
SHADOW NORTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AGENDA ITEM 4

Thursday, 13 September 2012 at 2.00 pm
North Wales Police HQ. St Asaph

PRESENT:	Councillor William Knightly (Chair)	Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC)
	Councillor Amanda Bragg	Flintshire County Council (FCC)
	Councillor Bill Cowie	Denbighshire County Council (DCC)
	Councillor Glenys Diskin	Flintshire County Council (FCC)
	Councillor Terry Evans	Wrexham County Council (WCC)
	Councillor Chris Hughes	Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC)
	Councillor William T Hughes	Ynys Mon County Council (YMCC)
	Councillor Charles Jones	Gwynedd Council (GC)
In attendance:	Councillor Nia Evans	Vice Chair – North Wales Police Authority
	Liz Ward	North Wales Police Authority
Officers:	Ken Finch	Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) - Conwy County Borough Council
	Dawn Hughes	Senior Committee Services Officer - Conwy County Borough Council
	Richard Jarvis	Solicitor – Conwy County Borough Council
	Sali Morris	Administration Assistant - Conwy County Borough Council

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) for Conwy County Borough Council welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor William Knightly (CCBC) be appointed as the Chair of the North Wales Police and Crime Panel for 2012/13.

RESOLVED

That Councillor William Knightly (CCBC) be appointed as the Chair of the North Wales Police and Crime Panel for 2012/13.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Glenys Diskin (FCC) be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the North Wales Police and Crime Panel for 2012/13.

RESOLVED

That Cllr Glenys Diskin (FCC) be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the North Wales Police and Crime Panel for 2012/13.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. Selwyn Griffiths (GC), Colin Powell (WCC) and Anna Humphreys (North Wales Police Authority).

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: CODE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONDUCT

None.

6. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

The Panel received a presentation on the role and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Panel.

It was explained that the role of the Panel was 'to hold the Police and Crime Commissioner to account for decisions and actions'.

The following points arose during the presentation:

- The quorum for the Panel would be 4 members.
- A majority of two thirds was required to veto a decision in relation to the precept
- Co-opted members would have the same status as elected members and would have an equal vote
- The Panel would have the powers to review the Commissioner's proposed appointment of the Chief Constable, the Chief Executive, the Chief Finance Officer, and the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner; and the Panel would be required to hold public confirmation hearings for these posts
- The Panel would have the power to suspend the Commissioner
- The Commissioner would have to consult with the Panel prior to suspension or removal of the Chief Constable

The Panel also sought clarification on the following points:

- The term of office for the Police and Crime Commissioner - as the there appeared to be a conflict between the term of office of the Panel and the next local authority elections in Wales
- The process for appointing an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner, if the Commissioner was suspended
- Should the first page of the Terms of Reference under paragraph 11, include The Channel Islands as per paragraph 28.1 (a)
- Could the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner be an employee of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

RESOLVED-

That the Strategic Director (CCBC) seeks clarification on the points highlighted above.

7. **PROPOSED POLICE AND CRIME PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OPERATING PROCEDURES**

The Panel considered the proposed Police and Crime Panel Terms of Reference.

In particular, the following points were discussed:

- Elected Members would be bound by their own Authority's Code of Conduct; however the co-opted Members would be bound by the host Authority's Code of Conduct
- The Panel must co-opt a minimum of two independent members in the first instance, with a maximum of 20 members on the Panel
- Payment of allowances and expenses to members of the Panel – there would be a meeting with the WLGA and representatives from the Home Office shortly to discuss this issue
- The Panel could only veto the Commissioner's proposals in relation to the precept once

Clarification was sought in relation to the following:

- Should 'may publish the reports or recommendations' in paragraph 14.1 of the Terms of Reference be amended to 'must publish the reports or recommendations'
- Could the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner be the Chief Executive or the Chief Finance Officer
- Would there be a provision for a referendum if the Panel vetoed the precept
- The provision of IT facilities and the intention for the Panel to be 'paperless'

The Strategic Director confirmed that Conwy County Borough Council would provide translation facilities for meetings of the Panel.

RESOLVED-

That the Terms of Reference be accepted by the Panel subject to clarification of the above points.

8. **PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

The Panel considered the proposed arrangements for the co-option of members to the Police and Crime Panel.

The proposed application form set out a wide range of key competencies, which the applicant would need to meet. Advertising for the co-optees would be carried out through Local Authority websites and the local press.

Following a review undertaken by the North Wales Police Authority of their own advertising arrangements, the Panel were encouraged not to target a specific demographic area, but to target a wide audience to ensure equality and diversity.

As per the Terms of Reference, shortlisting and interviews would be carried out by a panel of three members consisting of: Councillor William Knightly (Chair), Councillor Glenys Diskin (Vice Chair) and Councillor Charles Jones (GC).

AGREED-

That the proposed arrangements for the recruitment of co-opted members to the Police and Crime Panel be agreed.

9. **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL COMMUNICATIONS**

The Panel was presented with a draft media protocol for the Police and Crime Panel.

Members discussed the media interest surrounding the precept and the Panel's attention was drawn to the following statement within the protocol: 'Only the chair may make comment to the media on the Panel's behalf'. Some Members felt that this went against democracy and that Members should have the right to express their own opinions to the press.

It was felt that comments on behalf of the Panel should be made by the Chair; however, if Members were speaking as individuals or it related to a local issue, then Members should be allowed to address the press.

The Panel supported the principles of the protocol, but requested further clarification in relation to the statement highlighted above.

RESOLVED-

That the draft media protocol for the North Wales Police and Crime Panel be approved in principle, subject to clarification in relation to the statement that only the Chair may comment to the media on the Panel's behalf.

10. **FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

The Panel was presented with the Forward Work Programme for the North Wales Police and Crime Panel.

Future meeting dates had been set up but these could change, due to changes in legislation in relation to the precept.

The Senior Committee Services Officer confirmed that all future meetings would be held at Conwy County Borough Council and directions would be circulated to all Panel Members.

RESOLVED-

That the Forward Work Programme for the North Wales Police and Crime Panel be noted.

(The meeting ended at 3.50 pm)
