

LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022 TO 2023

1. Purpose of this report

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

2. 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.

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.

3. 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 the 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 its functions.

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

The membership of the panel for 2022-23 was:

Members	Local Authority
Cllr Les Phillimore	Blaby
Cllr Leigh Harper-Davies	Charnwood Borough
Cllr Simon Whelband	Harborough
Cllr Michael Mullaney	Hinckley & Bosworth
Cllr Adam Clarke	Leicester City
Cllr Piara Singh Clair	Leicester City
Cllr Melissa March	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 Marc Oxley	Rutland
Salma Manzoor	Independent Co-opted Member
Parisha Chavda	Independent Co-opted Member

4. 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).

During this period the panel held 11 public meetings, 4 of those were Confirmation Hearings that commenced in public and went into private session for deliberation of the panel's decisions:

- 16th May 2022 Spring Panel meeting
- 20th June 2022 AGM at which Chair, and Vice-Chair were appointed
- 27th July 2022 Summer Panel meeting
- 26th September 2022 Autumn Panel meeting
- 24th November 2022 Confirmation Hearing – Chief Constable appointment
- 14th December 2022 Winter Panel meeting
- 14th December 2022 Confirmation Hearing – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

- 1st February 2023 Pre-cept/Budget meeting
- 6th March 2023 Spring Panel meeting
- 6th March 2023 Confirmation Hearing – Acting Chief Executive Officer
- 6th March 2023 Confirmation Hearing – Acting Chief Finance Officer

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 were held a few days before each panel meeting, each was held virtually using MS Teams, and was attended by the Chair, Vice-Chair, support officer to the panel, and various panel members as availability permitted.

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

b) Scrutiny

The panel's primary means of supporting and holding the PCC to account remains the formal public meetings at which the panel receives reports on regular items as well as specific topics. Detailed minutes of those meetings provide evidence of the panel's support and holding the PCC to account and can be found via the link:

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

In line with statutory requirements the panel continued to hold the PCC to account regarding progress and delivery against the Police and Crime Plan, the Precept and the PCC's Annual report and where appropriate the panel's responses have been published on the host authority's website.

The panel undertook four confirmation hearings during the year in relation to several senior appointments and produced reports which can also be found on the host authority's website.

The panel's work programme provides a framework for the panel's activity throughout the year. The panel received regular updates from and challenged the PCC on matters of current interest and concern. Topics of particular interest to the panel continue to be domestic violence, the work of the Violence Reduction Network (VRN) and PCC intervention programmes such as the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator programme. The panel also pursues regular updates on the performance of the OPCC as well as recruitment and retention of police and staff.

Over the course of several months the panel undertook and completed a scrutiny review into section 106 funding. This was a considerable piece of work involving several task group meetings which ultimately led to a final report presented at the panel's December meeting.

[\(Public Pack\)Task Group s106 funding review report Agenda Supplement for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel, 14/12/2022 13:00](#)

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. At the December 2022 meeting the panel received a report on how non-criminal complaints had been handled by the Monitoring Officer and how he has monitored complaints against the PCC; between December 2021 and December 2022 two complaints were referred to the Monitoring Officer, neither were referred to the Independent Office of Police Conduct.

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

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.

c) Visits

The panel has looked for new ways to aid them in their strategic thinking as well as understanding other strands of the PCC role and panel members undertook a number of visits aimed at better understanding the use of budget resources to improve police services this included a drone demonstration, viewing of a tactical support van, police car and motorbike and a familiarisation visit to Force HQ and the offices of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

It is intended the panel will continue to undertake appropriate visits to broaden understanding.

d) Events and Training

Training was delivered by the panel support officer and Monitoring Officer for all new members along with refresher training for existing members providing insight into the panel's responsibilities and scrutiny work.

Panel members were also invited to attend an LGA hosted webinar in August 2022 to hear a range of speakers on current issues and new developments.

In Autumn a virtual event using Zoom was arranged for members on Childhood Trauma and adversity which was facilitated by the Lead Officer for Trauma-Informed at the Violence Reduction Network. Further information around Childhood trauma and adversity was also shared with members after the event.

The panel continues to subscribe to Frontline Consulting and arising from that the Regional Network for the East Midlands. The panel has also joined the National Association of Fire Police and Crime Panels which helps to provide a collective position when meeting the Home Office, LGA and APCC on topical issues.

In consultation with Frontline Consulting a bespoke panel member workshop was organised to facilitate a topical discussion around policing, drawing on police culture and public confidence and referencing recent publications i.e., Policing Strategy and the Inspectorate report and drawing from those publications' elements of concern or focus.

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. 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.

In November 2022 the Chair, Vice Chair and panel support officer also attended the 11th Annual Conference for Police and Crime Panels which heard speakers on a range of topics and included sessions on Being a critical friend; The financial impact on Policing and Measuring panel performance.

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 to ensure topical matters are brought to meetings, and the panel support officer continues to look at ways to improve the work programme and raise the panel's profile.

There is dedicated information in relation to the Police and Crime Panel on the host authority's website which is regularly maintained. 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/>

The panel continues to include as a standing item on its agenda's an opportunity for public questions and the host authority website contains information for the public on how to submit questions to the panel at [Public question time procedure \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#).

Meetings are held in public subject to any need to move into private session and provision is made for a public gallery at all meetings. The panel also continues to live stream its meetings and a recording is saved to the host authority's webcast library for members of the public to view the meetings after they have taken place.

Recordings 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>

The panel have usually gained more attention with the public and in the local media, when a specific highly topical issue occurs in the media beforehand.

In terms of engagement with the PCC, working relations between the panel support officer and officers from OPCC are very good and remain positive and there is good interaction through the pre-agenda process with the Chair, PCC and officers. The PCC continues to attend all meetings of the Panel and there has on occasion been robust challenge by panel members e.g., around the process of the PCC's appointment to senior roles in the OPCC e.g. regarding the funding position of the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Programme.

The PCC often reports upon his wider activities and community engagement around Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and has on occasions requested through the Chair the opportunity to address the panel on topical issues or bring senior police officers to update the panel on such matters as the disturbances and unrest that occurred in the City and more recently on the Force's approach to dealing locally with the more broadly reported national issues of housing asylum seekers and protests occurring outside places where asylum seekers had been accommodated.

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.

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 2022 to ensure eligibility for the payment covering the second half of the financial year.

The Home Office grant available for the 2022 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: £25,554.35

OUTTURN FORECAST: 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023

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 2023 to remain eligible for the payment covering the second half of the financial year.

The outturn forecast was as set out below:

	Mid-year payment claimed (if applicable)	Spend forecast from mid-year to 31 st March 2023	Total spend forecast in FY 2021/22
Administration costs	£24,723.35	£35,975.69	£60,699.04
Members expenses	£831.00	£831.00	£1,662.00
Total	£25,554.35	£36,806.69	£62,361.04

HOME OFFICE GRANT 2022-2023 END-YEAR CLAIM: 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

The final expenditure claim (Annex A and Annex B) was returned to the Home Office by 28th June 2023 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 2023	Actual expenditure (2 nd period)	Total spend FY 2022/23
Administration costs	£24,723.35	£35,975.69	£35,975.69	
Members expenses	£831.00	£831.00	£831.00	
Total	£25,554.35	£36,806.69	£36,806.69	£62,361.04

Forward Planning

Following local elections in May 2023 the panel has seen a change to its membership and therefore full training will once again be scheduled for all panel members to ensure understanding of members roles and the panels remit.

It is anticipated that there will be further opportunities for panel members to visit Force HQ or other specific areas over the Autumn/Winter period and discussion is underway for the 1st panel visit to Leicestershire Force Academy in September 2023.

The panel has an ongoing work programme which sets out a schedule of its meetings and proposed items, and will continue to be developed and shared with the PCC/OPCC and brought to each of its meetings for review and or addition of new items.

Future items scheduled to be reported on at meetings include reports on Modern Slavery & Trafficking; Violence against Women & Girls and an update on initiatives to improve public confidence in policing.

The panel will continue to seek to meet their statutory requirement such as considering the proposed pre-cept and reviewing progress against delivery of the Police and Crime Plan objectives.

For any enquiries about the report please contact:

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