

AGM for the National Association for Police (Fire) and Crime Panels.

The conference theme was **Collaboration and challenge - making it work.**

at Scarman House, Warwick Conference Centre

on Wed 8 - Thu 9 November 2023

Report by Cllr Chris Burke MBA, City of Lincoln Representative on
Lincolnshire Police & Crime Commissioner's Panel.

Wednesday 8 November 2023

The Conference began with a Networking and drinks reception where I met with Humberside PCC Jonathan Evison and a range of other colleagues including John Gili-Ros Chair - National Association of Police, Fire & Crime Panels (NAPFC). John had invited me to join his NAPFC table for dinner where we had further discussions about how we would work with the national body.

Thursday 9 November 2022

Began with a Registration, Refreshments and Networking Reception where I touched base with a range of panel members across the country.

National Association AGM:

The National Association of NAPFC was opened and chaired by John Gili-Ros who welcomed all present and spoke of the successful relationship he and the National Association had built with the Home Office and the IOPCC. A good informal approach had been taken to overcome various challenges and it was felt that the NAPFC had won the confidence of a range of national bodies and John was holding regular meetings. The Home Office Policy Manager was here and as a guest speaker. John said that a range of measures had emerged from the PCC Review: More training for PCC's. Local authorities were being approached about establishing Panel Hubs to support all panels rather than one local authority per County. It was suggested that we consider outstanding issues like outstanding Police or Fire suspensions and consider also negative cultures or behaviours within the services. The hub idea was awaiting a Home Office decision at ministerial level and it was indicated that the funding for this change would come from the Home Office. A local authority would be tasked with creating this national role.

Professor Ian Rolf and Emma Marrs were cited as part of that discussion.

The Home Affairs select Committee had asked nine questions of various Police & Fire bodies, two were asked of the NAPFC.

He further reported that the Local Government Association (LGA) in its discussions with the Home Officer did not always accurately reflect the NAPFC or panel views.

There was one Executive Committee place to be filled in the near future and the AGM voted to accept a co-option would be made.

John is looking at three regional sessions per year of combined panels on line.

Opening Conference plenary

Collaboration and Challenge - Making It Work

Welcome and introductions by Dave Burn, Director Frontline Consulting.

The Guest Speaker was journalist Danny Shaw formerly BBC Home Affairs Correspondent at the BBC.

His theme was that PPC's had a "variable quality" and worried about the "capability" of some of those elected. If the PPC system is to survive they must obtain more public confidence and visibility.

A Panel discussion occurred involving:

Danny

Joy Allen, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Jonathan Evison, Humberside PCC

Roger Hirst, Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner

Ann Reeder, Ex Director and Founder of Frontline Consulting.

Amid various contributions Joy sited a high quality of work with all of the PCC's that she knew working together. She was impressed that her different politics did not preclude her working with a Conservative Home Office Minister.

Jonathan sited a good relationship with me despite our political differences.

A further Networking break and refreshments occurred and I met with Joy to explore her approach and agreed to meet at some stage.

Lounge

Question Time

Joy Allen, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Jonathan Evison, Humberside PCC

Roger Hirst, Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner

Ann Reeder, Ex Director and Founder of Frontline Consulting

This created a lively debate comparing different approaches and led to the note below from John Gili-Ros.

There was considerable discussion about the plus's and minus's of the involvement of political parties.

County lines were discussed at my suggestion, we made the point that the funding formula worked in favour of criminals who take their business to more lightly policed and inadequate funded areas such as Lincolnshire. This led to agreement that the funding formula should be reassessed, this was supported by all of the PCC's and many others.

Jonathan promoted the idea that we should go for awards for good work which he had persuaded a former Chief to do, and it had raised moral and increased mob up figures.

The point was made that panels could scrutinise the PPC on how effectively the chief was held to account and this could include conversations with the chief. This could be in the form of a report and some panels had used this to assess police culture as a factor.

After a noon Lunch and networking facilitated Conference Breakout Sessions – Good practice, networking and panel development occurred.

followed by a roundup plenary.

Notes: From John at the final plenary:

I wanted to suggest several items to discuss at our next meeting/pass on to panels:
I was alerted to the possibility that Police would be entitled to S106 money. Leicestershire had told me they had done an investigation into S106 for the Police.

I had never seen a possibility of S106 for Police whilst on planning committees over a 20 year period, but a few weeks ago we had an application where the OPFCC had requested money, but it was not being recommended on the planning papers.

I queried this and miraculously the officer then changed the application before it was agreed and the Police/Fire will now be able to get over £200k once this estate of 450 houses is built.

This is massive, as now the planning officers are going to check all large sites to make sure the OPFCC claim this.

The OPFCC is delighted.

I thought that this would be of interest to other panels.

When I mentioned this to another PCC he said it was in the same sort of category as Proceeds of Crime as the OPFCC just needs to request that they get this and they will get it. Proceeds of crime was mentioned at our Measuring success meeting, but I am not sure others would have picked this up. It seems that it is not given out automatically.

I have passed this to Lincoln City Planning and they are interested and would like to see the original documents, I have passed that request back to John.

Recommendations from issues raised at Conference.

1: Many Panels have more than two independent members, we should discuss this.

2: Many Independent Panel members are given an allowance to compensate for the considerable time and thought they commit to this vital and often delicate work of ensuring balance in addition to our normal duties. Councillors receive an allowance from their local authorities and officers, of course, are salaried so some level of parity with councillors could be considered. We should discuss this.