

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel held on Friday 20th June 2025 at Ellesmere Port Library

PRESENT

Councillors:

Cheshire East: Cllrs David Brown, Russell Chadwick and David Jefferay

Cheshire West & Chester: Cllrs Mike Jones, Keith Millar and Sam Naylor

Warrington: Cllrs Kuldeep Dhillon and Bob Hignett

Independent Co-optees: Professor Barry Godfrey, Mrs Gemma Shepherd – Etchells
and Miss Yasmin Somani

Officers: Mr Brian Reed and Mr Martin Smith, Cheshire East Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Michael Fry and Andrea Wall (Halton) and Cllr Judy Snowball (Cheshire East).

Cllr Russell Chadwick substituted for Cllr Judy Snowball.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26

RESOLVED

That Cllr Judy Snowball be appointed as Chair of the Panel for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26

RESOLVED

That Miss Yasmin Somani be appointed as Deputy Chair of the Panel for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. RELEVANT AUTHORITIES (DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS) REGULATIONS 2012

No declarations of interest were made.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to speak at the meeting.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2025 be approved.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF CHESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 2025/26

The Panel noted the membership of the Panel for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Mrs Gemma Shepherd - Etchells and Cllr Keith Millar were appointed as Chair and Deputy Chair respectively of the Complaints Management Sub – Committee. The Secretariat were asked to consult Panel members over the remaining membership of the seven-person sub-committee.

8. PANEL ARRANGEMENTS: PROCEDURE RULES

The Secretariat outlined relatively minor proposed amendments to the Panel's Procedure Rules, noting that these aimed to clarify the position in relation to the resignation of an independent co-opted member.

It was noted that the urgency powers contained in the Procedure Rules had not been used during the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Procedure Rules attached as Appendix I to the report, be adopted.
- (ii) That the Head of Democratic Services be given authority to make such changes during the year to the Procedure Rules as he considered necessary to give effect to the wishes of the Panel.

9. APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Mrs Gemma Shepherd – Etchells had been appointed to the Panel in 2022 following a rigorous recruitment process, her three year term of office would be expiring on 30th September 2025.

The Panel recognised the very significant contribution that Mrs Shepherd – Etchells had made to the work of the Panel, this had included chairing the Complaints Management Sub Committee. Noting the contribution that she had made, and that she was willing to serve a second three year term, the Panel agreed that Mrs Shepherd – Etchells should be reappointed.

RESOLVED

That Mrs Gemma Shepherd – Etchells be appointed for a second three year term, with her term of office running to 30th September 2028.

10. CHESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL BUDGET 2025/26

RESOLVED

That the proposed budget for 2025/26 be approved.

11. PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel noted the work programme for 2025/26.

Cllr Mike Jones noted that at previous meetings of the Panel he had requested that the issue of Police culture be added to the work programme, this had not happened, he asked that this oversight be rectified.

12. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO THE COMMISSIONER

One question had been submitted in advance to the Commissioner; this had been included with the Panel's papers for the meeting.

13. WELCOME TO THE COMMISSIONER AND INTRODUCTION BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Deputy Chair welcomed the Commissioner and his Team to the meeting.

14. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The Commissioner briefed the Panel on a range of issues, including his new style scrutiny meetings, the next phase of the programme of Citizens' Assemblies and his SWAP Summer Support Fund. He also paid tribute to the work of volunteers across the Constabulary. The Commissioner congratulated Detective Sergeant Dave Thomason who worked in the Constabulary's Harm Reduction Unit who had recently been awarded the Kings Police Medal.

15. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Panel members asked the Commissioner a number of questions, including the one that had been submitted in advance of the meeting. Details of all questions asked of the Commissioner and his responses can be found on the Police and Crime Panel page of the Cheshire East Council website.

[Questions asked of and issues raised with the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner during the 25-26 Municipal year](#)