
NORTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AGENDA ITEM 4

Wednesday, 19 December 2012 at 10.00 am
Bodlondeb, Conwy

PRESENT: Councillor William Knightly Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC)
(Chair)

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 Charles Jones	Gwynedd Council (GC)
Councillor Gethin Williams	Gwynedd Council (GC)

Officers: Ken Finch Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) – Conwy County Borough Council

Richard Jarvis Solicitor – Conwy County Borough Council

Sali Morris Administration Assistant – Conwy County Borough Council

11. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Colin Powell and William T Hughes.

12. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: CODE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONDUCT**

In the interest of transparency the Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support), (Conwy) declared that he is currently still the Interim Chief Executive, Office of the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner.

13. **URGENT MATTERS**

None.

14. **APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED INDEPENDENT MEMBERS**

The North Wales Police and Crime Panel was presented with the recommendations from the Interview Panel on 29 November 2012.

The Interview Panel had met to interview four candidates for the two positions of Independent Co-opted Members on the North Wales Police and Crime Panel and considered that Mrs. Pat Astbury and Mr. Timothy Rhodes to be the most suitable candidates.

RESOLVED-

That Mrs. Pat Asbury and Mr. Timothy Rhodes be appointed as the Independent Co-opted Members on the North Wales Police and Crime Panel.

(The meeting ended at 10.15 am)

NORTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Wednesday, 19 December 2012 at 10.30 am
Bodlondeb, Conwy

PRESENT:	Councillor William Knightly (Chair)	Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC)
	Patricia Astbury	Independent Co-opted Member
	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 Charles Jones	Gwynedd Council (GC)
	Timothy Rhodes	Independent Co-opted Member
	Councillor Gethin Williams	Gwynedd Council (GC)
In attendance:	Anna Humphreys	Interim Deputy Chief Executive (Office of the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner)
	Mike Parkin	Director of Finance and Resources (North Wales Police)
	Winston Roddick	North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
Officers:	Ken Finch	Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) – Conwy County Borough Council
	Richard Jarvis	Solicitor - Conwy County Borough Council
	Sali Morris	Administration Assistant - Conwy County Borough Council

15. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Colin Powell and William Hughes.

16. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST: CODE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONDUCT**

In the interest of transparency the Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) (Conwy) declared that he is currently still acting as Interim Chief Executive for the Office of the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner.

17. **URGENT MATTERS**

None.

18. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2012**

The minutes of the meeting of the Shadow North Wales Police and Crime Panel held on 13 September 2012 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED-

That the minutes of the Shadow North Wales Police and Crime Panel held on 13 September 2012 be approved as a correct record.

19. **TO CONSIDER THE REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Panel was presented with the revised Terms of Reference in light of the comments, observations and queries made at the meeting on 13 September 2012 and reference was made to *the Police and Crime Panels (Application of Local Authority Enactments) Regulations 2012*.

The Strategic Director advised that some changes to the Terms of Reference may still be required in the light of the Regulations. He suggested that, subject to the appropriate legislative powers being approved by the UK Government, delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) (Conwy) in consultation with Conwy's Solicitor and Chairman to make minor changes to the Terms of Reference. If major changes were to be made then the Panel would meet in order to agree the changes.

All Members of the Panel would be kept informed of any changes made.

RESOVLED-

(a) That the revised Terms of Reference be approved and adopted by the North Wales Police and Crime Panel.

(b) That, subject to the appropriate legislative powers being in place, delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) (Conwy) in consultation with Conwy's Solicitor and the Chairman to make minor changes to the Terms of Reference, with the Panel being informed of any changes.

20. **TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO CO-OPTIONS FROM THE HIGH SHERIFF OF CLWYD AND THE WCVA**

The Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) (Conwy) presented the Panel with correspondence he had received from the High Sheriff of Clwyd and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action in relation to co-option onto the North Wales Police and Crime Panel.

Members considered the requests and felt that other voluntary groups may also wish to be considered. It was suggested that interested groups present to the Panel in order to assess their suitability for co-option.

The Panel considered that the application from the High Sheriff may need further consideration as there were 2 Offices (Clwyd and Gwynedd) to consider and each High Sheriff is only in post for one year. It was felt that it would take more than a year to fully understand the role of the Panel.

RESOLVED-

- (a) **That the voluntary sector be explored in terms of interested parties for co-option, and that the matter be discussed at a future meeting of the North Wales Police and Crime Panel.**
- (b) **The application in respect of High Sherrif(s) also be considered at a future meeting of the North Wales Police and Crime Panel.**

21. **FORMULATING A POLICE AND CRIME PLAN**

The North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner (The Commissioner) gave a comprehensive summary of his activities in his first few weeks of office and advised the Panel that in accordance with Chapter 3, Section 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ("the Act"), Police and Crime Commissioners were required to issue a Police and Crime Plan ("the Plan") as soon as practical after taking office, with a statutory deadline of the 31 March 2013.

The Commissioner had communicated with the public through the press. The public had been invited to read the press statement and to make suggestions directly to the Commissioner's Office.

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive (Office of the Commissioner) explained that information from the public and stakeholders would help to formulate the Plan. An agenda of places that the Commissioner would be visiting would be circulated.

The timeline for considering the Plan was very tight and information would further information would be provided on request.

The final deadline for the Plan was 11 March 2012.

The Commissioner also answered a number of questions, not otherwise covered in his presentation, from Members of the Panel to confirm that he regarded the role as being full time and that he was well experienced in managing potential conflicts; he had not yet determined if a Deputy Commissioner would be appointed and that he would advise the Panel if an appointment was planned; the posts of a Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer for his Office were required under the Act and the Communication Officer was required to support the Commissioner's role; their roles and duties had been considered and were advertised at levels of remuneration that were considered to be commensurate with the roles and duties. It was also noted that the Declaration of Interest would be published on the Commissioner's web site.

RESOLVED-

That the approach to formulating a Police and Crime Plan be supported

22. **PRESENTATION ON THE POLICING PRECEPT AND FINANCE FOR THE POLICE SERVICE**

The Panel received a presentation on the Policing precept and finance for the Police Service from the Director of Finance and Resources (North Wales Police).

The presentation highlighted the following:

- Cuts made to the budget in the years 2011 – 12 and 2012-13.
- Revised cuts in budgets 2011-12 to 2014-15.
- Cuts taken in to account for the 2013-14 budget.
- Budget Risks such as Government funding and Council Tax increase not yet known.
- Use of reserves and estimates as at 31 March 2016.
- The overall Police Grant for 2013-14 was being announced as the Panel took place and therefore it was not possible to take this into account in respect of the current financial plans.

RESOLVED-

That the presentation be noted

(The meeting ended at 12.00 pm)

NORTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Monday, 21 January 2013 at 10.00 am
Bodlondeb, Conwy

PRESENT:	Councillor William Knightly (Chair)	Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC)
	Patricia Astbury	Independent Co-opted Member
	Councillor Amanda Bragg	Flintshire County Council
	Councillor Bill Cowie	Denbighshire County Council
	Councillor Terry Evans	Wrexham County Borough Council
	Councillor Chris Hughes	Conwy County Borough Council
	Councillor Charles Jones	Gwynedd Council
	Councillor Colin Powell	Wrexham County Borough Council
	Timothy Rhodes	Independent Co-opted Member
	Councillor Gethin Williams	Gwynedd Council
In attendance	Winston Roddick	Police and Crime Commissioner
	Anna Humphreys	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
	Mike Parkin	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Officers:	Ken Finch	Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) – CCBC
	Dawn Hughes	Senior Committee Services Officer – CCBC
	Richard Jarvis	Solicitor – CCBC
	Tegwen Williams	Translator - CCBC

23. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

24. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: CODE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONDUCT**

Councillor Bill Cowie declared a personal interest in Minute 27 – Budget and Precept Setting Report 2013/14, as he is a retired Police Inspector, who is in receipt of a Police Force pension.

25. **URGENT MATTERS**

None.

26. **PERIODIC REPORT BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

As agreed at the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) provided Members with a periodic report on his work activities since the last meeting.

The Commissioner's work activities included the following:

- Learning about the policing services and building relations with partners, staff and the Chief Officer of the North Wales Police. An effective relationship with these groups was critical to carry out the Commissioner's functions, such as the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and the development of policing policies.
- Launch of a Call for Evidence – an invitation was sent to the people of North Wales to assist the PCC in the drawing up of the Police and Crime Plan. The PCC urged the Press, who were in attendance at the meeting, to remind the people of North Wales, that this was their opportunity to inform him of what was important to them in relation to crime and policing and why.
- Other wide ranging work included:
 - Becoming Chair of the Safer Communities Board
 - Approving arrangements for the recruitment of independent members to the Audit Committee
 - Agreeing the draft budget and proposed precept
 - Reviewing statements and information in relation to the Call for Evidence
 - Conducting interviews for the appointment of Chief Executive for his office
- Visits to officers and police stations and Victim Support Offices to learn about their work in Wales with victims and witnesses
- Several meetings with various individuals and bodies, including the National Farmers Union.
- Media Interviews – the public face of the police was now much more visible and the accountability was very real.

The Commissioner informed Members that his Police and Crime Plan would be a Plan for the people of North Wales, and the overwhelming message from the electorate was they wanted to see more police officers on our streets. In order for the Plan to proceed on that basis, the budget and proposed precept had been devised in order for the PCC to deliver that mandate.

27. **BUDGET AND PRECEPT SETTING REPORT 2013-14**

The Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) for Conwy County Borough Council provided Members with clarification on the Panel's responsibilities in relation to setting the precept.

Members were informed that they could only veto the proposed precept once and by the required majority of at least two thirds of the persons who were Members of the Panel at the time when the decision was made.

If the Panel chose to veto the proposed precept, a report to the Commissioner must include a statement as to the reasons why the precept had been vetoed.

It was agreed that workshops be held for Members of the Panel to look at the forward work programme, areas of concerns and issues in relation to legislation.

Following clarification of the role of the Panel, the Commissioner presented Members with a report on the proposed Policing Precept Level

and a report from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Budget and Precept 2013/14 to 2016/17.

In order to ensure security in the home and safety in public places, the PCC proposed a Policing Precept of £62.124m for 2013/14, an increase of 3.47%, which equated to an increase of 3.98% on the Council Tax, an additional 17p per week for Band D households.

This proposed increase would enable an additional 51 Police Officers to be funded and increase the Officer Establishment from 1417 to 1468, which would enable greater options to focus on reducing crime through preventative measures and reducing harm to communities. The Police and Crime Plan would set out in more detail how the PCC intended to achieve this.

The PCC reported that during the budget setting process his team had examined all areas of the force expenditure to ensure that the proposals balanced the need to keep taxation as low as possible, whilst providing the force with the resources required to fulfil his electoral pledges.

In response to queries relating to tackling countryside crime and safety from domestic violence, the PCC informed Members that during his campaign he had visited rural communities who had definite concerns and were affected by specific types of crime. It was the Commissioner's intention, if the proposed precept was approved, that officers would be deployed to address these concerns. Similarly, the PCC had requested that a dedicated rape team be set up to ensure that results in this area improved.

The Interim Chief Finance Officer (CFO) reported that, under the Local Government Act 2003, he was required to comment on the suitability of the information used as the basis for budgetary decisions. The CFO confirmed that the figures in the various reports were the products of procedures that had continued to be operated to the highest professional standards and therefore the information was fit for purpose.

The CFO also informed Members that £4.634m in savings had been identified for 2013/14 and the Commissioner had decided that the best way forward for the service, would be to reinvest £1.776m of these savings into front line officers.

The PCC confirmed that he had considered a lower increase in the precept, particularly in the current financial climate. However, the PCC reiterated that the purpose of his policy was to reach the streets, the countryside and home, with the aim of security and safety in these places. An increase of just 0.57% (equating to an increase of 17p per week) in the budget would provide additional officers and also offered value for money to the people of North Wales.

The Panel considered the report in detail and discussed the following issues:

- The deployment of the 51 Officers – the PCC confirmed that this was an operational matter for the Chief Constable to discuss with his responsible officers of the three divisions in North Wales. In addition,

these would be supplemented by Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Police Specials.

- The accuracy of the Police and Crime Panel – the PCC confirmed that the Plan was evidence based and the PCC's priorities also mirrored those of the Chief Constable.
- The CFO confirmed that the recruitment of an additional 51 Police Officers was not to replace those officers who had retired/left the Force and would increase the Officer Establishment to 1468.
- Anomalies between the salaries for Police Officers and PCSOs and the consequential on-costs.

Reference was also made to the affordability of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the planning assumption of 4% going forward, which was linked to the expectation of a 3% reduction in grants. Whilst the MTFP provided Members with the plans for balancing the budget for future years, it did not commit the Panel to a Council Tax increase of 4% going forward. The CFO also confirmed that there was a requirement for the Force to identify £6m in savings for future years, which should not impact on any Council Tax increase.

The meeting adjourned at 11.35 am
The meeting reconvened at 11.50 am

(Note: The PCC and Officers of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner left the meeting whilst Members considered whether to accept the PCC's proposals in relation to the precept.)

The Strategic Director (CCBC) provided further clarification on the PCC's proposals and reiterated that the PCC was looking for approval of a precept in the amount of £62.124m.

Whilst Members were concerned at the proposed increase in the precept, particularly as only a 1% increase was required to balance the budget, they acknowledged that the Commissioner had been elected by the people of North Wales and had a manifesto to deliver in order to achieve his election pledges.

Members agreed that they should support the Commissioner and his proposals in relation to the policing precept for the reasons outlined below:

- The Commissioner had been recently elected and had a mandate to deliver on behalf of the people of North Wales.
- The Panel acknowledged that the setting of the precept and the adoption of the Police and Crime Plan were not currently aligned and the Plan was yet to be published, however the Panel would expect the Plan to set out the details of how the Commissioner intended to achieve the electorate's mandate.
- The Commissioner was accountable to the North Wales Police and Crime Panel, who would monitor the activities and actions of the PCC going forward, following this decision.
- Whilst the Panel acknowledged that North Wales had one of the highest Council Tax levels, the area was also one of the safest in the country.

- The Panel noted the Medium Term Financial Plan, however it did not commit to the planning assumptions of a 4% increase in Council Tax for future years.

The Panel also requested that the £1.777m in savings, which had been identified for reinvestment in the recruitment of an additional 51 Police Officers be ring-fenced for that purpose. The Panel also requested that the Police and Crime Plan indicated how these additional Police Officers would be deployed in North Wales.

The Strategic Director (CCBC) confirmed that he would produce a report to the Commissioner, on behalf of the Panel detailing their recommendations in relation to the precept for 2013/14.

RESOLVED-

(a) That the precept of £62.124m for 2013/14, an increase of 3.47% be approved for the reasons highlighted above.

(b) That the £1.777m of the savings identified be reinvested in 51 additional front line Police Officers and that these savings be ring-fenced for that purpose only.

(c) That the Medium Term Financial Plan, which outlined a possible increase of 4% for each year to 2015/16 based on an estimated grant reduction of 3% be noted; however the Panel does not commit itself to these assumptions for future years.

28. **CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

A report relating to the proposed appointment of the Chief Executive by the Police and Crime Commissioner was tabled at the meeting.

The Strategic Director (CCBC) informed Members that the Panel was required to hold a confirmation hearing in respect of the Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

There was a requirement to hold the hearing in public, where the candidate was requested to appear for the purposes of answering questions relating to the appointment. Following the hearing, the Panel was required to review the proposed appointment and make a report to the Commissioner on the appointment.

The Panel was requested to consider the proposed appointment of Anna Humphreys as the Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales and to formulate a recommendation to the Commissioner in that regard.

The Commissioner informed Members of the criteria he had used in determining his nomination for this statutory post and believed that Ms. Humphreys had met those criteria.

Members acknowledged that Ms. Humphreys had considerable experience in delivering the statutory duties of the Police Authority and had vast knowledge of community safety and partnership work from her time with Gwynedd Council and later with the North Wales Police Authority.

Reference was made to the salary for the Chief Executive, and in response the Commissioner reported that the salary had been advertised circa £75k and he had yet to agree a salary for this post.

RESOLVED-

That it be recommended to the Commissioner that Anna Humphreys be appointed as the Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales.

29. TO CONSIDER RE-ARRANGING THE DATE OF THE MEETING IN MAY 2013

Members were requested to re-arrange the date of the meeting in May 2013, in order for each Local Authority to determine their nominated Members of the Panel at their Annual Council Meeting.

AGREED-

That the date of the meeting in May 2013 be rescheduled to 4 June 2013 @ 2.00 pm.

(The meeting ended at 12.20 pm)
