

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cheshire Police and Crime Panel**  
held on Friday, 24th June, 2022 in the The Council Chamber, Wyvern House,  
The Drumber, Winsford, CW7 1AH

**PRESENT**

Councillors:

Cheshire East: Councillors J Paul Findlow, Laura Jeuda and Mick Warren

Cheshire West & Chester: Councillors Gina Lewis, Keith Millar and Lynn Riley

Halton Councillors Martha Lloyd Jones and Norman Plumpton Walsh

Warrington: Councillor Jane Whalen

Independent Co-optees: Mrs Sally Hardwick and Miss Yasmin Somani

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

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Rob Bissett (Cheshire West and Chester Council), Cllr Wendy Maisey OBE (Warrington Council) and Mr Evan Morris MBE.

Mr John Dwyer; Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire had advised the Panel, in advance of the meeting, that due to illness he would be unable to attend.

**2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE 2022/23 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

**RESOLVED:**

That Mr Evan Morris MBE be elected as Chair of the Panel for the 2022/23 Municipal year.

**3 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR FOR THE 2022/23 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

**RESOLVED:**

That Cllr Rob Bissett be elected as Deputy Chair of the Panel for the 2022/23 Municipal year.

In the absence of Mr Morris and Cllr Bissett, Cllr Norman Plumpton Walsh chaired the remainder of the meeting.

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

With reference to agenda item 14, Cllr Gina Lewis indicated that she was a member of the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

**5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

**6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2022 be approved.

**7 PANEL MEMBERSHIP 2022/23**

The Panel noted the nominations made by the constituent Councils for the 2022/23 Municipal year. They also noted the need to appoint members to the Complaints Management Sub Committee; especially to the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair, who had key roles to play in the Panel's Complaints Management system. Mrs Sally Hardwick agreed to continue in her role as Chair of the Sub Committee until her term of office expired, and the Panel agreed this. Cllr Keith Millar was appointed as Deputy Chair. The Secretariat were asked to liaise with Panel members after the meeting to agree the remaining membership.

Councillors Keith Millar (Cheshire West and Chester) and Wendy Maisey (Warrington) were welcomed to the Panel by fellow Panel members; it was noted that Cllr Maisey's absence was due to her only having been appointed to the Panel earlier in the week. The Panel thanked Councillors Ken Critchley and Martyn Delaney for the work that they had done as Panel members and wished them well for the future

**RESOLVED**

That Mrs Sally Hardwick be appointed as Chair of the Complaints Management Sub Committee (until her term of office expired) and Cllr Keith Millar, Deputy Chair of the Sub Committee.

## **8 PROGRAMME OF CHESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS**

The Panel noted the future programme of meetings, recognising that the pre-election period for the elections due to be held in May 2023 could impact on the timing of the meeting planned for March 2023.

## **9 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

The Panel had three independent co-opted members, each of whom were appointed for a three-year term. Mrs Sally Hardwick's term of office was due to expire on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022, she indicated that she would not be seeking reappointment. Panel members recognised the very significant contribution that Mrs Hardwick had made to the Panel over a number of years.

### **RESOLVED**

That a proportionate Recruitment Panel consisting of four members be appointed to lead the recruitment process and make recommendations to the Panel over the membership of an independent co-opted member. Membership of the Recruitment Panel would be agreed after the meeting.

## **10 PANEL ARRANGEMENTS: RULES OF PROCEDURE**

### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) The Panel adopt the Rules of Procedure, as published, for the 2022/23 Municipal year.
- (ii) The Head of Democratic Services and Governance be given authority to make changes to the Rules of Procedure during the year to give effect to the wishes of the Panel.

## **11 CHESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL BUDGET 2022/23**

Mrs Sally Hardwick raised concerns that the level of Home Office Grant for 2022/23 was unknown.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Panel's budget for 2022/23 be approved.

## **12 WORK PROGRAMME**

Panel members noted the programme of informal meetings with the Commissioner over the forthcoming year. Members expressed a preference for meetings to be hybrid in nature, allowing those not able to attend in person to join the meeting electronically. The Secretariat were asked to follow this up with the Commissioner's Office.

### **13 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S SCRUTINY MEETING - 27 JANUARY 2022**

Panel members noted that it appeared that the Commissioner was only planning to hold two formal scrutiny meetings with the Chief Constable each year. Cllr Paul Findlow raised concerns over the way in which the information relating to scrutiny was presented on the Commissioner's website. He also suggested that the Panel should give consideration as to how the information contained in the Commissioner's Scrutiny reports was used.

The papers were noted.

Concern was expressed by a number of Panel members that in the absence of the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner was not in attendance at the meeting. The Secretariat were asked to seek clarification over the role of the Deputy Commissioner.

### **14 CURRENT ISSUES**

The Panel noted an extract from Hansard relating to Part 2 of the Home Secretary's review of Police and Crime Commissioners. It was noted that the Home Secretary planned to consult on changes to the Policing Protocol Order.

The Panel briefly discussed the Government White Paper "Reforming Our Fire and Rescue Service", concluding that it would be appropriate to hold an additional Panel meeting to consider the issue. The Secretariat were asked to canvass for dates for a meeting, to be held to tie in with the closing date for the Government's consultation exercise.

### **15 INTRODUCTION BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

Due to the Commissioner's absence this item was deferred.

### **16 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

Due to the Commissioner's absence this item was deferred.