

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

held on Friday 24th November 2023 in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Ellesmere Port Library, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port

PRESENT

Councillors:

Cheshire East: Councillors Steve Edgar and Mick Warren

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

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 (Secretariat)

Councillors Judy Snowball (Cheshire East) and Wendy Maisey OBE (Warrington) joined the meeting, in a none voting capacity, via Microsoft Teams.

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

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

Councillor Keith Millar (Cheshire West and Chester), recognising that the meeting would discuss the Constabulary's "Right Care, Right Person" policy, declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the West Cheshire Mental Health Partnership Board.

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 15th September 2023 be approved.

5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair noted that he had been re-elected as Vice - Chair of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels. He also noted the ongoing work being undertaken with the Police College Library and contacts he had made with the Department of Criminology at the University of Chester.

6. CHAIR'S MID-YEAR REVIEW

The Chair introduced his first mid-year review, noting that in future it was his intention to provide an update to the Panel twice a year. A copy of the report can be found on the Panel's page of the Cheshire East Council website.

7. PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

The work programme was noted.

Now that the detailed timetable for the 2024 Police and Crime Commissioner Elections was known, the Panel agreed an additional meeting at 10.00am on Friday 15th March 2024. The pre-election period, in advance of the May 2024 election would commence the following Monday.

8. COMMISSIONER'S SCRUTINY BOARD – 25th OCTOBER 2023

The papers for the Commissioner's Scrutiny Board were 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

The Chair welcomed the Commissioner to the meeting.

11. INTRODUCTION BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner provided the Panel with a detailed update on a wide range of issues. He noted that his Deputy Commissioner, Mr David McNeilage would be standing down at the end of December; due to the proximity of the Police and Crime Commissioner elections, he was not planning to replace him. He assured the Panel that the work that was currently done by Mr McNeilage would be adequately covered by others in his Office.

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.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Councillor Jane Whalen (Warrington Council) announced that to avoid any conflict of interest, she would be standing down from the Panel at the end of December. From the New Year she would be acting as campaign manager for the Labour Party candidate in the May 2024 Police and Crime Commissioner elections. The Panel thanked her for the work that she had undertaken as a Panel member.