

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

Agenda

Date:	Friday 21st November 2025
Time:	10.00 am
Venue:	1st Floor Committee Room, Ellesmere Port Library, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and in the report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. Apologies

Members are reminded that, in accordance with governance procedure rule at Part 3 paragraph 2.6, Panel Members, or their constituent authority, may nominate substitute members of the Panel in the event that the appointed representative(s) is/are unable to attend the meeting. Advance notice of substitution should be given to the host authority wherever possible. Members are encouraged wherever possible to secure the attendance of a substitute if they are unable to be present.

2. Code of Conduct - Declaration of Interests. Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when the item is reached.

3. Public Participation

To receive questions from members of the public. A total period of 15 minutes will be allocated for members of the public to speak at Panel meetings. Each member of the public shall be limited to a period of up to 5 minutes speaking. At the Chair's discretion the period made available for questions and statements may be extended.

Contact:	Martin Smith, Registration and Civic Services Manager
Tel:	01270 686012
E-Mail:	martin.r.smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk

In order that an appropriate answer to the questions can be given, the deadline for indicating a wish to speak or for submission of questions is 3 clear working days before a meeting of the Panel. The Chair has the discretion to waive the 3-day rule for issues deemed to be urgent.

In response to questions or statements the Panel may choose to agree to either provide an agreed verbal response, that will be minuted or to provide a written reply to a questioners chosen address.

Those wishing to ask a question or make a statement should register by email to: martin.r.smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk or send the question or statement by post to:

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel
Democratic Services and Governance
c/o Municipal Buildings
Earle Street
Crewe
CW1 2BJ

A list of those speaking or asking questions at a meeting of the Panel will be drawn up by the Panel's Secretariat in order of receipt. Copies of questions and statements will be circulated to all Panel members in advance of the meeting and will be made available to the public attending the meeting. Copies will also be available on the Police and Crime Panel's page of the Cheshire East Council website.

Nobody may submit more than one question or make more than one statement at the same meeting, but a supplementary question, related to the subject raised in the question /statement, will be permitted for clarification at the discretion of the Chair.

Those speaking or asking questions will not be permitted to address any issue that is the subject of a current or proposed complaint by them against the Police and Crime Commissioner. They are also advised that reference to an issue that could become the subject of a future complaint by them could prejudice the Panel's consideration of that complaint.

The Panel will not accept a question or statement if:

There is insufficient detail to enable a proper response to be provided.

It is not about a matter for which the Police and Crime Panel has responsibility.

It is potentially defamatory, frivolous or offensive against named individuals.

It is substantially the same question which has been put at a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel in the last six months.

It requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 12)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2025.

5. **Minutes of meeting of the Complaints Management Sub Committee**
(Pages 13 - 14)

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Complaints Management Sub Committee held on 30 October 2025.

6. **Chair's Announcements**

7. **Panel Training Event**

To confirm a date for Panel training.

8. **Panel's Work Programme** (Pages 15 - 16)

To consider the Panel's work programme.

**10.15 am THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE
FOR THE FOLLOWING PART OF THE MEETING**

9. **Welcome to the Commissioner and Commissioner's introduction**

10. **Questions submitted in advance to the Commissioner** (Pages 17 - 18)

11. **Overview and scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

This page is intentionally left blank

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel**
held on Friday 12th September 2025 at Ellesmere Port Library**PRESENT**

Councillors:

Cheshire East: Cllrs David Brown, David Jefferay and Judy Snowball

Cheshire West & Chester: Cllrs Keith Millar and Sam Naylor

Halton : Cllrs Chris Carlin and Andrea Wall

Warrington: Cllrs Kuldeep Dhillon and Bob Hignett

Officers: Mr Martin Smith, Cheshire East Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mike Fry (Halton), Professor Barry Godfrey, Cllr Mike Jones (Cheshire West and Chester), Mrs Gemma Shepherd – Etchells and Miss Yasmin Somani.

Cllr Chris Carlin substituted for Cllr Mike Fry.

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

No declarations of interest were made.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting held 20th June 2025 be approved.

5. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed Cllr Andrea Wall (Halton) to her first meeting of the Panel.

The Chair noted that the Panel would shortly be holding a second training day, following on from the one held earlier in the year, she would be consulting with Panel members over the subjects that would be covered at the event.

Reflecting on the recent informal meeting with the Commissioner which had been held in Warrington, the Chair thanked Sergeant David Thomason for the presentation that he had made. In his presentation he had outlined some of the uses the Constabulary were making of AI in its work combating stalking and harassment. The Chair noted that she had written to Sergeant Thomason thanking him for his presentation and congratulating him on the award of the King's Police Medal in the King's Birthday Honours.

6. PANEL 'S WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel reviewed its work programme for the remainder of the civic year.

7. WELCOME TO THE COMMISSIONER AND COMMISSIONER'S INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed the Commissioner and his Chief Executive to the meeting. The Commissioner briefed the Panel on a range of issues.

8. COMMISSIONER'S PROGRESS REPORT ON THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – APRIL TO AUGUST 2025

The Chair thanked the Commissioner for the progress report that he had submitted to the Panel, noting that that the Panel had requested this information when it had approved his proposed Precept at the meeting in February. The Panel reviewed the information provided by the Commissioner, seeking clarification on a number of issues.

The Chair noted that Cllr Mike Jones, who was not able to attend the meeting, had produced a very helpful commentary on the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan which he had circulated to Panel members in advance of the meeting; she asked the Commissioner a number of questions prompted by the work undertaken by Cllr Jones.

9. COMMISSIONER'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

The Commissioner introduced his annual report taking questions from Panel members.

RESOLVED

That the Panel note the Commissioner's Annual Report, with no formal recommendations being made.

A copy of the letter sent to the Commissioner by the Panel's Chair in relation to the Annual Report and the Commissioner's reply are attached to these minutes.

10. 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.

11. 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 and included in the Panel's papers. The Commissioner noted that in his view elements of some of the questions submitted in advance related to technical policing matters which he was unable to answer himself. To assist the Panel, he undertook to raise the questions with the Constabulary. The detailed responses provided by the Constabulary are attached to these minutes.

Details of questions asked of the Commissioner and his responses provided at the meeting can be found on the Police and Crime Panel page of the Cheshire East Council website. [Cheshire Police and Crime Panel](#)

This page is intentionally left blank



Mr Dan Price
By email

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel
c/o Cheshire East Council
Delamere House
Delamere Street
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 2JZ

Date: 15th September 2025

judy.snowball@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Dear Commissioner,

ANNUAL REPORT

Thank you for attending Friday's meeting of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel and for presenting your draft annual report.

I can confirm that the Panel made no formal recommendations in relation to the annual report.

Yours sincerely.

Judy Snowball

Cllr Judy Snowball
Chair, Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

This page is intentionally left blank



Dan Price
Cheshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner

Councillor Judy Snowball
Chair, Cheshire Police and Crime Panel
c/o Cheshire East Council
Delamere House
Delamere Street
Crewe
CW1 2JZ

Dan Price
Police & Crime Commissioner
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
2nd Floor
Runcorn Town Hall
Heath Road
Runcorn
WA7 5TD

Sent via email: judy.snowball@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Date: 16th September 2025

Our Ref:

Tel:
01606 364000

Email:
dan.price@cheshire-pcc.gov.uk

Dear Judy

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

I am writing further to the Police & Crime Panel meeting on Friday 12th September 2025 and your subsequent letter dated 15th September. I note that the Police & Crime Panel had no formal recommendations in relation to the draft annual report, but I would like to thank the Panel for its positive comments and feedback.

I can confirm that my office will be publishing the annual report 2024/25 on my website in the coming days.

Yours sincerely



Dan Price
Police & Crime Commissioner

Copy: Martin Smith, Panel Secretariat (martin.r.smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cheshire Police and Crime Panel's
Complaints Management Sub Committee**
held on Thursday 30th October 2025 at Delamere House, Crewe

PRESENT

- Councillors: David Brown (Cheshire East)
Michael Fry (Halton)
Bob Hignett (Warrington)
Keith Miller (Deputy Chair, Cheshire West and Chester)
Sam Naylor (Cheshire West and Chester)
- Independent Co-optees: Mrs Gemma Shepherd – Etchells (Chair)
Prof. Barry Godfrey
- Officers: Mr Martin Smith, Panel Support Office, Cheshire East
Ms Hilary Irving, Interim Head of Legal Services/ Deputy
Monitoring Officer (via Teams link) Cheshire East.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mike Jones, (Cheshire West and Chester), who was substituted by Cllr David Brown (Cheshire East).

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

No declarations of interest were made.

**3. COMPLAINTS RECEIVED ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF THE POLICE AND
CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The Chair explained that three separate complaints alleging political bias by the Police and Crime Commissioner had been received by the Panel in July and August 2025. The full text of each complaint, with only names and email addresses redacted had been published with the papers for the Sub – Committee. In the supporting papers the complaints were described as complaints 1, 2 and 3.

The background papers had also included a copy of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Ethical Framework and Code of Conduct, this document includes a summary of the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles)

and the full text of the Oath of Office taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner following his election in May 2024.

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Sub - Committee, in accordance with the procedure contained in the Panel's Procedure Rules, had reviewed the complaints when received and determined that they should be considered at a meeting of the Sub-Committee. The Chair noted that a slight delay in convening the meeting had been due to Panel member availability.

Each complaint was considered in turn, with the Sub-Committee taking advice from officers as necessary. The host authority's Interim Head of Legal Services/ Deputy Monitoring Officer expanded on the legal advice provided in the report contained in the information presented to the Sub - Committee, explaining that in their personal capacity, a Commissioner may engage in political activities, including making personal endorsement, in the same way as any other citizen.

With reference to the telephone call made to the Commissioner's Office referred to in Complaint 2, the Sub - Committee noted that it was unfortunate that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner had no record of the call, but were grateful that checks had been made and that the Commissioner's Office had indicated that they did not dispute that the call had been made.

RESOLVED

The Sub Committee resolved unanimously that:

- (i) In relation to Complaint 1, the Police and Crime Commissioner had not breached his Code of Conduct or Oath of Office.
 - (ii) In relation to Complaint 2, the Police and Crime Commissioner had not breached his Code of Conduct or Oath of Office.
 - (iii) In relation to Complaint 3, the Police and Crime Commissioner had not breached Sections 8(a), 8(c) or 9(b) of his Code of Conduct or his Oath of Office, or the Nolan principles; nor had he shown political bias when acting as Police and Crime Commissioner.
 - (iv) In relation to Complaint 3, it had been appropriate for the Police and Crime Commissioner to quote full-year figures in relation to crime statistics, as these were more likely to show trends than figures relating to individual months.
 - (v) The Panel's Secretariat be asked to draft the formal notices summarising the outcome of each complaint and, when approved by the Chair and Deputy Chair, that these be shared with each complainant.
-

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel**Work Programme 2025/26****Formal meetings of the Panel:**

6th February 2026

20th February 2026 (reserve date, should meeting be necessary)

10th April 2026

Informal meetings with the Commissioner

12th December 2025 (venue in Cheshire West and Chester to be confirmed)

Issues raised by Panel members for consideration at future meetings:

- Update on “Right Care, Right Person”
- Operation of Police Custody suites, including policy on intimate searching
- Police training
- Progress with implementation of recommendations from Angiolini Inquiry
- Use of technology, including rollout of AI
- Police culture
- Violence against women and girls
- Restorative justice

This page is intentionally left blank

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel**Questions to the Commissioner, November 2025**

1. SWAP Fund: I would be grateful if you could clarify the following points.
 - (i) Audit Process: What audit or oversight process exists for monitoring the allocation and use of SWAP funds?
 - (ii) Fair Distribution: What measures are in place to ensure the funding is distributed fairly across the whole area for which the PCC is responsible?
 - (iii) Political Neutrality: How is it ensured that funds do not disproportionately benefit organisations with political connections, such as those linked to local councillors?

Cllr David Brown

2. In the approach to the festive season what campaigns are you running or championing to safeguard Cheshire's residents and/or make it an area hostile to crime?

Gemma Shepherd - Etchells

- 3 Your fellow Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire, John Tizard, has called on the government to tighten up the sale of firearms. He is calling for a system to be put in place for clearance from the police to be required prior to the sale of any firearm, not just having the purchaser showing a firearms certificate which could indeed be fake. Will you be supporting this? What are you doing to ensure illegal firearms are not on the streets of Cheshire?

Gemma Shepherd - Etchells

4. With devolution processes being looked at within Cheshire this obviously has implications on the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner. A report by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners looking at this and the transfer of police and crime powers was published in July 2025. It is proposed that there will be a Mayor with overall responsibility and a Deputy Mayor for policing and crime. With the option of having a Public Safety Commissioner do you feel this would further complicate matters in the eyes of the public as you have previously commented that people can be unsure of the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner at present and how this is differentiated from the police. What will you be advising at any discussion with the local authorities on this?

Gemma Shepherd - Etchells

5. You will recall that at the Police and Crime Panel on 12 September 2025, there was a question relating to the 20th Anniversary of the Hunting Act. Some parts of this were considered to be related more to operational policing procedure, than falling within the Commissioner's role. This included suggestions for improved, active communication between all stakeholders and the use of notices to allow all, including the public to be aware of hunting activity in their area and to prepare for it. The answers provided have given rise to follow up questions.

In order to move this discussion forward and to ensure that it remains within the parameters of the Commissioner's role, would you be prepared to meet stakeholders and to discuss the drafting of a Commissioner's Cheshire Hunting Strategy which would meet your Police and Crime Plan pillars of listening to the public, modernising and reducing crime?

Cllr Judy Snowball