

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of **DERBYSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL** held on Thursday, 23 June 2022 at Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock.

**PRESENT**

Councillors, A Barrow (High Peak Borough Council), V Clare (Erewash Borough Council), G Hickton (Derbyshire County Council) (Substitute member), P Innes (Chesterfield Borough Council), D Murphy (Derbyshire Dales District Council) M Murray (Amber Valley Borough Council), G Potter (Derby City Council) and G Rhind (South Derbyshire District Council) and V Newbury and S Handsley (Independent Member)

Officers present: Alec Dubberley (Head of Democratic and Registration Services) and Jackie Wardle (Improvement and Scrutiny Officer) and Ivan Walters (Democratic Services)

Also present: Angelique Foster (Police and Crime Commissioner) and Andrew Dale and Joseph Rhodes - Orwin (OPCC)

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor W Armitage and C Hart.

**18/22 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED** that V Newbury be appointed as Chair of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing municipal year.

V Newbury (in the Chair)

**19/22 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor G Potter be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing municipal year.

**20/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**21/22 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2022 subject to the following amendment:

Correcting the word 'question' to read 'questions' in the final paragraph of minute 12/22

**22/22 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER UPDATE ON PROGRESS AGAINST DELIVERY - DERBYSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN**

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) attended the meeting and provided the Panel with a comprehensive summary of the work she had conducted against the delivery of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Plan 2021-25

The paper, which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting provided an overview of the key work undertaken by the PCC in relation to her Police and Crime Plan since it was launched and supported by the Panel at its meeting on 15 November 2021.

Members made a number of observations and asked questions which were duly noted or answered by the PCC. Specific reference was made to the following:

Members of the Panel expressed their concern at the issue of new recruits having to be educated to degree level from March 2023, and agreed as a Panel to support the PCC in continuing to lobby for there still to be an entry route for non degree holders in the force, as it was felt that a diverse mix of skills and life experience amongst those people wanting to joining the force was essential.

Members thanked the PCC for her detailed summary and commended her for the good work and large number of activities she had undertaken. However, a number of members felt that it was hard for them to reflect on how they could actually reference these against the Police and Crime Plan and that it would be useful to have details of the outcomes/ feedback/performance indicators from the many areas of work undertaken to enable Panel members to scrutinise these effectively.

The PCC explained that this information would all be included in the Annual Report, due to be submitted to the September meeting, but noted the comments regarding the style of the report. She also referred again to the Performance Scrutiny Meetings which was a new approach she had devised to holding the Chief Constable to account for delivery against her Police and Crime Plan. These meetings had been created to drill down into the force's delivery against each of the six Police and Crime Plan priorities listed in the plan. Meetings were to be held every two months and would focus on a specific priority. It was agreed that links to these meeting Agendas and papers would be forwarded to the PCP members

**RESOLVED** to note the update in relation to progress against the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan 2021-25.

**23/22 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PCC**

It was noted that the interim structural arrangements that had been in place in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) since the departure of the previous Chief Executive, had worked very successfully and that the PCC had decided to make this arrangements permanent:

Andrew Dale – Chief Operating Officer  
Joe Rhodes – Orwin - Head of Operations  
Marie Romano – Monitoring Officer

**24/22 FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Nothing was raised under this Item.

**25/22 BALANCED APPOINTMENT OBJECTIVE - REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OF DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services presented a report to enable the Panel to review its composition following the commencement of the new municipal year and to co-opt additional Councillor Members to ensure the Panel met the statutory balance requirements.

The Panel's 2 co-opted Independent Members were not covered by this report. They have recently been co-opted for a further 4 year term.

Paragraph 31 of Schedule 6 puts the duty to produce a "balanced panel" on councils and panels. Relevant local authorities and panels must secure that (as far as is reasonably practicable) the balanced appointment objective is met. A "balanced panel" is one where the councillors on the panel (when taken together with any co-optees as necessary):

- Represent all parts of the relevant police area (geographical balance)
- Represent the political make-up on the relevant authorities (when taken together (political balance), and

- Have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the police and crime panel, to discharge its functions effectively.

Each of the 10 constituent authorities in Derbyshire had nominated a panel member for the new municipal year from its majority group and this had resulted in a Panel of 6 Conservative members and 4 Labour members. As outlined at appendix 2 to the report, this did not achieve political balance and so did not meet the balanced appointment objective.

The political balance of the Panel can be adjusted by co-opting additional Councillor Members to better meet the balanced appointment objective and paragraph 4 (4) of Schedule 6 enables the Panel to pass a resolution to have additional co-opted members. In considering political balance, appendix 2 to the report detailed the current political makeup of the 10 constituent local authorities and the relevant percentages. Appendix 3 to this report detailed the number of co-optees required to achieve political balance. As the maximum number of members permitted on the panel is 20, including 2 independent co-optees, the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel can only co-opt a maximum of 8 Councillor Members. Based on the percentages outlined in appendix 3 to the report, to achieve, or support, the balanced appointment objective, the Panel was asked to consider one of the following options:

- a. Co-option of 3 Councillor members:  
1 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent Councillor
- b. Co-option of 7 Councillor members:  
2 Conservative, 2 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent Councillor.

Following discussion amongst those present, the Panel unanimously agreed to co-opt 7 additional members.

The Panel then further considered which authorities to approach to seek further nominations for co-optees and in doing so, considered the geographical balance in ensuring the balanced appointment objective could be met. It was suggested that the following authorities should be approached to provide co-opted members: Derby City (1 Con & 1Lab); DCC (1Con); Erewash (1 Lab); Chesterfield (1 Lib Dem) Bolsover (1 Ind) and High Peak (1 LD)

## **RESOLVED**

- 1) To approve to co-opt 7 additional councillor members subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State, to enable the Panel to better

fulfil its duty to meet the balanced appointment objective;

- 2) To agree to delegate authority to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, to make the necessary arrangements to determine which authority or authorities should be approached to provide the additional members, and in doing so, they should consider the geographical balance and the skills and knowledge of potential co-optees in ensuring the balanced appointment objective can be met, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State; and
- 3) To agree that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services makes the necessary application to the Secretary of State to appoint the nominated co-optees upon receipt of the nominations from the identified authority or authorities.

**26/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 8 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting finished at 11.30 am