

Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel
Report of the Chairman of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel

To All Member Authorities

In accordance with agreed practice, I am reporting on matters dealt with by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel at its meeting on 27 June 2022.

The main items considered were:

Appointment of Chairman - Councillor Bernard Peters was appointed Chairman of the Panel for the ensuring year.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman - Councillor Richard Cox was appointed Vice Chairman of the Panel for the ensuring year.

Decisions published by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) The following decisions had been 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.

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.

Commissioners Annual Report - Concern was raised firstly that the final version of the Annual report had not been received by the panel until the morning of the meeting and secondly, 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 Constables 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 panels

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/public-meetings)

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.

The Panel agreed to 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. The Deputy Commissioner was also invited to the next meeting to give an update on the Safer Roads scheme.

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.

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.

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.

Webcast can be found at [Browse meetings - Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel - Staffordshire County Council](#)

For more information on these meetings or on the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in general please contact Mandy Pattinson e mail mandy.pattinson@staffordshire.gov.uk

Details of Panel meetings are issued to contact officers in each of the District/Borough Councils in the County and Stoke-on-Trent City Council for posting on their own web sites.

Councillor Bernard Peters, Chairman
Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel