimidation against women in the community was being dealt with, the officers confirmed that there was an OPCC consultation officer who worked with those communities who were unlikely to report issues. It was also stated that Bystander training was being ran throughout the county and different educational programmes were being ran in schools which focused on consent and prevention.

7.12 A Member questioned why the Police and Crime Prevention Plan's Priority Six's name had been changed to 'Improving confidence in and within policing' when it still contained many of the same principles of the previous priority which was named 'Empowering local communities'. The officers confirmed that the reason for the name change was to keep many of the previous 'Empowering local communities' principles but also add a greater emphasis on restoring confidence in policing for the public and for police staff.

7.13 Responding to a Member's question about the intimidation of politicians through social media, officers explained that the Online Safety Act 2023 was used by the police to take action against intimidation and threats made on social media. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner also confirmed that the OPCC had signed up to the Local Government Association (LGA)'s

'Debate, not Hate' campaign which aimed to reduce intimidation and encourage healthy debate. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would identify if anything more could be done in Gloucestershire.

ACTION – Ruth Greenwood

7.14 Responding to a question about reoccurring reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB), the officers explained that if residents had reported repeated ASB over a period of time, they were able to request an ASB Case Review (formerly referred to as a Community Trigger). The review process was created to prompt a review of the actions taken by those agencies that had a role in tackling ASB where there had been repeated incidences of ASB. It was emphasised that a review could only be requested if the incidents of ASB had been reported. It was agreed that an item on the ASB Case Review would be added to the work plan.

ACTION – Democratic Services

8. GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONSTABULARY AND OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (OPCC) JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

8.1 The Chair invited Sally-Anne Barnes, Chair of the Constabulary/OPCC Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) to introduce the annual report. She explained that it was a legal requirement for the Constabulary and OPCC to have an audit committee to provide oversight and advise on government risk management. She explained that the committee was made up of four individuals who met four to five times a year.

8.2 Responding to a question about the auditors' process, the officers confirmed that it was decided what areas should be audited, then the auditors used a risk dashboard to provide a summary report back to JIAC and then a more detailed report with key actions would be sent to the audit area's department heads, the Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

8.3 Referring to the table on page 73 of the agenda, a Member asked for clarity about the audit area 'Seized Cash Handling', it was explained that this had been marked as 'Low Limited' as it had been raised as a cause for concern because whilst no fraud had been detected, there was not an adequate documented procedure.

8.4 A Member questioned why only 'Risk management' on page 73 was highlighted in green. The Officer stated that to have an item marked as green was very unusual because they would expect to have action points for most audited items.

8.5 Responding to a Member's question, the Officer confirmed that the difference between the Constabulary's High Risk Register and the South West Internal Audit Partnership (SWAP) internal audit report was that the risk register

documented the risks involved in the daily work plan of the Constabulary whereas the SWAP report included audits that had been requested by either JIAC, the Commissioner, the Chief Constable, finance officers or external or internal auditors over a six month period.

8.6A Member suggested that the next report should include a colour code and an explanation of the use of words on the table on page 73-74 to help members understand the full picture. He also asked for the risk register to be included on the Panel's work plan including information about actions taken to mitigate risk. The Officer confirmed that some of this information was included in the full report which she would provide a link to.

ACTION – Sally-Anne Barnes/ Democratic Services

9. OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER - CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

9.1 The Chief Executive's report was taken as read. The Chair asked that due to time constraints, the Independent Custody Visitors Annual Report be postponed until September's meeting.

ACTION – Democratic Services

9.2 The Chief Executive invited the Panel to visit the OPCC Headquarters at Waterwells, Gloucester.

ACTION – OPCC/ Democratic Services

9.3 The Chair questioned whether instead of comparing to data from 2019, data from 2024 and 2025 could be used for comparison from next year. The Officer confirmed that they used data from 2019 because they were following government guidance (in line with the National Crime and Policing Measures). However, it was likely that, with the OPCC's new framework and the expected new government guidelines, this could change.

10. WORK PLAN

10.1 The Chair requested that the Audit Risk Register was added to the work plan

ACTION – Democratic Services

10.2 Members requested a visit to the OPCC.

ACTION – Democratic Services

CHAIR

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

Meeting concluded at 12.52pm.