

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL (2021-2022)

Purpose of this report

The Annual Report is intended to provide a summary of the panel's activities over the previous municipal year.

Background

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is responsible for securing an efficient and effective police force for the area of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. This includes setting objectives in a Police and Crime Plan; considering budget allocation and holding the Chief Constable to account.

On 6th May 2021 Rupert Matthews was elected as the new Police and Crime Commissioner. Due to the postponement of elections in 2020 the new PCC's terms of office is three years.

The Police and Crime Panel (the panel) has several statutory functions which include reviewing the PCC's Police and Crime Plan; reviewing the PCC's Annual report and considering the PCC's proposed pre-cept, this also involves scrutinising the actions and decisions of the PCC and considering his full remit of responsibilities, e.g., commissioning.

Membership

The membership of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel consists of 15 members made up of 13 elected Members from each local authority in the force area i.e., Leicester City, Leicestershire, Rutland and 7 Districts; as well as 2 Independent Co-opted Members.

This make up of the panel ensures that all parts of the police area are appropriately represented.

The panel must ensure that the membership has appropriate skills, knowledge and experience in order to properly exercise the functions of the Panel.

The panel elects the Chair and Vice-Chair at the Annual General Meeting.

The membership of the panel for 2021-22 was:

Members	Local Authority
Cllr Les Phillimore	Blaby
Cllr Leigh Harper-Davies	Charnwood Borough
Cllr Simon Whelband	Harborough
Cllr Michael Mullaney	Hinckley & Bosworth
City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby	Leicester City
Cllr Piara Singh Clair	Leicester City
Cllr Kirk Master (Vice-Chair)	Leicester City
Cllr Elly Cutkelvin	Leicester City
Cllr Deborah Taylor (Chair)	Leicestershire County

Cllr Malise Graham	Melton Borough
Cllr Andrew Woodman	North West Leicestershire
Cllr Kevin Loydall	Oadby & Wigston
Cllr Lucy Stephenson	Rutland

Following a recruitment process undertaken in January 2022, 2 new Independent Co-Opted Members (Salma Manzoor and Parisha Chavda) were appointed for a term of 4 years.

In-Year Monitoring Information

Critical success factors

a) The number of public meetings held

The Police and Crime Panel meet in public to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (the PCC).

The Covid-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges to policing and in turn the role of the panel. The panel adapted to those changes quickly and effectively to ensure its responsibilities continued to be met throughout that period.

The legislation that permitted virtual meetings to take place during the Covid 19 pandemic ceased on 7th May 2021 and the panel resumed physical public meetings but continued to use technology to hold panel pre-meetings (non-public) using virtual meeting platforms e.g., MS Teams.

During this period the panel held 8 public meetings as follows:

- 24 June 2021 AGM at which new Chair and Vice-Chair were appointed
- 29 July 2021 Summer Panel meeting
- 13 September 2021 Extraordinary meeting to consider the draft Police and Crime Plan prior to public consultation
- 30th September 2021 Autumn Panel meeting
- 2nd December 2021 Winter Panel meeting
- 2nd December 2021 Confirmation Hearing for role of Chief Executive Officer of the OPCC
- 2nd February 2022 Pre-cept/Budget meeting
- 14th February 2022 Extraordinary meeting to consider and approve the final draft Police and Crime Plan

Details of the agendas and supporting papers for those meetings were published to the host authority's website and can be found at:

<https://cabinet.leicester.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=989&Year=0>

Member only preparatory meetings are held a few days before each panel meeting. There were 6 member pre-meetings arranged during this period and each was held virtually using MS Teams, and were attended by the Chair, Vice-Chair, support officer to the panel, and various panel members as availability permitted.

There were also Chair briefings held with the PCC and the CEO of the Office of the PCC prior to each public meeting.

In addition to the public meetings, the panel also held a series of informal task and finish group sessions, for information sharing and to explore, analyse or review issues in detail, notably as part of the draft Police and Crime Plan process prior to public consultation and as part of a review looking at s106 Funding.

b) Scrutiny

The panel's primary means of supporting and holding the PCC to account remains the formal public meetings, with the detailed minutes of those meetings providing evidence of both roles. The confirmed minutes of the meetings held during this period can be found via the following link: <https://cabinet.leicester.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=989&Year=0>

The panel's work programme provides a framework for the panel's activity throughout the year. Whilst the panel cannot directly scrutinise operational policing matters the panel through its work programme has carried out its main statutory duties, and continues to add value as part of and beyond its statutory role by scrutinising the actions and decisions of the PCC e.g., funding decisions, and providing support and challenge to the PCC in his role in helping tackle crime and disorder across the Force area and questioning how he is holding the Chief Constable to account.

The panel has received regular updates from and challenged the PCC on matters of current interest and concern. Topics of particular interest to the panel have been recruitment and retention of police officers and staff; domestic violence and alcohol related abuse as well as regular reports providing updates on performance for the OPCC and the Force which have included analysing data and mitigations to address concerns.

In line with statutory requirements, the panel continues to write to the PCC in response to the Precept, the Police and Crime Plan, and the PCC Annual Report and where appropriate, the panel's responses have been published on the host authority's website.

At its meeting to consider the precept the panel agreed with the PCC's recommendation to increase the 2022-23 precept by £10.00 per annum for police purposes to £258.23 for a Band D property to enable policing priorities to be met.

With the removal of Covid restrictions the panel were keen to undertake ad hoc, task and finish type scrutiny. Initially the panel formed a small working group that met to discuss and review the draft Police and Crime Plan prior to public consultation in September 2021.

The panel also agreed to undertake a scrutiny review of s106 Funding with the aim to scrutinise the effectiveness of arrangements by the OPCC/Force to obtain and use funding from developers to meet community policing needs. This review has been ongoing into the 2022-23 municipal year.

The panel has the statutory power to deal with complaints made about the PCC's conduct, this power has been delegated by the panel to the Monitoring Officer of the host local authority and a full procedure for complaints handling is set out in the panels Constitution. The panel received a report on how non-criminal complaints had been handled by the Monitoring Officer at the December 2021 meeting and has monitored complaints against the PCC.

Details of the complaints process can be found on the panels webpages at: [Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel](#)

c) Visits

The ongoing Covid 19 pandemic meant there were no panel visits taking place, however, as restrictions and risk of transmission of the latest variants ease, arrangements are now being made for visits with the aim of raising more awareness of force operations for panel members to aid them in their strategic thinking as well as understanding other strands to the PCC role i.e., commissioning.

- Drone demonstration – arranged for 27th July 2022
- Tactical support van/police car/motorbike viewing – arranged for 27th July 2022
- A panel familiarisation visit to Force HQ – arranged for 4th October 2022
- The Child Exploitation Hub based in Wigston.(deferred during 1st phase of pandemic)
- The Dear Albert Project (deferred during 1st phase of pandemic).

d) Events and Training

The Chair and panel support officer continue to play an active part in regional and national networks and have attended virtual meetings of the East Midlands Regional Network throughout the year.

The panel continues to subscribe to Frontline Consulting's Regional Network for the East Midlands and the Network meetings continue to be a useful means of sharing best practice and development as well as a means to help understand the national picture for PCC's.

Full panel member training was delivered by the panel support officer and Monitoring Officer in May 2021 providing an induction to the panel's responsibilities and scrutiny work going forward.

A training session was also held in January 2022 providing an induction for the two new Independent Co-Opted Members to the panel's responsibilities.

It is anticipated that refresher training will also be carried out for all panel members on their role and responsibilities in Autumn of the 2022-23 municipal year.

Opportunities for further training and networking continue to be explored and the panel support officer has been in discussion with Frontline Consulting to explore feasibility of a bespoke panel member workshop to facilitate a topical discussion around policing and where that is going, drawing on police culture and public confidence and referencing recent publications i.e., Policing Strategy and the Inspectorate report and drawing from them elements of concern or focus for panels.

e. Engagement with the work of the Panel by Members of the Public and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire Police

The panel regularly reviews its work programme, and the panel support officer continues to look at ways in which the panel could improve upon its work programme and raise its profile.

There is dedicated information in relation to the Police and Crime Panel on the host authority's website. This webpage content can be found at: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/decisions-meetings-and-minutes/leicester-leicestershire-and-rutland-police-and-crime-panel/> and is regularly maintained with updated membership details as well as details of future meetings.

Provision has also been made on the website for publication of expenditure information.

The panel continues to include as a standing item on its agenda's an opportunity for public questions and has published a public questions procedure available at [Public question time procedure \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://leicester.gov.uk/public-question-time-procedure).

All meetings of the panel are webcast live, and a recording saved to the host authority's webcast library. The recording of the meeting can be accessed for a period of time before being archived at the following link: <https://leicester.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Whilst the panel met virtually during the Covid 19 pandemic there was some increase in the number of public viewings of the streamed meetings and this has continued to some extent with the number of public viewings for the live stream of physical meetings. Panel meetings have on occasion gained more attention with the public and in the local media, but this has tended to be when specific highly topical issues occurred in the media beforehand.

In the past the panel has rotated the venue of meetings between the City and County in an effort to increase public attendance. A report to consider the location of meetings was presented to the panel for consideration at its June 2021 meeting and it was agreed to resume rotation of meetings between the City and County subject to room capacity to ensure social distancing.

Regarding the engagement of the PCC, working relations with the panel continue to be positive as do the links with the Office of the PCC, such as through the pre-agenda process. The PCC continues to attend all meetings of the Panel and has also engaged in wider activities in the communities around Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland which he often reports upon to the panel.

A good example of the PCC using the panel for support and challenge concerned a review of the Medium Term financial plan over Summer 2021 and also involvement of panel members in consideration of the draft Police and Crime Plan prior to public consultation. Members welcomed this approach as an improvement on previous practice and evidence of improved engagement.

f) Panel's Budget

The host authority for the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel is Leicester City Council.

The panel's arrangements agreed with the Home Office in 2013, stated that:
The annual costs associated with the operation, organisation and administration for the Panel shall be offset by the Home Office grant to be managed by the host authority. All of the relevant costs incurred by the host authority in connection with the work of the panel shall be met from the funding allocated by the Home Office unless the authorities agree otherwise. The host authority shall monitor all expenditure incurred and make provision for an annual report.

The panel previously agreed that elected members would not use the Home Office grant to draw allowances for members of the panel other than as provided for by paragraph 26 of the panel's Constitution. Independent members receive a small allowance payable through the host authority.

At its meeting on 2nd December 2021 the panel agreed to a change to its Constitution to amend paragraph 26 in the interests of certainty and transparency as follows:

Payment of expenses and allowances, if applicable, for Elected Members will be a matter for the nominating Authority. The scheme of expenses and allowances for the two Independent Co-opted Members will mirror the provisions for such allowances that are contained within the host Authority's published Member Allowances Scheme.

HOME OFFICE GRANT 2021 MID-YEAR CLAIM: 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021

A mid-year claim was produced in accordance with Schedule 3 In-Year Monitoring Information Requirements of the Home Office Grant Agreement, this was returned to the Home Office by 31st October 2021 to ensure eligibility for the payment covering the second half of the financial year.

The Home Office grant available for the 2021 mid-year claim was £67,100 since no funding had been received for the financial year at that point. The actual expenditure for the mid-year claim was: £34,305.40

OUTTURN FORECAST: 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022

In accordance with Schedule 4 Outturn Forecast of the Home Office Grant Agreement an outturn forecast was produced and returned to the Home Office by 5th March 2022 to remain eligible for the payment covering the second half of the financial year.

The Home Office grant available for the outturn forecast was £32,794.60 (remaining from the total £67,100)

The outturn forecast was as set out below:

	Mid-year payment claimed (if applicable)	Spend forecast from mid-year to 31 st March 2022	Total spend forecast in FY 2021/22
Administration costs	£33,305.40	£24,902.13	£58,207.53
Members expenses	£1,000	£777.00	£1,777.00
Total	£34,305.40	£25,679.13	£59,984.53

HOME OFFICE GRANT 2021-2022 END-YEAR CLAIM: 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

The final expenditure claim (Annex A and Annex B) was returned to the Home Office by 31st July 2022 to remain eligible for the payment covering the second half of the financial year.

	Mid-year payment received (1 st period)	Spend forecast from mid-year to 31 st March 2022	Actual expenditure (2 nd period)	Total spend FY 2021/22
Administration costs	£33,305.40	£24,902.13	£30,619.05	£58,207.53
Members expenses	£1,000	£777.00	£777.00	£1,777.00
Total	£34,305.40	£25,679.13	£31,396.05	£65,701.45

Summary

The Annual Report is targeted primarily at the public and other elected member's, and it is hoped it can be used to help raise awareness of and promote understanding of the panel's role, responsibilities and activities.

The Annual Report has been produced by the panel's support officer and any comments from the members of the panel are welcomed.

Officer to Contact:

Anita James, Senior Democratic Support Officer

e-mail: Anita.James2@leicester.gov.uk