

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON 29 JUNE 2015 AT 1400 HOURS, WOLVERHAMPTON

PRESENT:-

Cllr Mohammed Arif (Substitute) – Walsall
Cllr Rose Burley – Walsall
Cllr Darren Cooper – Sandwell
Cllr Ken Hawkins – Solihull
Cllr Diane Holl-Allen – Solihull
Cllr Mike Leddy – Birmingham
Cllr Ann Lucas – Coventry
Cllr Elias Mattu – Wolverhampton
Cllr John Rowley – Wolverhampton
Cllr Sharon Thompson – Birmingham
Cllr Dave Tyler – Dudley
Lionel Walker (Independent Member)

ALSO PRESENT:

Sarah Norman - Chief Executive Dudley MBC / Panel Secretary
Emma Williamson – Head of Scrutiny Birmingham/ Panel Lead Officer
Sarah Fradgley – Research and Policy Officer / Panel Secretariat
David Jamieson – West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner
Yvonne Mosquito – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Dave Thompson - Deputy Chief Constable
Jonathan Jardine – Acting Chief Executive and proposed candidate for Chief Executive for the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
Mark Kenyon – Proposed candidate for Chief Finance Officer for the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner

ELECTION OF CHAIR

- 188 Nominations were invited by Sarah Norman, Panel Secretary, for the position of Chair of the Panel. It was proposed, seconded and:-

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Darren Cooper (Sandwell) be appointed Chair of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel for the period ending with the Annual Meeting in 2016.

COUNCILLOR DARREN COOPER IN THE CHAIR

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

- 189 Nominations were invited by Cllr Cooper for the position of Vice-Chair of the Panel. It was proposed, seconded and:-

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Ken Hawkins (Solihull) be appointed Vice-Chair of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel for the period ending with the Annual Meeting in 2016.

TUNISIAN BEACH ATTACK

- 190 The meeting observed a minute silence for the victims of the Tunisian beach attack that had included a number of people from the West Midlands including Adrian Evans, an employee of Sandwell Council and two of his family members.
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POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEMBERSHIP 2015-2016

(See document No.1)

RESOLVED:-

- 191 That the appointments to the Panel by the West Midlands Local Authorities and the West Midlands Joint Committee for the 2015/16 Municipal Year be noted.
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APOLOGIES

- 192 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of the following Panel Members:-
Councillors Bird (Walsall), Tilsley (Birmingham), Hunt (Birmingham) and Nick Drew (Independent Member).
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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 193 Councillor Rose Burley declared that she was vice-chair and trustee of Walsall Domestic Violence Forum.
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CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

- 194 The Chair explained that the Panel was required to hold a confirmation hearing for the appointment of Chief Executive by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Panel noted the following briefing note which outlined the process for the hearing: -

(See document No.2)

The Panel also considered the following report of the Police and Crime Commissioner in respect of the proposed appointment:

(See document No.3)

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced his preferred candidate to members, Mr Jonathan Jardine, and explained the recruitment process and how Mr Jardine had met the criteria for the role and demonstrated aptitude and enthusiasm for the job.

Panel Members then asked Mr Jardine a series of questions relating his leadership approach and professional independence. In response he made the following points:-

Using the Police and Crime Plan he intended to put in place an action plan for staff that set out responsibilities and timescales. This would be linked to the staff performance review process and used to assess performance.

He would support the PCC in the full spectrum of responsibilities, highlighting in particular working with local authorities around commissioning for community safety services for victims, and the Commissioner's engagement and consultation role and greater contact with the public and media.

When questioned about his course of action if the PCC was preparing to do something unwise he assured the Panel that as a public servant he would abide by the Civil Service Code and Nolan Principles. He sought to secure the trust of the PCC and regular meetings with the PCC would enable discussions of ideas.

He felt it was important as a leader to encourage staff to be more proactive and innovative and weekly staff meetings would facilitate an environment of frank and open discussion.

The Chairman thanked Mr Jardine for responding to questions and explained the Panel would deliberate in closed session later in the meeting.

CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

195 The Chair explained that the Panel was required to hold a confirmation hearing for the appointment of Chief Finance Officer by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The Panel considered the following report of the Police and Crime Commissioner in respect of the proposed appointment:

(See document No. 4)

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced his preferred candidate to members, Mr Mark Kenyon, and explained the recruitment process and how Mr Kenyon had met the criteria for the role and demonstrated aptitude and enthusiasm for the job.

Panel Members then asked Mr Kenyon a series of questions relating to the financial challenges faced, professional independence and measures of success. In response he made the following points:-

He believed austerity and funding reductions to be the biggest challenges. He would seek to ensure resources were aligned to the police and crime plan priorities, develop robust governance arrangements to ensure delivery of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Grants, as well as careful and robust management of reserves.

Sitting on the senior leadership team, he would provide strategic advice to the PCC on the financial implications of decisions, as well as maintaining robust internal audit arrangements and his Section 151 Officer responsibilities.

When questioned about the measures of success in the role, Mr Kenyon highlighted this would include delivery of all the financial requirements of the WMPCP2020 change programme, audit would demonstrate sound financial management, he hoped to be regarded as a trusted member of the senior leadership team and developed a sound relationship with the West Midlands Police finance function, and built budget setting consultation processes.

He assured the Panel that he brought to the role his experience of advising service heads, understanding their priorities and working with them to achieve service objectives, whilst also protecting the public purse.

The Chairman thanked Mr Kenyon for responding to questions and explained the Panel would now deliberate the two appointments in closed session, before returning to the public meeting.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: -

- 196 That in view of the nature of the business to be transacted which includes exempt information of the category indicated, the public were excluded from the meeting:-

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENTS OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER POSTS

Exempt Category – Paragraph 1. Part 1 of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972: information relating to an individual

PUBLIC MINUTES

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

- 198 The Chairman announced that the Panel's Tackling FGM in the West Midlands report had been successfully launched on 23 June 2015. The Police and Crime Commissioner and local media had attended. He thanked the Panel for an excellent piece of work.
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MINUTES

- 199 The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2015, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
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PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 200 There were no public questions submitted to the meeting.
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REVIEW OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS' ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

- 201 The following report was submitted:-

(See document No. 5)

The Police and Crime Commissioner presented his annual report. He also referred to the Chief Constable's retirement at the end of 2015 and the recruitment process that would be subject to a confirmation hearing by the Police and Crime Panel.

The Commissioner and Deputy Chief Constable responded to a number of questions. The following were amongst the points made:-

The Panel noted the current budget pressures and that difficult decisions would have to be taken if further funding cuts are made. The Commissioner highlighted policing may well look different in the future as a result of the financial situation. Members offered their support in making the case to Government against further reductions to the police budget.

The Panel noted that close working between the Police and Crime Commissioner, local authorities and other partners was key to addressing the impact of budget reductions. It was suggested now was the time for local authorities and other agencies, including the police, to consider pooling budgets, and look at where activity could be shared, where there was common interest. The Panel offered its support in exploring ways in which closer working could result in better use of resources.

Members welcomed the Commissioner's focus on supporting a strong economy and the emphasis on working with offenders to reduce reoffending.

The Panel was pleased to hear that both knife and gun crime had reduced. The Commissioner spoke of the changes to the crime profile, with increasing demands for policing 'in the private place' to combat domestic violence, FGM and other 'hidden crimes'. He also highlighted the complex police work to tackle child sexual exploitation and the radicalisation of young people.

The Panel suggested local authorities and the police could co-ordinate child protection activity to better protect families. Members noted the increased reporting, better recording and the use of alternative remedies (such as civil orders) for domestic violence, and sought reassurance that support for victims and their families (particularly around giving evidence in court) is maximised. The Panel asked for further information on the funding and services commissioned via the Victim's Commission for victims of domestic violence and their families.

The good practice of local authorities and police working together with community organisations to disseminate information about cyber-crime and how the public could protect themselves was noted.

The Commissioner advised that bilking (stealing petrol from petrol stations) represented a significant use of police resources and he continued to seek the co-operation of retailers to address this type of crime. He suggested that planning requirements and 'building out' crime by improving the design of petrol forecourts would help eradicate this crime and save police resources.

The Chair thanked the Commissioner for presenting his annual report and Members commented that they found the report to be both informative and easy to read. They thanked the Commissioner for the tribute paid within the report to Bob Jones, former Police and Crime Commissioner.

RESOLVED:-

- i) That the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2014/15 be noted; and
- ii) The Panel submit a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner on his Annual Report in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL BUDGET FOR 2014/15 AND 2015/16

- 202 The following report setting out the Panel's expenditure for 2014/15 and the budget forecast for 2015/16 was submitted:-

(See document No. 6)

Members were advised that an additional condition of grant funding was to publish expenditure on the website. Officers will now develop a policy for doing so and will consult Members in due course.

RESOLVED:-

That the Panel expenditure for 2014/15 and forecast for 2015/16 be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16 AND RECENT DECISIONS BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

- 203 The following report setting out the proposed work programme and future meeting dates, together with the list of decisions published by the Police and Crime Commissioner since the last Panel meeting, was submitted:-

(See document No.7)

Members were asked to consider narrowing down the work programme topics to make them more manageable.

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted and Panel Members consider how they wish to refine the work programme topics.

JESS PHILLIPS MP

- 204 It was agreed to place on record the Panel's gratitude to Jess Phillips recently elected as MP for Yardley for her work and commitment whilst serving on the Police and Crime Panel between 2012 and 2015. It was:-

RESOLVED: -

That the Chair write to Jess Phillips MP to thank her for serving on the Panel.

Meeting ended at 1550 hours

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CHAIR