

Unconfirmed minutes – subject to amendment/confirmation at the next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

4 July 2016 – at a meeting of the Panel held at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

David Simmons	Adur DC
Paul Wotherspoon	Arun DC
Emma Daniel	Brighton and Hove CC
Lee Wares	Brighton and Hove CC
Eileen Lintill	Chichester DC
Michael Jones	Crawley BC
Alan Shuttleworth	Eastbourne BC
Bill Bentley	East Sussex CC
Trevor Webb (1)	Hastings BC
Kate Rowbottom	Horsham DC
Tony Nicholson	Lewes DC
Norman Webster	Mid Sussex DC
Chris Saint (2)	Rother DC
Johanna Howell (3)	Wealden DC
Sandra James	West Sussex CC
Brad Watson OBE	West Sussex CC
Kevin Jenkins (4)	Worthing BC
Graham Hill	Independent
Peter Nightingale	Independent

- (1) Substitute for Warren Davies
- (2) Substitute for Eleanor Kirby-Green
- (3) Substitute for Claire Dowling
- (4) Substitute for Val Turner

Apologies for absence were received from Claire Dowling (Wealden DC), Eleanor Kirby-Green (Rother DC), Nigel Peters (WSCC) Rosalyn St Pierre (ESCC) and Val Turner (Worthing BC)

In attendance: Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner; Mark Streater, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer of the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (OSPCC); Carl Rushbridge, Chief Finance Officer of the OSPCC; and Ninesh Edwards and Rachel Allan (Host Authority - West Sussex CC).

Election of Chairman

1. The Panel proposed and seconded Brad Watson as Chairman of the Panel for the forthcoming year. The appointment was agreed by the Panel.
2. Resolved – that Brad Watson is elected Chairman of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.
3. The Chairman welcomed both new and returning members to the Panel and advised that if members required any advice or support on the work of the Panel to please contact Ninesh Edwards.

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4. The Chairman thanked previous members of the Panel for their service. He further thanked Carl Rushbridge, Chief Finance Officer (OSPCC) for his work for the Panel and wished him well for his upcoming move.

Election of Vice-Chairman

5. The Panel proposed and seconded Bill Bentley as Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the forthcoming year. The appointment was agreed by the Panel.

6. Resolved – that Bill Bentley is elected Vice-Chairman of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.

Declarations of Interest

7. In accordance with the code of conduct members of the Panel declared the personal interests contained in the table below.

Panel Member	Personal Interest
Brad Watson	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership
Graham Hill	Volunteer at Victim Support charity
Dave Simmons	Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership, Adur and Worthing Vice-Chairman of Safer West Sussex Partnership
Bill Bentley	Chairman of East Sussex Safer Community Board
Paul Wotherspoon	Chairman of Safer Arun Partnership
Emma Daniel	Member of Brighton and Hove Safe in the City Partnership Board
Eileen Lintill	Member of Chichester Community Safety Partnership
Tony Nicholson	Chairman of Lewes Community Safety Partnership
Michael Jones	Chairman of Safer Crawley Partnership
Kate Rowbottom	Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership at Horsham
Warren Davies	Chairman of the Safer Community Partnership at Hastings
Lee Wares	Applicant to funding provided by the Commission on behalf of a Local Action Team
Norman Webster	Member of Mid Sussex Partnership
Alan Shuttleworth	Chair of Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership
Lee Wares	Applicant to Local Action Teams
Kevin Jenkins	Member of Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership.

Minutes

8. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel held on 22 January 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

Review of Panel Membership and Proportionality

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9. The Panel considered a report by the Clerk to the Panel which set out the political makeup of the Panel's constituent authorities (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). The Panel was asked if it approved the appointment and reappointment of the independent co-opted members; if the County Councils in Sussex should provide a second representative; and the political affiliation of any additional County Council members.

10. Resolved – that the Panel agrees:

- 1) To renew the appointment of Mr Graham Hill, Independent Co-opted Member, to take effect immediately;
- 2) The appointment of Mr Peter Nightingale as an Independent Co-opted Member of the Panel for a one-year term, renewable for up to five years
- 3) To amend its Constitution to permit Independent Co-opted Members to have substitutes (per para 2.8);
- 4) The appointment of Ms Susan Scholefield as a substitute Independent Co-opted Member;
- 5) To invite both of East and West Sussex County Councils to appoint an additional local authority member (see para 2.16), for a one-year period of office; and
- 6) The appointment of a Liberal Democrat councillor from East Sussex County Council, and a United Kingdom Independence Party councillor from West Sussex County Council, to take effect immediately.

Public Question Time

11. The Chairman introduced the public question time which was an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the Panel and the Commissioner. No members of the public attended to ask a question.

12. The Chairman received a question in advance of the meeting from Mr Carrick of Peacehaven. He stated that he was a resident and home owner in Peacehaven and noted that he paid approximately 11% of his council tax for the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, which could equate in total across Peacehaven, Telscombe and East Saltdean to in excess of £1.5 million. However as there were no PCSOs and the nearest full time Police Station would be in Lewes, he asked how Sussex Police could justify this charge as value for money and what steps would they take to provide a proper service to the public to obviate drugs, petty crime and vandalism, which was on the increase. *The Commissioner thanked Mr Carrick for his question, and advised that at a recent inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), her office had been rated as one of the most cost efficient in the country, as well as having the fourth lowest precept in the country. She added that she regularly challenged the Chief Constable through her month PAM meetings, and had also held numerous public engagement events throughout Sussex. She further advised that the new PCSO model would be rolled out today, which would lead to better flexibility, more enhanced powers and better resilience for the public.*

13. In relation to the above question, the Panel raised the following issues to the Commissioner:

- Concerns were raised by many Panel members to the changes in reduction of PSCOs across Sussex, specifically the loss of local knowledge and the

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complete loss in some areas of PCSOs as they would be based in larger towns. *The Commissioner explained that PCSOs would be provided with better technology which would allow them to be more responsive and flexible in order to service the greatest need. She added that the new teams would also build a local knowledge of areas throughout Sussex.*

- Panel members requested that the changes to PCSOs were reviewed at an appropriate time to ensure that the public was receiving a satisfactory service. *The Commissioner assured the Panel that she would continue to hold the Chief Constable to account and review any changes as necessary.*
- Concerns were also raised regarding the recruitment of PCSOs as there were a number of vacancies across Sussex. *The Commissioner advised the Panel that there had been a recruitment process, and that many new PCSOs were currently in training.*
- Members of the Panel felt that communication in some areas of Sussex in regard to the PCSOs changes had not been sufficient. *The Commissioner set out the communication that had taken place in specific areas, and the range of local engagement events that had occurred. She advised that there was a new community messaging service available and added that members to contact her office if they required further information.*
- The Panel queried the Commissioner's election promise towards more funding for neighbourhood policing. *The Commissioner assured the Panel this was one of her main priorities.*
- The Panel questioned the Commissioner on her estates management plan. *The Commissioner advised that she would ensure that estates would be managed and assessed where required, and that new technology would be embraced to ensure coverage across Sussex.*
- The Panel raised concern over hate crime reporting levels. *The Commissioner advised that it was difficult to get people to report hate crime, and she had recently funded a new hate crime app where public could easily report hate crime to a third party. She added that the status of a reported crime could also be tracked online.*
- Members of the Panel questioned what data and analysis would be used to ensure the new model of neighbourhood policing was effective. *The Commissioner assured members that she had access to all police data, and that she would also take public opinion into account.*

Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report

14. The Panel considered the Commissioner's Annual Report (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes) which provided an update of the Commissioner performance against the priorities, objectives and measures as set out in the Police and Crime Plan for the period 1 April 2015– 31 March 2016. The report also provided information relating to the progress made by the Commissioner in 2015/16 across each of the four priority areas.

15. The Commissioner introduced the report. She advised the Panel that priority areas had been identified, but would change as work went forward. She confirmed that, even though she had a reducing budget, she had allocated £280K to supporting local projects, and that the same level of funding had been allocated to support community safety partnerships across Sussex.

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16. The Commissioner explained that she was encouraging the increase in reporting of crime, and added that the establishment of an Elder's Commission to hear the voice of older people had built on the success of the Youth Commission.

17. The Chief Finance Officer took the Panel through the financial report, as set out in the appendices to the report. He advised on the areas of underspend and overspend as part of the budget, and highlighted key areas to the Panel.

18. The Panel raised the following issues with the Commissioner:

- The Panel reiterated concerns regarding the changes to PCSOs in Sussex. *The Commissioner advised that she had listening to the Panel's concerns and would ensure that the new arrangements were reviewed. She added that the model had not been changed since its implementation, and with the nature of crime changing, it was important to have a robust model.*
- Members of the Panel highlighted the importance of road safety. *The Commissioner agreed with the Panel's concerns regarding road safety, and advised that Sussex Police had a focus on this area, specifically anti-social driving, working alongside the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership.*
- The continued support the Community Safety Partnerships was welcomed.
- It was confirmed that Sussex Police would not be able to claim a rebate for policing undertaken as part of Operation Bowdell (Shoreham Air Show crash).
- The Panel questioned the joint working that was being undertaken with Surrey Police. *The Commissioner explained that as part of the savings that she was required to find, more joint working would occur with Surrey which would achieve efficiencies.*
- The Commissioner assured the panel that the Safer in Sussex Community Fund was audited and all information was provided on the web.
- The Panel questioned whether PCSOs were allowed to attend local town and parish meetings. *The Commissioner explained that, as part of the new arrangements, PCSOs would not be able to attend all meetings, but that they could be invited to relevant meetings when necessary.*
- The Panel complemented a recent Sussex Police drug operation that had involved police dogs from Surrey Police.
- The Panel reiterated the importance of evidence and measurables in assessing changes to the policing model. *The Commissioner ensured the Panel that a whole suite of measures would be considered for the Police and Crime Plan 2017-21, but explained that targets would not be used.*
- Members of the Panel raised concern over the use of new technology, due to network issues in the more rural areas of Sussex. *The Commissioner explained that the emergency services used a separate mobile platform, and confirmed that all new staff were being trained in how to tackle cybercrime.*
- The Panel asked what was being done to improve the accessibility of the 101 telephone number. *The Commissioner explained that they were constantly*

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reviewing 101. She added that she was also looking to see what potential the police could make from S106 or CIL monies.

- The Panel requested if a visit could be arranged to see the Resolution Centre. *The Commissioner agreed to organise a visit for the Panel, subject to agreement with the Chief Constable.*
- Members of the Panel applauded the investment in body cameras and new technology, but questioned whether more statistics on response times could be included in future reports. *The Commissioner agreed to look into whether a link to response times could be provided in future reports to the Panel.*
- The Panel asked whether the Commissioner was satisfied that there was a consistent level of support for the victims of hate crime, and whether the new hate crime app was appropriate for people with learning difficulties. *The Commissioner explained that they were working to ensure a more consistent approach, and would examine the app in relation to its use by people with learning disabilities.*

19. The Chief Executive of the OSPCC took the Panel through the Police and Crime Plan 2017/21. He advised that a reference group had been established to work on the plan, and that the Panel would have an update on the Plan at its September 2016 meeting, and a final draft in January 2017. He added that there was an invitation for the Panel to have its own Working Group. The current membership of the Panel was Mr Watson, Mr Simmons and Mr Nicholson.

20. The Chairman requested that members of the Panel who would like to be on the Working Group volunteer after the meeting to officers of the host authority. Mr Wares (Brighton and Hove City Council) and Mr Knightingale volunteered.

21. Resolved – That the Panel accepts the Commissioner's Annual report, and asks that the Commissioner works with the Chief Constable to ensure that the local policing model does not lose sight of the local connection.

Annual Report from the Host Authority

22. The Panel considered the annual report from the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel (copy appended to the signed copy of the minutes) which provided the annual budget report setting out the costs of the operation of the Panel over the course of the last year and a summary of the main achievements of the Panel.

23. Members of the Panel thanked the host authority for the training that had taken place, and from that training it was agreed that future meetings of the Panel should start later in order for a pre meeting for members to take place.

24. Resolved – that the Panel:

1. Notes the budget outturn for 2015/16.
2. Agrees that future meetings of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel commence at 11am, with a pre meeting at 10am.

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Police and Crime Panel Work Programme 2016/17

25. The Panel considered the Work Plan of the Panel for 2016/17 (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Chairman invited the Panel to make any comments on the topics highlighted in the Work Programme and make suggestions on any further topics that should be considered by the Panel.

26. Resolved – That the Panel agreed the Work Plan.

Quarterly Report of Complaints

27. The Panel received and noted a report providing an update on complaints received in the last quarter.

Written Questions

28. The Panel received and noted the schedule of written questions submitted prior to the meeting and the responses from the Commissioner's Office (copy appended to the signed copy of the minutes).

29. The Panel asked the Commissioner to provide comments on the Sussex wide review on the reporting of domestic violence.

Commissioner's Question Time

30. The Panel raised the following issues and questions of the Commissioner:

- The Commissioner confirmed she was unable to comment on reporting that a division tasked with spying on alleged extremists had been tracking political activities of Caroline Lucas MP, since an inquiry was currently underway
- The Panel questioned whether the level of PCSOs was acceptable in the interim of the new model being fully implemented. *The Commissioner explained that this was a period of change, and that after the model had been fully implemented, Sussex would have its full complement of PCSOs.*
- Following the EU referendum, the Panel asked if the Commissioner was confident that Sussex Police had done enough to encourage the reporting of hate crime. *The Commissioner confirmed that there had been no reported rise, but was aware of people's resistance in reporting, and that further work in encouraging reporting was being undertaken.*
- The Panel asked if the Commissioner regretting comments she made after the EU referendum, comparing it to the modern Peasant's Revolt. *The Commissioner explained that she was referring an uprising of the people, and that this comment was meant purely as a remark about a historic event that happened.*
- The Chairman asked for an update on the potential for the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner to take over fire and rescue services. *The Commissioner explained that she had made contact with appropriate bodies, and was building a business case to assess this. Once this assessment had taken place, she was happy to share the results with the Panel.*

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31. The Panel agreed an adjournment at 13.15 p.m. Johanna Howell, Kevin Jenkins, Michael Jones, Tony Nicholson and Chris Saint, left the meeting at 12.45 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2p.m.

Procedure to be followed at Confirmation Hearings

32. The Panel received and noted the procedure to be followed at confirmation hearings of the Panel (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes).

Confirmation Hearing for Chief Finance Officer

33. The Panel considered a report by the Police and Crime Commissioner concerning the proposed appointment of the Chief Finance Officer of the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. The Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner introduced the candidate, Iain McCulloch and explained the selection process to make the proposed appointment. The candidate answered questions on the following topics:

- Developing new skills;
- Examples of challenging the accepted wisdom of an organisation;
- What success in the role looked like;
- Key elements in achieving value for money;
- Building relationships with key external partners;
- Innovation;
- Financial challenges; and
- Advising the Commissioner against an unwise act.

34. The Panel thanked Carl Rushbridge, the departing Chief Finance Officer for his assistance and wished him well in the future.

Exclusion of Press and Public

35. Resolved – That under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, of Schedule 12A, of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified under the item and that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption of that information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

Determination of recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Exempt: paragraph 1, Information about individuals

36. The Panel considered the appointment of the proposed Chief Finance Officer of the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and agreed to recommend that the proposed candidate be appointed. The Panel was content that the professional competence and personal independence of the candidate had been established.

Date of next meeting

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37. The next meeting date of 23 September 2016 was noted.

The meeting ended at 2.58 p.m.

Chairman