

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

held on Friday 15th September in Rooms G1 and G2, HQ, Nicholas Street, Chester

PRESENT

Councillors:

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

Cheshire West & Chester: Councillors Phil Marshall, Keith Millar and Sam Naylor

Halton Councillors Martha Lloyd Jones and Norman Plumpton
Walsh

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

Officers: Mr Martin Smith, Cheshire East Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Wendy Maisey OBE (Warrington) and Cllr Jane Whalen (Warrington).

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

No issues were raised.

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 on 23rd June 2023 be approved.

5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair briefed on the forthcoming annual meeting of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels that would be taking place in November, noting that he would be standing again for the position of Vice Chair of the Association. The Chair also noted that he had attended a workshop with consultants appointed by the Home Office, where there had been discussions on the support that could in future be offered to Police and Crime Panels by regional hubs.

6. PANEL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Panel welcomed the suggestion that a training event should be held later in the year. The Secretariat were asked to canvass Panel members for a suitable date.

7. COMMISSIONER'S SCRUTINY BOARD – 19 JULY 2023

The papers for the Commissioner's Scrutiny Board were noted.

8. PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

The work programme was noted.

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

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

10. WELCOME TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND COMMISSIONER'S INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The Chair welcomed the Commissioner to the meeting.

In his introductory comments the Commissioner congratulated the Constabulary on the excellent work that it had done in relation to Operation Hummingbird, which had led to the successful prosecution, at Manchester Crown Court, of Lucy Letby. The trial had lasted for almost a year and the case had been one of the most complex criminal investigations in history.

The Commissioner also briefed the Panel on a number of other issues, including pensions forfeiture, road safety and a bid for funding in the fifth round of the Safer Streets programme.

The Chair added his own, and the Panel's congratulations to the Police, for the work undertaking in relation to Operation Hummingbird.

11. CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMISSIONER'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

The Commissioner introduced his draft annual report, answering a range of questions from Panel members,

RESOLVED:

That the Commissioner's Annual Report be noted, with no formal recommendations being made.

12. 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.

The letter sent to the Commissioner in relation to his draft annual report (item 11) and the Commissioner's reply are attached for reference.