

## **Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel**

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

To Staffordshire County Council

In accordance with agreed practice I am reporting on matters dealt with by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel at its meeting on Monday 13 July 2020.

The main items considered were:

### **Temporary Amendments to Panel's Procedural Rules due to COVID 19 Epidemic**

The Panel approved temporary changes to their procedural Rules reflecting the provisions for meetings and access to information during the Covid-19 emergency, as provided for under The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

### **Independent Co-Opted Member - Extension of Term of Office**

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Panel appoint two independent co-opted members. Under the Panels' Procedural Rules co-optees serve a four year period of office, renewable for a further four years. Mr Paul Darby, Panel Co-optee, will have completed his second term of office in September 2020. Due to Covid-19 the recruitment process, which would have begun in April, has been unable to take place. Consequently the Panel agreed measures to allow Mr Darby to serve for an additional nine month period expiring in June 2021.

### **Decisions published by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC)**

Details were submitted of 2 decisions published by the Commissioner since the last Panel meeting. In respect of the decision to move Staffordshire Police Northern Response Hub to Hanley Fire Station Members sought clarification on the financial benefits set out for this decision. The £1.8m saving was anticipated capital cost required for refurbishing Hanley Police Station. Fire and Rescue Service Transformation Funding Grant monies would be used to make the necessary refurbishments to accommodate the Police. This Fire Service funding was available for collaborative blue light projects, with the Home Office having been consulted in its use for this project.

## **Secretary's Annual Reports**

Consideration was also given to the Secretary's Annual Reports on the allocation of the Home Office Grant to the Panel and on the Handling of complaints against the Commissioner.

## **Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy Update- Effect of COVID 19**

In May 2017 the Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire and Rescue, and Crime (Staffordshire Commissioner) published an updated Safer, Fairer, United Communities strategy for 2017-2020. As a result of Covid-19 the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner elections were postponed to May 2021. Consequently, the Staffordshire Commissioner had updated his strategy for this interim period, determining that priorities set out in the Strategy should remain broadly the same for his extended term of office, but with a refocus on resources to take account of the emergency situation created by the pandemic. A plan, "Covid-19 Response 2020/21", had been issued to:

- ensure that there was sufficient workforce to respond to the crisis and that their safety and wellbeing needs were met;
- hold both services to account for service delivery in a changing environment, including a sufficient, proportional and ethical response;
- facilitate effective partnership working, enabling a joined-up approach in ensuring community safety, protecting vulnerable people and delivering criminal justice;
- ensuring commissioned services continue to deliver support for people throughout the crisis and, where necessary, commission services to address newly identified needs; and
- play an active role in ensuring the local, regional and national response to the crisis met the needs of the people of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Referring to the postponement of the Commissioner Elections until May 2021 the Chairman specifically thanked the Commissioner for agreeing to defer his personal plans for the future in order to continue in office for a further 12 months period.

## **Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service - COVID 19 Update**

The Panel received details of the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) response to the Covid-19 crisis. The pandemic had impacted on all areas of society and SFRS had adapted quickly to new ways of working and Service delivery. Following a multi-agency assessment meeting (SAM) instigated by the Civil Contingencies Unit on 4 March 2020, and chaired by Public Health England, the Service had instigated its Incident Preplanning and Logistics Framework. This Framework set up a tactical planning cell that supported the Services response to the pandemic.

SFRS has been involved in delivering a wide range of services and in adapting existing services to address the restrictions resulting from the pandemic. These include:

- delivering food parcels to the most vulnerable;
- storing and delivering Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to frontline Healthcare professionals;
- supporting the national effort by conducting 618 vulnerable persons visits to those most at risk, taking the opportunity to provide home safety information during these visits;
- providing an on-line safe and sound schools education programme for delivery in schools.

### **Staffordshire Police - COVID 19 Update**

The Staffordshire Police Force response to Covid-19 formally commenced through the establishment of Operation Jafar on 18 March 2020 and the Panel received details of the mechanisms for national, regional and local connectivity and co-ordination that were established to address issues resulting from the pandemic.

### **Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Corporate Safety Plan 2017 - 2020 Update on Delivery**

Publication of the SFRS Corporate Safety Plan (CSP) Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) fulfilled the legislative obligations as defined within the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework for England 2018. An update was given on the various initiatives designed to deliver the 3 stated priorities in the Plan namely: Education and Engagement; Community Safety and Wellbeing; and Planning, Resilience and Response.

### **Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Corporate Safety Plan 2020/23 – Update on consultation/preparation**

The Panel received details of the consultation process undertaken on the new SFRS Corporate Safety Plan 2020/24, with comments on the draft Plan to be forwarded to the Secretary after the meeting.

### **Boeing Defence UK Contract Update**

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner had entered into a strategic partnership based contract with Boeing Defence UK (BDUK) on 1 April 2016 for the provision of IT services. The contract had an estimated value of £110m over 10 years, inclusive of revenue and capital funding. The Commissioner made a decision on 18 December 2019 to mutually terminate the contract with BDUK from 30 June 2020. This decision was taken in light of BDUK's strategic and corporate decision to no longer have an interest in UK policing and the Commissioner's review of the changing IT needs of the Force, following significant advances in this area. The delivery of the Niche record management system prior to 30 June 2020 also meant that Staffordshire Police had completed their most significant investment ever.

### **HMICFRS Report on the PEEL Inspection of the Staffordshire Police Force 2018/19**

The Panel noted the results of the HMICFRS PEEL inspection of Staffordshire Police in 2018/19. Overall the inspection had rated Staffordshire Police as “Good”. The Panel congratulated the Commissioner on this excellent report which, alongside the Fire and Rescue Service report, showed that these two Services were working well for the people of Staffordshire.

For more information on these meetings or on the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in general please contact Julie Plant (01785 276135 email [Julie.plant@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.plant@staffordshire.gov.uk)) or Helen Phillips (01785 276143 or [helen.phillips@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:helen.phillips@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.*

Stephen Sweeney

Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel Chairman

Staffordshire County Council