

# Public Document Pack

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cheshire Police and Crime Panel**  
held on Friday, 19th July, 2024 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings,  
Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ

## **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: Councillors Kuldeep Dhillon and Bob Hignett

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

Officers: Mr Martin Smith, (Secretariat), Ms Jennie Summers  
(Legal Services) and Ms Francis Handley (Democratic  
Services)

## **15 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sam Naylor (Cheshire West and  
Chester) and Cllr Rob Moreton (Cheshire East).

## **16 CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. RELEVANT AUTHORITIES (DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS) REGULATIONS 2012**

No issues were raised.

## **17 CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CHESHIRE.**

The Panel held a confirmation hearing for the appointment of a Deputy  
Police and Crime Commissioner on a job share basis, questioning Gemma  
Southern and Jane Whalen on a wide range of issues relevant to the role.

## **18 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during  
consideration of the outcome of the Confirmation Hearing, pursuant to

Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended on the grounds that it involved the likely discussion of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in the discussions being held in public.

The Panel reviewed the Confirmation Hearing and the answers provided by Gemma Southern and Jane Whalen to their questions.

## **19 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER**

### **RESOLVED**

That it was the Panel's unanimous opinion that Gemma Southern and Jane Whalen should be recommended for appointment.

*The letter sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner by the Chair of the Panel confirming the decision to recommend appointment is appended to these minutes as a matter of record.*



Mr Dan Price  
Police and Crime  
Commissioner for Cheshire

By email

**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel  
c/o Cheshire East Council  
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Sandbach  
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CW11 1HZ

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Dear Commissioner,

## **PROPOSED APPOINTMENTS OF DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS**

I am writing following the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel's Confirmation Hearing held in the Municipal Buildings, Crewe on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

As I indicated at the conclusion of the Hearing, the Panel unanimously supported the appointment, on a job share basis, of Gemma Southern and Jane Whalen as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioners for Cheshire. The Panel would make a number of observations / recommendations, these are made in the spirit of wishing to see Gemma and Jane succeed in their new roles:

- The Panel, which as you will be aware is comprised of representatives of all four Cheshire local authorities, along with three independent co-opted members, observed that both Gemma and Jane had close links with Warrington, as indeed you do yourself. The Panel hope that in their roles as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioners, Gemma and Jane will clearly demonstrate, from the outset, that they serve all communities across Cheshire equally, recognising that the county, with a population of over a million people, is large and diverse.
- Linked into the above point, the Panel hope that as part of their induction to their new roles, Gemma and Jane will spend time getting to know those parts of Cheshire that they are not currently familiar with. Panel members would be happy to help facilitate this.
- The Panel would recommend that a comprehensive induction and training programme is developed for both Gemma and Jane. Panel members see it as vital that this cover both the complex issues of policing, both nationally and in the context of Cheshire, but also the workings of the wider criminal justice

system, which I am sure you would recognise currently faces many challenges.

The Panel look forward to working with both Gemma and Jane over the coming years and wish them well for the future.

Yours sincerely,

*Evan Morris*

**Evan Morris MBE  
Chair, Cheshire Police and Crime Panel**