

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON  
15 JULY 2019 14:00 HOURS, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:-**

ClIr Paul Bradley – Dudley  
ClIr Ken Hawkins - Solihull  
ClIr Jasbir Jaspal - Wolverhampton  
ClIr Richard Jones – Sandwell  
ClIr Abdul Salam Khan - Coventry  
ClIr Narinder Kaur Kooner OBE – Birmingham  
ClIr Suky Samra – Walsall  
ClIr Shafique Shah - Birmingham  
Lionel Walker – Independent Member

**ALSO PRESENT:-**

David Jamieson – West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner  
Ashley Bertie – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner  
Jonathan Jardine – Chief Executive, OPCC  
Kevin O’Keefe – Panel Lead Chief Executive (Dudley)  
Emma Williamson – Lead Officer  
Sarah Fradgley– Panel Support Officer

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

- 461 Kevin O’Keefe opened proceedings and advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site ([www.birminghamnewsroom.com](http://www.birminghamnewsroom.com)) and members of the press/public could record and take photographs.
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**ELECTION OF CHAIR**

- 462 Nominations were invited by Kevin O’Keefe for the position of Police and Crime Panel Chair. Three candidates were proposed and following a vote by members present, it was:-

**RESOLVED:-**

That Councillor Ken Hawkins (Solihull) be appointed Chair of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel for the period ending with the Panel Annual Meeting in 2020.

**COUNCILLOR KEN HAWKINS IN THE CHAIR**

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**CHAIR’S INTRODUCTION**

- 463 ClIr Hawkins thanked Members for their trust and confidence and spoke of his wish for the Panel to really move forward and fulfil its purpose.
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**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

- 464 Nominations were invited by ClIr Hawkins for the position of Vice-Chair of the Police and Crime Panel. It was:-

**RESOLVED:-**

That Councillor Narinder Kaur Kooner (Birmingham) be appointed Vice-Chair of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel for the period ending with the Panel Annual Meeting in 2020.

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**POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEMBERSHIP 2019-2020**

465 It was noted that the following Members and their named substitutes had been appointed to the Panel for 2019-2020. The Chair welcomed new and returning members:-

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Panel Member</b>	<b>Named Substitute</b>
Birmingham	Cllr Shafique Shah	Cllr Shabrana Hussain
Birmingham	Cllr Narinder Kaur Kooner OBE	Cllr Fred Grindrod
Birmingham	Cllr Safia Akhtar	Cllr Julie Johnson
Coventry	Cllr Abdul Salam Khan	Cllr Kindy Sandhu
Dudley	Cllr Paul Bradley	Cllr Ed Lawrence
Sandwell	Cllr Yvonne Davies	Cllr Richard Jones
Solihull	Cllr Ken Hawkins	Cllr Diana Holl-Allen MBE
Solihull	Cllr James Butler	Cllr Robert Grinsell
Walsall	Cllr Mike Bird	Cllr Suky Samra
Wolverhampton	Cllr Jasbir Jaspal	Cllr Zee Russell
Association of Black Country Authorities Dudley/ Walsall	Cllr Dave Tyler (Dudley)	Cllr Rose Burley (Walsall)
Association of Black Country Authorities Sandwell/ Wolverhampton	Cllr Farut Shaeen (Sandwell)	Cllr Greg Brackenridge (Wolverhampton)
Independent Member 2016-2020	Kristina Murphy	No substitute
Independent Member 2016-2020	Lionel Walker	No substitute

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**APOLOGIES**

466 Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Mike Bird, James Butler, Yvonne Davies, Farut Shaeen, Dave Tyler, Rose Burley and Greg Brackenridge.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 467 Councillor Narinder Kaur Kooner OBE declared her involvement in the PCC's 24-hour Hidden Crimes Helpline.
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**CONFIRMATION HEARING – PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

- 468 The Chair explained that the Panel was required under Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to hold a confirmation hearing for the proposed appointment of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. The Panel noted the following report which outlined the process for the hearing and included the information provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner: -

(See document No.1)

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced his proposed candidate Mr Ashley Bertie. He then outlined the recruitment process and explained how Mr Bertie had met the criteria for the role and demonstrated aptitude and enthusiasm for the job. He highlighting that Mr Bertie possessed complementary skills to himself and brought a different perspective and focus of challenge. He added that Mr Bertie had shown adherence of Nolan Principles for public life and also offered a role model for younger people in public life.

Panel Members then put a number of questions to Mr Bertie to establish whether he met the criteria for the post and possessed the necessary professional competence and personal independence to carry out the role. In response Mr Bertie made the following points:-

- He spoke of his passion and dedication to ensuring all get an opportunity to fulfil their aspirations and realise their talents. His priority was to break down historic barriers between certain communities and the police. He emphasised his interpersonal skills and his unique ability to reach out and understand the concerns of young people and reflect these in policy making.
- He saw the key challenge for the role was addressing youth violence, breaking down barriers between young people and the police, and encouraging young people to broaden their horizons. He remarked on the challenge to ensure a police service aligned to the needs and priorities of the public in a climate of constrained police resources and the changing nature of crime.
- Asked about his experience of challenging decisions, Mr Bertie cited his work with the Gangs and Violence Commission where he had pushed strongly for the controversial recommendation to introduce community mediators. He further highlighted his efforts to challenge the force to improve recording and scrutiny of its use of stop and search powers.
- He highlighted his experience of working with a range of stakeholders and local people on the Gangs and Violence Commission and declared his commitment to a bottom up approach to understand and address concerns.
- Responding to questions about the Equalities Act, Mr Bertie referred to the protected characteristics and observed that the work of the PCC and Office for Police and Crime Commissioner encompassed the principles of the Equalities Act.

- He believed that the Active Citizens Fund did reach the full range of stakeholders and community groups through the World Café consultations. However youth violence was the biggest concern reported. He also referred to the PCC's Victims Commission involving practitioners and experts to allocate resources to address hidden crimes.
- Responding to a question about the representation of women at the OPPC and on the PCC's Strategic Policing and Crime Board, the PCC advised that 20 out of 32 positions were held by women, 4 of the 7 senior positions were held by women, and the average pay of women was slightly higher than men employed. He had been disappointed in the number of women who applied for Board positions, where 2 out of 9 were women.
- Mr Bertie assured the Panel of his understanding of the demarcation between operational policing and police governance, his role of holding the force and chief constable to account, and his adherence to the PCC's oath of office.
- Mr Bertie advised that he had geographical responsibility for Birmingham and Wolverhampton and portfolio responsibilities for gangs and violence, young people, stop and search, drugs policy, and confidence in policing. However as Deputy he would ensure all policy areas form part of his work.
- Responding to questions about the implementation of the Police and Crime Plan, Mr Bertie referred to the ambition in the plan for a Cadets scheme. He described the work to further develop the programme over the remaining 11 months of his term of office and hope to establish a template for ongoing work.

Drawing the hearing to an end the Chair thanked Mr Bertie for responding to the questions. He explained that the Panel would move into private session to deliberate, and then reconvene to continue with the public meeting.

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**EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

469 **RESOLVED:**

That in view of the nature of business to be transacted which includes exempt information relating to an individual (as defined in Paragraph 1 – Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the course of the following item:-

Recommendation of the proposed appointment of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

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**FOLLOWING RE-ADMITTANCE OF PUBLIC**

**MINUTES**

- 470 The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- 471 The Chair advised that no public questions had been submitted.

**PANEL RULES OF PROCEDURE – REVISION**

- 472 The following report seeking agreement to reduce the quorum of Panel meetings from 7 to 5 members was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

It was noted that as there was not the required 11 members present to agree a change to the Panel's Rules of Procedure, the recommendation would be resubmitted to the next meeting.

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**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S RECENT DECISIONS AND UPDATE**

- 473 The following list of recent decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner was received and noted:-

(See document No.3)

The Panel received the following verbal update:-

- i. The PCC introduced Waheed Saleem, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner, and work experience students in attendance. He also reported changes to West Midlands Police senior ranks, where 4 of the 6 senior officers were now women.
- ii. Home Office surge funding allocated to the West Midlands had largely been used for police officer overtime to increase police presence in violent crime hotspots. A number of areas had seen a dramatic reduction in street crime, although it was too early to say if falls in knife crime was a result of the surge funding. The PCC welcomed the additional money, but spoke of the need for ongoing funding, and remarked that working overtime was not sustainable in the long term.
- iii. The West Midlands had also received £3.3m funding to establish a Violence Reduction Unit. Ashley Bertie praised the collaboration of agencies to prepare the successful VRU bid and it was agreed to share the document with Panel members. He explained £600k would fund diversionary school summer holiday activities across the region and £100k on similar October half-term activities. School Partnership Officers would also be rolled out across the region to link schools and businesses to identify apprenticeship, work experience, employment and training opportunities. The PCC urged local authority leaders to consider how the lack of sports and youth activities was contributing to the increase in youth violence and criminal activity.
- iv. Responding to a question about identifying employment opportunities for young people with a criminal record, Ashley Bertie spoke of the work to encourage businesses to employ ex-offenders, including the Ban the Box campaign to remove the tick box on applications forms that asks people to state whether they have any criminal convictions.
- v. The Panel recalled the success of the former school liaison officers in building positive relationships between young people and the police. The PCC noted the valuable work the force used to do with schools but observed that the loss of 2000 officers made it difficult. He confirmed West Midlands police continued to work with schools.
- vi. Ashley Bertie undertook to look into the wider promotion of World Café events.

- vii. The PCC encouraged members to read the Timpson Review of School Exclusions and find out what their local authority was doing to reduce school exclusions and support such pupils who were at greater risk of exposure to and involvement in crime.
- viii. The PCC and Chief Constable had launched a knife crime campaign to encourage parents to speak to their children about the impact of carrying a knife. 75% of the region's secondary schools had held knife crime talks with their pupils.
- ix. The PCC congratulated the winners of the PCC's Outstanding Citizen's Awards.
- x. The PCC had funded a pilot Bleed Control Kit scheme, equipping city centre businesses and late night venues with specialist first aid kits. The initiative was run by Lynne Baird of The Daniel Baird Foundation, in memory of her son who was fatally stabbed.
- xi. Discussions were underway with the Home Office, The Treasury and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government about the possibility of greater flexibility over the level of policing precept to bring the West Midlands in line with similar force areas. The PCC explained the West Midlands had the lowest level of funding from the precept; a band D precept was £152, compared to Greater Manchester at £198, equating to an additional £22m a year funding. He welcomed the Panel's views and suggested this could be a topic for the Panel budget sub group.
- xii. Responding to a question the PCC stated that the recruitment rate of special constables was not as successful as he would have liked. However recruitment of police officers, PCSOs and cadets volunteers was going well. The force was also looking into other initiatives such as extending special constable powers to other agencies, for example enforcement of bus bylaws. It was noted that some rural areas had given firefighters special constable powers. The PCC clarified that any such move would have to be an initiated by the fire service.
- xiii. The PCC offered to facilitate an induction on the Force and OPCC for panel members.
- xiv. The PCC agreed to update the Panel on the progress of the estates programme in November.

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**DEVELOPING THE PANEL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2018/19**

- 474 The following outline work programme was submitted and the Chair asked members to send possible work programme topics to the Panel secretariat. It was suggested the Panel's Budget Sub Group could be re-established.

(See document No.4)

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**MEETING DATES FOR 2019-2020**

- 475 Cllr Khan challenged the decision to stop rotating Panel meetings as this would affect the ability of the public to see the PCC challenged in their area. He felt this would take away the openness and transparency of the Panel and was based on the expediency of members whose duty was to travel to meetings.

The Chair recalled the issue was supported at the last meeting by members from all areas and reiterated the decision hold the first three meetings in Birmingham and to review matter at the third meeting. He undertook to write to all members about attendance at Panel meeting.

MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON 15 JULY 2019

PCC confirmed he and his team would attend Panel meetings wherever they were held.

It was noted the Panel had received few public questions. It was explained that the opportunity to ask questions was advertised on the website and Twitter, but as questions had to be about the remit of the Panel, not the PCC or police matters, there was not the level of interest.

**RESOLVED: -**

The Police and Crime Panel meet at 2pm on the following dates:-

- 9 September 2019
- 25 November 2019
- 13 January 2020
- 3 February 2020
- 17 February 2020 (provisional)
- 16 March 2020

The meeting ended at 16:00

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CHAIR

**PRIVATE MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

476 The Panel held a private discussion having considered the information provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner relating to his proposed appointment of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and the candidates' responses to the questions. It was:

RESOLVED:

That

- i) That the Panel recommends the appointment of Mr Ashley Bertie to the post of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner; and
- ii) The Panel write to the Police and Crime Commissioner with its decision and publishes its report on the Panel's website.

**RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC**

The public now be re-admitted to the meeting.

The meeting ended at 16:00

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CHAIR