

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

held on Friday 15th March 2024 in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Ellesmere Port
Library, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port

PRESENT

Councillors:

Cheshire East: Councillors Steve Edgar, Judy Snowball and Stewart Gardiner

Cheshire West & Chester: Councillors Keith Millar and Sam Naylor

Halton Councillors Martha Lloyd Jones and Peter Lloyd Jones

Warrington: Councillor Mo Hussain

Independent Co-optees: Mr Evan Morris MBE, Mrs Gemma Shepherd – Etchells and Miss Yasmin Somani

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mick Warren, (Cheshire East), Cllr Norman Plumpton Walsh (Halton), Cllr Wendy Maisey (Warrington) and Cllr Phil Marshall (Cheshire West and Chester). Cllr Peter Lloyd Jones substituted for Cllr Plumpton Walsh, and Cllr Gardiner for Cllr Warren.

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

No issues were raised.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Three representatives of Northwich Town Council attended the meeting and spoke on the issue of the safety of women and girls. A number of questions were asked, to which the Chair promised a written response.

The response sent to Northwich Town Council is attached to these minutes.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2024 be approved.

5. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Keith Millar be appointed as Deputy Chair of the Complaints Management Sub Committee.

Cllr Stewart Gardiner abstained from voting, as a substitute member of the Panel, he indicated that, excepting fellow Cheshire East Councillors, he did not know other Panel members.

6. REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED DURING 2023

The Panel noted that two complaints about the Police and Crime Commissioner had been received during 2023. One complaint had been rejected as it was judged to be a complaint about an operational policing issue. The second complaint had been considered by the Panel's Complaints Management Sub Committee, with the outcome being published on the Panel's page of the Cheshire East Council website.

Both complaints had been processed within the timescale (40 working days) set by the Panel.

7. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair briefed the Panel on his work as Vice Chair of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels, commenting that all Panels in England and Wales were now members of the Association. He also referred to a meeting that the Association had recently held with the Home Office, where the issue of support hubs to Panels has been discussed.

8. COMMISSIONER'S SCRUTINY PAPERS

The Panel noted the papers for the Commissioner's Scrutiny meeting held on 19 February 2024.

9. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2024/25 CIVIC YEAR

The programme of meetings for the coming civic year was noted.

10. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Chair explained that four questions had been formally submitted to the Commissioner in advance of the meeting and that these had been included in the published papers.

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

The Chair welcomed the Commissioner to the meeting.

The Commissioner made a number of introductory comments, including updating the Panel on a Retail and Business Crime conference held on 15th February, an event that he had mentioned at the previous meeting of the Panel. He also briefed the Panel on the installation of a new "speed on green" camera in Halton and the planned construction of new Police Stations in Wilmslow and Crewe.

Noting that the current Panel meeting was the final one before the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May, the Commissioner reviewed his achievements over his three-year term of office. He made reference to scrutiny documents which had been circulated with the Panel's papers.

12. REVIEW OF INITIATIVES COMMISSIONED BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER IN RELATION TO THE SAFETY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Sarah Tilling from the Commissioner's Office made a detailed presentation on the wide range of work that had been undertaken over the last three years in relation to the safety of women and girls in Cheshire.

The Chair thanked Ms Tilling for her comprehensive and informative presentation. Following the presentation Panel members asked Ms Tilling and the Commissioner a number of questions. The areas covered included the Casey Review (which had specifically related to the Metropolitan Police Service, but had potential wider implications for policing), the work of the Commissioner's Youth Commission, the vetting of Police Officers, coercive control, "Clare's Law" (the

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme) and CARA (Cautioning and Relationship Abuse) interventions.

The importance to national policing of the Angiolini Review was discussed by the Panel.

RESOLVED

That the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner be encouraged to include the 16 recommendations from the Angiolini Review in their new (2024 – 2028) Police and Crime Plan and that progress should be monitored through the Commissioner's Scrutiny meetings with the Chief Constable, with reports back to the Police and Crime Panel as appropriate.

13. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Panel members asked the Commissioner a range of questions. Details of questions and the Commissioner's responses can be found on the Police and Crime Panel page of the Cheshire East Council website.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Police and Crime Commissioner thanked the Panel for its support during his three-year term of office. The Chair wished all candidates well in the forthcoming election.