

WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF THE WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2013 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, MONKTON PARK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 1ER.

Present:

Cllr Junab Ali, Cllr Andrew Bennett, Cllr Richard Britton (Chairman), Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Peter Doyle (Substitute), Cllr Brian Ford (Vice Chairman), Malcolm Grubb, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Keith Humphries, Amanda Newbery, Cllr Pip Ridout and Cllr Bob Wright

Also Present:

Dr Carlton Brand – Corporate Director, Kieran Kilgallen – Chief Executive (OPCC), Angus Macpherson – Police and Crime Commissioner and Mike Prince – Treasurer (OPCC).

21 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies received.

22 Minutes and matters arising

Decision:

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23 Declarations of interest

Councillor Humphries declared an interest being the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety and Public Protection at Wiltshire Council.

24 Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's announcements.

25 Public Participation

26 **Questions**

There were no questions from the public.

27 **Statements**

There were no statements from the public.

28 **Public Participation protocol**

John Quinton, Head of Democratic Services at Wiltshire Council introduced the Public Participation Protocol which clarified issues and statements raised by the public should relate to the function of the Panel and not the Commissioner.

Resolved:

The Panel agreed the Public Participation Protocol.

29 **PCC Update report**

Angus Macpherson, Police and Crime Commissioner provided an update on his work since the last Panel meeting, explaining his focus had been on continuing to establish connections with partners and preparation of the Police and Crime Plan, and confirming that the appointment of the Independent Adjudicator should be completed by the end of the month. He confirmed his blog was now up and running.

He drew attention to a local consultation on court sittings in Wiltshire and a national paper on Transforming Justice.

In response to concerns raised over licensing and the impact and effect of funding issues on local groups and organisations and in particular the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) the Commissioner confirmed he had met with the leaders of both Councils to discuss these. A further update could be provided to the Panel once he had receipt of a report Mrs Scott, Leader of Wiltshire Council was leading on which would detail the work of the CSP's.

30 **Formal Consideration of PCC's proposed precept 2013-14**

The Commissioner presented his precept proposal which remained the same as the previous year.

In response to questions he explained that a breakdown of costs for the OPCC would be available in the Plan and a short consideration had been given to a reduction of the precept.

In the debate that followed the Panel highlighted the difficulty in considering this proposal without sight of the Police and Crime Plan and expressed

disappointment over the lack of detail in paper which impacted on its ability to make an informed decision. Concern was raised over the levels of reserves and the lack of consideration given to alternative levels of precept.

A motion to approve the proposal, recording the Panel's reservations was seconded and accepted. Councillors Bennett and Caswill requested that their abstention from voting was noted.

Resolved:

The Panel expressed the following reservations:

- **The Panel expressed disappointment over the limited amount of information available to the Panel**
- **The Panel strongly recommends that in future it should not be required to consider the setting of the precept in isolation from the police and crime plan**
- **The Panel regrets the absence of a paper discussing alternative levels of precept**
- **The Panel showed unease over the size of reserves and highlighted the absence of any discussion over the justification for or increase in them**

Notwithstanding these concerns and in the interests of introducing some certainty into an otherwise uncertain financial situation the Panel reluctantly agreed to approve the precept.

The Panel's report and recommendations are attached to these minutes.

31 Complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner

John Quinton, Head of Democratic Services at Wiltshire Council introduced the report and invited comments.

A proposal to remove the words 'either directly or indirectly' from paragraph 8.10 was seconded and approved.

The Panel expressed its expectation of receiving a regular update report on complaints.

On debating the Sub-Committee the Panel agreed that members should be appointed on demand.

Resolved:

- a. To approve the complaints process as set out in the appendix to the report with the amendments detailed above.
- b. To review the process after 12 months to reflect both local and national learning in this area.

32 Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Crime and Disorder (C+D) relationship

The Chairman, Councillor Richard Britton, introduced the paper and explained that since it writing it events had taken over. He recognised the concerns of the Panel and a proposal to defer work on this was seconded and accepted.

33 Forward Work Plan

The Panel noted the forward work plan.

34 Future meeting dates

The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be on 1 March 2013 at Wessex Room, Devizes Corn exchange and will focus on the draft Police and Crime Plan.

Future meeting dates were confirmed as:

26 March 2013
12 June 2013
16 September 2013
26 November 2013

(Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 1.15 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kirsty Butcher, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 713948, e-mail kirsty.butcher@wiltshire.gov.uk

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WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

REPORT TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ON HIS PRECEPT PROPOSAL

The Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel met on Wednesday 6 February 2012, during which, and as required by law, it reviewed your proposed precept for 2013-14.

It noted the brevity of the your report, highlighting that figures for previous years had shown a budget under spend in the budget and resulted in reserves held being forecast to increase to circa £10 million by the end of the financial year. Concerns were raised over the lack of detail and the difficulty in understanding the proposal in the absence of a Police and Crime Plan.

The Panel noted that you recognised its frustrations and you clarified that it would not be in this position again.

The Panel expressed the following concerns:

- The Panel expressed disappointment over the limited amount of information available to the Panel
- The Panel strongly recommends that in future it should not be required to consider the setting of the precept in isolation from the police and crime plan
- The Panel regrets the absence of a paper discussing alternative levels of precept
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