

**POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
23rd November, 2012**

Present:-

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Councillor M. Noble
Councillor K. Richardson

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

Councillor P. Bartlett
Councillor C. Ransome (Substitute for Mayor Davies)

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Councillor J. Akhtar (in the Chair)
Councillor T. Sharman

Sheffield City Council

Councillor S. Anginotti
Councillor H. Harpham
Councillor T. Hussain

Co-opted members in attendance were: - Mr. Kash Walayat and Ms. Maureen Tennison.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor H. Mirfin-Boukouris and Mayor P. Davies (Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council).

D7. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved:- That Councillor Harry Harpham be appointed as the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel.

(Councillor Harpham in the Chair)

D8. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Resolved:- That Councillor Jahangir Akhtar be appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel.

D9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

D10. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PANEL

Further to Minute No. 3 of the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 15th October, 2012, consideration was given to a report presented by

Jacqueline Collins, Director of Legal and Democratic Services, which set out the revisions to the Rules of Procedure to reflect the issues raised by Members relating to should a motion be moved to remove the Chair from his position, the voting rights of the Chair (including the ability to exercise a casting vote) remained.

This may have caused some difficulty and as a result the Rules of Procedure, at Paragraph 1.4, have been amended to provide that, in such circumstances, the Chair was not entitled to vote. This would leave the decision to be made by the eleven remaining Members of the Panel. The Chair would, of course, be able to participate fully in the discussion.

Resolved:- That the following documents with the revisions be approved:-

- Terms of Reference.
- Panel Arrangements.
- Rules of Procedure.

D11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and 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 Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act (as amended March, 2006) (information relating to financial and business affairs).

D12. RECRUITMENT OF CO-OPTEEES

Further to Minute No. 4 of the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 15th October, 2012, consideration was given to a report presented by Jacqueline Collins, Director of Legal and Democratic Services, which detailed the recruitment process for the statutory independent co-optees.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman considered the applications and carried out shortlisting and interviews earlier this month and were now recommending two candidates who, it was felt, provided the best mix of skills and abilities to complement those of the existing Panel Members.

Resolved:- That the two recommended candidates be approved as Independent Co-opted Members to the Police and Crime Panel for a term of four years (in line with the Panel Arrangements).

(The two Independent Co-opted Members, Mr. Kash Walayat and Mrs. Maureen Tennison, were invited to join the meeting at this point and the Chairman welcomed them both to the Panel and on their successful appointments)

(THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL TO RETURN BACK TO OPEN SESSION FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE MEETING)

D13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15TH OCTOBER, 2012

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 15th October, 2012.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th October, 2012 be approved.

D14. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO THE NEW POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Chairman welcomed Shaun Wright, the newly appointed Police and Crime Commissioner, to the meeting and formally congratulated him on his election on behalf of the Panel and invited him to say a few words on his vision and priorities as Police and Crime Commissioner going forward.

The Police and Crime Commissioner thanked everyone for their support and outlined some ideas on how he could engage with the public across South Yorkshire, the four Local Authorities and the Police and how he would be exploring a range of different mechanisms going forward.

A meeting had already been held with the Chief Constable to look at priorities and the pledges made as part of the campaign which was to continue with visible/neighbourhood policing.

The budget constraints would be challenging, but some ideas would be put forward on how to achieve best outcomes. Further information would be provided in more detail for the next meeting of this Panel.

One issue that was high on the agenda was child sexual exploitation, which was not just a local issue, but a national one. Resources would be looked at to see how work could take place with the relevant Directorates and Cabinet Members across South Yorkshire to try and address some of the concerns being highlighted.

Clearly other priorities would be considered as the role progressed and on what could and could not be achieved.

The Police and Crime Commissioner welcomed the opportunity to work with the Police and Crime Panel and looked forward to the future.

The Police and Crime Panel thanked the Police and Crime Commissioner for attending today and asked how he saw the working relationship between the Panel and the Commissioner evolving and were informed that it was his intention to conduct all matters in an open and transparent format and considered the opportunity for the Panel to scrutinise and review the Draft Police and Crime Plan and to review the proposed precept put forward. This was an exciting opportunity to challenge the process and this was welcomed.

Further questions were raised about the devolution of powers to Police Community Support Officers and whether there could be some consideration

to them being extended, whether the six key themes of the South Yorkshire Police Authority would be upheld or whether these would be replaced, whether robust consultation would take place with communities and community groups and whether traffic and safety would feature as a high priority.

The Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed that if provided with the detail around Police Community Support Officers and their powers this would be looked into further. It was noted that whilst crime was reducing, the work that had already taken place would be enhanced around the six key themes. It was not proposed to remove them, but they could be revised or revisited.

In terms of consultation with the public, the Police and Crime Commissioner had a difficult task in visiting all ninety-two wards, but he pledged to visit as many areas across South Yorkshire as possible. It was the intention for the Police and Crime Commissioner to be easily contactable by the public and the website had already been updated.

Whilst the remit of road safety fell under the remit of the Police and Crime Commissioner, unless there was a particular road safety issue, traffic policing would not be high on the list of priorities as some other issues.

The Chairman thanked the Police and Crime Commissioner for attending today and on behalf of the Panel looked forward to the challenge ahead.

D15. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Consideration was given to the proposed programme of future meetings for 2012/13 for the dates of:-

- Wednesday, 19th December, 2012 at 2.00 p.m. at the Town Hall in Rotherham
- Monday, 28th January, 2013 at 10.00 a.m.
- Monday, 25th March, 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

Depending on approval of the Budget and Precept an extra meeting during January, 2013 may be considered, but this would be subject to confirmation.

It was also noted that a meeting had been arranged between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Friday, 14th December, 2012.

Reference was also made to whether or not to rotate the meetings around the different authorities or whether to look at webcasting the meetings, but this would be considered as part of the Task and Finish Group in due course.

It was suggested that the Task and Finish Group also look at future agenda items such as a protocol on the Panel's engagement with the public and whether or not questions would be submitted prior to a meeting or in writing.

Resolved:- (1) That the dates of the future meetings be circulated and approved.

(2) That the Task and Finish Group investigate the matters raised today as part of their work programme.