

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cheshire Police and Crime Panel**
held on Friday, 7th February, 2025 in the 1st Floor Committee Room,
Ellesmere Port Library, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG

PRESENT

Councillors:

Cheshire East: Councillors Steve Edgar and Judy Snowball

Cheshire West & Chester: Councillors Mike Jones and Keith Millar

Halton: Councillors Martha Lloyd Jones and Norman Plumpton Walsh

Warrington: Councillor Kuldeep Dhillon

Independent Co-optees: Mrs Gemma Shepherd – Etchells and Miss Yasmin Somani

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

41 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Rob Hignett, Rob Moreton and Sam Naylor.

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

Cllr Judy Snowball (Cheshire East Council) indicated that she was a Director of a voluntary organisation who were seeking funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

43 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

44 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2024 be approved.

45 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair had no announcements to make.

46 MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

The Chair outlined the process followed by the five member Recruitment Panel that had been established following the resignation of Mr Evan Morris MBE from the Panel. She noted that four excellent candidates had been interviewed for the vacant position and that the Recruitment Panel were recommending that Prof. Barry Godfrey be appointed to the Panel.

RESOLVED

- 1 That Professor Barry Godfrey be appointed to the Panel with his term of office running from 8th February 2025 to 30th September 2029.
- 2 That the Panel's Secretariat bring a report to the Annual Meeting in June 2025 to make recommendations clarifying the position of co-opted Panel members should they not serve a full term, with the Panel's Procedure Rules being amended accordingly.

47 PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel's work programme for the remainder of the municipal year was reviewed. It was noted that a draft programme of meetings for the 2025/26 municipal year would be brought to the next meeting.

48 QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO THE COMMISSIONER

Three questions had been submitted in advance to the Commissioner, these had been included with the Panel's papers for the meeting.

49 WELCOME TO THE COMMISSIONER AND COMMISSIONER'S INTRODUCTION

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

The Commissioner briefed the Panel on a range of issues.

50 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED PRECEPT: 2025/26

The Commissioner described the consultation exercise that he had undertaken on his proposed precept for 2025/26 before outlining his proposals. He took detailed questions from Panel members on a range of issues related to the proposed precept.

RESOLVED

That the Commissioner's proposed precept for 2025/26 be supported, with the recommendation that the Panel receive quarterly performance reports.

51 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

The Chair thanked the Commissioner for the informal briefings that he had provided to the Panel on the development of his proposed Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner outlined the process that had been adopted to develop the draft plan and the rationale behind his proposals. The Commissioner took questions from Panel members on a range of issues relevant to the draft Police and Crime Plan.

RESOLVED

That the Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan be supported.

52 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Panel members asked the Commissioner a number of questions, including the three 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