

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel held on Friday 23rd June 2023 in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Ellesmere Port Library

PRESENT

Councillors:

Cheshire East: Councillors Steve Edgar, Judy Snowball and Mick Warren

Cheshire West & Chester: Councillors Keith Millar and Lynn Stocks

Halton Councillors Martha Lloyd Jones and Norman Plumpton Walsh

Warrington: Councillor Jane Whalen

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Wendy Maisey OBE (Warrington) and Cllr Phil Marshall (Cheshire West and Chester).

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED:

That Mr Evan Morris MBE be elected as Chair of the Panel for the 2023/24 Municipal year.

3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR FOR THE 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED:

That Miss Yasmin Somani be elected as Deputy Chair of the Panel for the 2023/24 Municipal year.

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

No issues were raised.

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 17th March 2023 be approved.

7. PANEL MEMBERSHIP

The Panel noted the nominations made by the constituent Councils for the 2023/24 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.

The Chair thanked those no longer serving on the Panel for their service and support, he also thanked Cllr Rob Bissett, the former Deputy Chair, for his very significant contribution to the work of the Panel over many years.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Mrs Gemma Shepherd – Etchells be appointed as Chair of the Complaints Management Sub Committee and Cllr Jane Whalen appointed as Deputy Chair of the Sub Committee.
- (ii) The Secretariat to liaise with Panel members after the meeting to agree the remaining membership of the Sub Committee.

8. PANEL ARRANGEMENTS: RULES OF PROCEDURE

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Panel adopted the Rules of Procedure, as published, for the 2023/24 Municipal year, with an amendment to Part 2b, relating to Independent co-opted members, which added a third paragraph:

“When the Panel Chair or Deputy Chair is an Independent co-opted member whose term of office is due to expire whilst they are serving as Chair or Deputy Chair, the Panel may if they wish, irrespective of how many terms of office they have served, and without reference to a Recruitment Panel, extend that term of office for a further three-year term”.

- (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.

9. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CO-OPTED MEMBER OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

RESOLVED:

The Chair, Mr Evan Morris MBE be appointed to serve a further three year term as an Independent Co-opted Member. His term of office would expire on 30th September 2026.

10. CHESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL BUDGET 2023/24

The Panel noted that the host Authority had yet to receive a formal grant offer from the Home Office for 2023/24.

RESOLVED:

The Panel's budget for 2023/24 be approved.

11. PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was noted.

12. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S SCRUTINY PAPERS – 9th MAY 2023

The Panel noted the papers that the Commissioner had published in advance of his Scrutiny meeting held on 9th May.

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

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

14. WELCOME TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER / INTRODUCTION BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Chair formally welcomed the Commissioner to the meeting. He congratulated him on extending the Chief Constable's fixed term contract and thanked him for having updated the Panel on this in writing. The Chair noted with pleasure that the Northern Ireland Policing Board had extended the fixed term contract of Simon Byrne as Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Mr Byrne was a former Chief Constable of the Cheshire Constabulary.

The Commissioner provided the Panel with a comprehensive update on a wide range of issues, including Officer numbers, 999 and 101 call response times and the valuable role of volunteers within the Constabulary.

15. 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 - [Cheshire Police and Crime Panel - questions-from-june-2023.pdf](#)