

# POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

## STRATEGIC BOARD MINUTES

Recorded 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Confirmed with</b> | <b>Kathryn Holloway, Police and Crime Commissioner (KH) <i>Chair</i></b> |
|                       | <b>Garry Forsyth, Chief Constable (GF)</b>                               |
|                       | <b>Gavin Hughes-Rowland, Staff Officer (GHR)</b>                         |
|                       | <b>Trevor Rodenhurst, DCC (TR)</b>                                       |
|                       | <b>Phil Wells, Assistant Chief Officer (PW)</b>                          |
|                       | <b>Clare Kelly, Chief Executive, OPCC (CK)</b>                           |
|                       | <b>Susie Moid, Temporary Executive Personal Assistant (minute taker)</b> |
|                       |  |
| <b>Apologies</b>      | <b>Jacqueline Sebire, Deputy Chief Constable (JS)</b>                    |
|                       | <b>Sharn Basra, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (SB)</b>             |
|                       | <b>Zara Brown, Chief Inspector, Staff Officer (ZB)</b>                   |
|                       |  |

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>1. Minutes of last meeting on 29.08.19</b><br/>Change to third paragraph – at Luton – not Biggleswade</p> <p>Last paragraph on discussion around appointment to signpost should be removed, but left in should be the line that the PCC would never back any personal selection.</p> <p>Last paragraph; add – and no lift</p> <p>Third paragraph down – remove ‘s’ in CEOs</p> <p><b>Review of Actions:</b></p> <p><b>2. OPCC Updates</b></p> <p>PCC confirmed that the launch had gone well, and a full brief will come under PBB.</p> <p><b>B. Estates</b></p> <p><b>Greyfriars</b><br/>We will be approaching Bedford council to see how much they want for the piece of land approaching the roundabout.</p> <p>PW said we are not in a position to purchase up front; and will require an evaluation of the land from the landlord. There are two options. One: we sell together and split the proceeds. Or Two: we sell together and split costs.</p> <p>PCC said if we go ahead there will be a degree of negotiation depending on what price is agreed.</p> <p><b>Luton Police Station</b></p> |
|--|

PCC asked if the problematic gate which was being left open has now been fixed as it was a security risk.

PW confirmed the gate has been fixed.

PCC said we need to work out what the long term storage solution is, and suggested that along the external walls we have weather proof containers for lockers etc.

**Action: PW – we need to work out what the long term solution is for lockers and so**

### **Windows replacement**

PCC said we have reinstated the programme and asked if Force will be doing a joint procurement with the windows at HQ to drive down the costs.

PW said he has asked for a reduced specification. He has asked estates to produce a spec of what they anticipate they require for PCC to approve. We can then get a quotation from Scape and make the decision based on that. PCC very concerned that whatever action is decided, we make sure is future proof, and rather than going for the best value for money – if they are in the process of putting in-place a higher spec, then we should go with that.

Agreed refurbishment and plans signed off priority areas around disabled access and loos. Clare and PCC will visit the estate and PCC will see what else needs to go in there and will select these herself.

### **Biggleswade Police Station, kitchen and staff room refurbishment**

PCC asked PW what sort of timescales we are looking at to make good the very shabby officer space at the station.

PW – said the timescale will be the same as the first phase of Luton which should be around Christmas.

**ACTION: PW to check first phase**

PCC put forward a suggestion; said we have an excellent relationship with Steve Smith, the landlord and property developer we had for SARC who has various agreements with suppliers, and she feels certain that Steve will be in agreement to help us. Will probably get much higher spec products that would last longer and therefore be a better investment for us in the long term should we go through him.

**Action: PW: To engage Steve Smith in the purchase of kitchens for other buildings**

### **Airport base**

PCC asked if there have been active discussions with Edward Philips (Owner Luton Hoo Estate) around his offer for us to use the areas around his estate for new Airport Hub offices

PW confirmed that this was in the diary for October.

PCC asked what other things were intended for Monkswood.

CC confirmed there were many other uses: if you move everything that goes onto Monkswood from Alconbury - they would have some space for Fire. Have all their initial training up there. A lot more major crime exhibits there. Quite a big enterprise.

PCC asked if we are going to dispose of land, could we consider the prospect of going there?

CC said this would not be ideal.

**ACTION CC: Establish the travel cost of our current officers going to Monkswood for training vs going to Luton**

**Architectural Salvage**

PCC has found a very useful piece of architectural salvage – had a very useful conversation with the Head of Henlow. Our items are in an ISO container and Denise O'Hara says she has a point of contact at Beds police for them – we need to make contact with her if possible to get down there and unlock what 'jewels' we can salvage.

**Action: Phil McCarthy to make contact with Henlow on the salvage stored there.**

**Action for Phil Wells - For next Strategic Board bring back the total number for Officers we will be recruiting to is it 18 or 21**

GHR said rough calculation roughly about 1% or just below.

**ACTION FORCE: Add solved rates to the performance document for the next Board**

PCC said that we cannot possibly look as though extra resources have gone to plug existing gaps She would absolutely find it unpalatable as would the public – if children are exposed to continuing criminality and abuse because we do not have the resources. PCC said she has to support CC into putting extra officers in those posts. She suggested that we divide resources between the really important shortfalls and some high visibility posts...

CC will bring to PCC a plan between CAVAA and Child Protection arrangements. Risk undermining other sections of the business. No reason why we cannot align to CAVAA

DCC confirmed that he would but had to be careful not to take resources away from CAVAA

CC promised to bring a plan to the PCC to talk about CAVAA and child protection arrangements.

There is scope that we can be more efficient without undermining other areas of the business.

Making a coherent offer around how we go about protecting children. But making sure we look at resources first.

**Exit interviews:**

GHR yes to promoting it. Wanted to know if the CC wanted him to go ahead with that.

CK said yes – that it Was a task from the uplift board.

**3 CC Update**

Complaints: No complaints against the new CC so far.

CK has said that the Force Exec team are clearly dealing with initial CC enquiries well and appropriately as OPCC are not getting any sent to them about the CC not responding etc.

## 4 Efficiency

### PBB report: Night Owl

PCC said her concern is that the CC knowingly stated that we don't have data to base it on but that it is going to be a six month trial in relation to PBB recommendations around nightowl.

From the OPCC point of view the main concern of only using community for this is limiting their time for problem solving.

Primarily concerned around Bedford town as it is the focus for night life in the county and the Council has a deliberate policy of having focus on high street alone. The problem with this – especially as we don't have data to support this – is that midnight is too early. People are going in to pubs and clubs *from* mid-night. Clubs are turning out on-mass – well over 1000 people - on to Bedford High Street from around 2am. Consequently, plans concentrate on nightlife assuming peak times are around midnight instead of much later.

Around Dunstable, in terms of volume, there are up to 2000 people on the high street largely due to a new leisure centre and sports club/bar on the high street.

PCC said she welcomes the fact that the CC has been open about lack of data and acknowledges this is a trial whilst data is sourced.

CC says he needs more data to see what they do if data does not stack up.

We don't really want community team working past midnight – we envisage them to taking problem solving approach to drive down demand at peak periods. Because of savings taken in community crime – the Force will be looking at doing a review of the numbers.

What we are trying to do and may fail is balance the night time economy. We won't withdraw from the good success. Having a presence whilst people are still sober enough to know we are there later will hopefully remain in their minds.

PCC we need to accelerate pieces of work started when Julie was here and around the Beds Save Scheme, where pubs and clubs were prepared to permanently exclude youths who had assaulted police officers, and do a publicity campaign and include those who have abused security guards as well.

### Bedford Bid

Have a very large number of people who are also licensees of pubs and clubs in Bedford, if we are unable to manage adequately the staff we put in there - is in everyone's interests that they work with us and we are in there.

Page 10 – Most urgent areas to invest in:

PCC asked if it would be useful for her to number them as it would be in her priority order as below:

1. CAVAA
2. Neighbourhood policing
3. Additional DI CIT
4. SOCU

### Brief on how Serious and Complex Crime in Community and how CC intends it to work

For CIT:

The view is that they settle in to the accommodation – keeping strength level – let operations bed down and wait until Christmas for further review.

In terms of change it has gone very well.

In terms of crime aspects – not too much change.

In terms of volume and historical workload – volume has come down significantly.

Andy Southam and Duncan Young have done a great job.

CC said things needed a proper assessment.

Although not every lower level crime will have a full investigation vulnerability analysis is still key to the triage process.

The PCC's concern is that she although she is aware that tough decisions need to be made she doesn't want anyone to think they can commit crime without fear of being caught.

CC said we won't tolerate criminality. For minor shoplifting crimes – we will go through a Thrive process.

The PCC said there is a known retail park in Bedfordshire with no security or CCTV cameras, that attracted shoplifters from many parts of the surrounding areas ascending on the area and making away with goods without being fear of ever being caught.

PCC said we need to drive home message that we will do something when there is a real need for it and share successes.

PCC said the Tesco's and Morrison's in Leighton Buzzard have a long standing problem with travellers and the associated problems.

GHR said there seems to be a perception that it's only travellers and pointed out that there is a greater number with drug related issues than with travellers.

### **Emerald**

CC said this was working very well. Workloads are still a pressure. If we could have all the people in there and not restricted he'd be happy, but pressure is sustained.

PCC asked if Force Control Room (p21) is web chat being manned 24/7

CC says it is not.

OPCC had thought it was.

CC confirmed they are recruiting another 10.

However, although it is running, unless it is being serviced regularly, people call 101.

Staff think it is more important to answer 101 calls than a web chat.

CC said the Force are upping the use of web chat, but not quite reached the levels/standard they would like.

**ACTION** Force Complaints handling need to look how these are handled in line with policy changes for complaints

### **Enquiries Offices**

Concern that the Enquiries office hours were being reduced.

CC said that by reducing opening times by hour and half each night the Force would be saving 75K a year.

Opening hours and locations are not well known – and if an individual searched the Force website it is not very clear.

PCC said the times need to be made clear and visible.

**ACTION: FORCE to make enquiry office times more visible on the website.  
Force need to ensure opening times are place high on the web page and not hidden.  
Hubs need to be listed clearly with opening times stated.**

PCC asked if the signage at Lime Street had it been sorted out?

**ACTION: PW to double check and establish better signage for Lime Street.**

### **Corporate:**

CK very happy with the changes – shift of exec portfolios and understanding will be a good thing.

PW said he will need a Chief Inspector to oversee the people aspects.

Link into corporate. Once happy with it – shift it back.

### **PA**

PW said there is a PA pool for the execs and Superintendents. We can always move PAs around. It will create pressures.

### **Cyber Van**

PCC asked where we were?

Clare if PCC is happy we can move forward – PCC very happy.

**ACTION: Decision point: OPCC to progress purchase of the second cyber van**

### **Rural Crime**

(p35) PCC approves decision to retain rural crime team because of its work with the communities.

PCC – bring back child missing data next time.

PCC – SOCU piece written so well – providing once of the best in the country.

CC – to make sure PCC has seen it – 2 superintendents on community policing – one drives ops and tactical activity – one super to ensure power to police.

### **5 Effectiveness**

Burglary dwelling– directly linked to Op Maze activity – we are in an improving position – in terms of where we sit nationally. Challenge – we keep the focus on the ones we need to look at first:

- Knife crime
- Domestic abuse and
- night time economy
- Hate crime
- Sexual grooming
- Stalking and harassment levels are good

We are now stable despite some increases in overall crime.

Stop and search data is now fully available.

**Arrests**

Have gone up, bail has gone down.

**Good news:**

**ACTION: FORCE to give examples what extra we have got from their investment & Issue a summary of how extra government funds have produced real wins already**

**ACTION: GHR to supply a brief to the PCC on Op Painter**

**6 Leadership and Culture**

The Better for Beds dates will be in the new year.

**7 Quarterly reporting**

PBB process has allowed PCC to present a balanced budget for the next year.  
PCC – to CC & Phil W – congratulations to both – somehow managed good moral and people favourable to change and explanation.

**8 AOB**

PCC will require access to a dedicated press office officer.

**Next meeting: 21 November (10.00am )**