

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cheshire Police and Crime Panel**  
held on Friday, 23rd September, 2022 in the The Council Chamber, Wyvern  
House, The Drummer, Winsford, CW7 1AH

**PRESENT**

Councillors:

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

Cheshire West & Chester: Councillors Rob Bissett, Keith Millar and Lynn  
Riley

Halton Councillors Martha Lloyd Jones and Norman  
Plumpton Walsh

Independent Co-optees: Mr Evan Morris MBE and Miss Yasmin Somani

Officers: Mr Martin Smith, Cheshire East Council

**23 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mrs Sally Hardwick, Cllr Jane Whalen  
(Warrington Council) and Cllr Wendy Maisey OBE (Warrington Council).

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

No declarations of interests were made.

**25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

**26 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 be approved.

**27 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman noted that Mrs Sally Hardwick, who had been a member of  
the Panel since its creation, would be standing down at the end of the  
month. Panel members thanked her for the very significant contribution  
that she had made to the work of the Panel over many years.

**28 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CO-OPTED MEMBER OF THE PANEL**

Mr Evan Morris, Panel Chair, outlined the procedure that had been followed to recruit a new independent Panel member. He noted that although the number of applications received had been fewer than in 2021, when a similar process had been followed, the quality of the applications received had been high.

He explained that three individuals had been shortlisted by the subgroup (Councillors Bisset, Whalen and Findlow, along with Mr Evan Morris) appointed to oversee the process, unfortunately one candidate withdrew shortly before the interviews were held. Two candidates had been interviewed; the unanimous view of the subgroup was that Mrs Gemma Shepherd-Etchells should be appointed to the Panel. Brief details of her experience were circulated to Panel members.

Mrs Shepherd-Etchells was in attendance at the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That Mrs Gemma Shepherd-Etchells be appointed to the Panel for a three-year term with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

**29 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF THE PANEL'S COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE**

Mrs Sally Hardwick had served as Chair of the Panel's Complaints Management Sub Committee since its creation, as she would be leaving the Panel at the end of the month, a new Chair was required.

**RESOLVED:**

That Miss Yasmin Somani be appointed as Chair of the Panel's Complaints Management Sub-Committee.

**30 REFRESHING THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN, CONSULTATION BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The Chair explained that the Commissioner was in the process of consulting over a refreshed Police and Crime Plan. Panel members were invited to provide feedback to the Commissioner on the draft plan. It was noted that the Plan would be formally presented to the Panel by the Commissioner at a later meeting.

**31 COMMISSIONER'S SCRUTINY BOARD DOCUMENTS - 23RD AUGUST 2022**

The Panel noted the scrutiny documents published by the Commissioner.

## **32 PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme for the remainder of 2022/23 was reviewed by the Panel.

## **33 QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The Chair explained that a range of questions had been formally submitted to the Commissioner in advance of the meeting and that these questions had been included in the published papers. Rather than detailing questions to the Commissioner along with responses in the formal minutes of the Panel, questions and answers would in future be posted on the Panel's page of the Cheshire East Council website. It was hoped that such an approach would make the work of the Panel more transparent and enable questions on similar or related subjects to be better linked together.

## **34 WELCOME TO THE COMMISSIONER**

The Chair welcomed the Commissioner to the meeting.

## **35 INTRODUCTION BY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The Commissioner paid tribute to the work of Mrs Sally Hardwick during her time as a Panel member. He welcomed Mrs Gemma Shepherd-Etchells to the Panel, saying that he was looking forward to working with her.

The Commissioner briefed the Panel on a range of issues, including the process that was being followed in relation to refreshing the Police and Crime Plan, successful external funding bids and the number of Officers now serving in the Constabulary. He also outlined improvements made to the Police 101 telephone system and noted that those whose first language was British Sign Language (BSL) could now access the 999 system. Work was being undertaken to see if the same service could be applied to the 101 system, but he noted that this would be more difficult, as the 101 system was provided by a number of telecommunication suppliers.

## **36 COMMISSIONER'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT**

The Commissioner introduced his annual report, highlighting key achievements over the previous year.

Miss Yasmin Somani said that she welcomed the report and the positive news that it contained, but she suggested that the report could possibly be improved if areas for improvement had also been identified.

The draft report was noted by the Panel.

