

Summary of decisions from the meeting of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel, held in Committee Room 1 at County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday 29 September 2022
Please note that this is not a full record of the proceedings at the meeting; the full Minutes will be published in due course.

Present:**Councillor**

David Dadds
Keith Barber
Russ Savage
Mike Garnett
Mark Heard
Ian Shead
Lynda McWilliams
Gary Collins
Maggie Sutton
Aidan McGurran

Representing

Basildon Borough Council
Brentwood Borough Council
Castle Point Borough Council
Harlow District Council
Maldon District Council
Southend-on-Sea City Council
Tendring District Council
Thurrock Council
Uttlesford District Council
Co-opted Member for Balanced Appointment

Co-opted Independent Members

John Gili-Ross (Chairman)
Sheila Murphy

Also in attendance

Gemma Bint	Democratic Services Officer
Pippa Brent-Isherwood	Chief Executive, Office of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC)
Sophie Campion	Senior Democratic Services Officer, Secretary to the Panel
Jane Gardner	Deputy Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Roger Hirst	Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC)
Darren Horsman	Strategic Head of Policy and Public Engagement, OPFCC
Rick Hylton	Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
Janet Perry	Chief Financial Officer, OPFCC
Andy Prophet	Deputy Chief Constable
Emma Tombs	Democratic Services Manager

1 Membership, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The report of the Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received and the membership, apologies and declarations noted.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2022 were approved as a correct record with one minor amendment and signed by the Chairman.

3 Questions to the Chairman from members of the Public

There were none.

4 Balanced Appointment Objective

The Panel received report EPFCP/24/22 which updated the Panel on the response received from the Home Office in relation to achieving the Balanced Appointment Objective and recommended that the Panel make the necessary appointments.

Resolved:

1. That the co-opted members of the panel to achieve the balanced appointment objective were with immediate effect Councillor Aidan McGurran (Labour) and Councillor Jude Deakin (Liberal Democrat).
2. That the co-options remain in place until a further report is received by the Panel as soon as practicable after the elections held in May 2023, ideally at the Annual Meeting of the Panel, in order to make any co-options that may be needed to achieve political balance at that time.

5 Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report and Statement of Assurance

The Panel received report EPFCP/25/22 which provided the Panel with the draft Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2021-2022.

Resolved:

That members of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel noted the draft Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2021-2022 and provided feedback to the Commissioner.

6 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Annual Report

The Panel received report EPFCP/26/22 which provided the Police, Fire and Crime Panel with the PFCC's draft Annual Report for 2021 - 2022.

Resolved:

That members of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel noted the draft Annual Report for 2021-2022 and provided feedback to the Commissioner that he will consider for inclusion in the final version of the report which will be provided to members of the Panel 48 hours prior to publication.

7 2023-24 Budget - Baseline Challenge

The Panel received report EPFCP/27/22 which laid out the background issues, the current assumptions, and the baseline challenge in setting the 2023/24 budgets for both Essex Police and Essex Fire and Rescue Services.

Resolved:

The Panel noted the background issues, the current assumptions, and the baseline challenge, in setting the 2023/24 budgets for Essex Police and Essex Fire and Rescue Services.

8 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Decisions Reports

The Panel received and raised questions on report EPFCP/28/22 which provided information about financial and strategic decisions made by the PFCC.

Resolved:

That the Panel received and noted the report.

9 The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to update the Panel on any ongoing issues

The Commissioner provided the Panel with a verbal update on ongoing issues.

Resolved:

That the verbal report was noted.

10 National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels Update

The Panel received a verbal update from the Chairman of the Panel on a recent Local Government Association Police (Fire) and Crime Panels webinar.

Resolved:

That the verbal report was noted.

11 Forward Work Plan

The Panel received report EPFCP/29/22 setting out the planned business of the Panel.

Resolved:

That the Panel received the report, agreeing the addition of an item discussed under the agenda item on the PFCC's Annual Report, to hold a workshop to better understand the current Police and Crime Plan priorities.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The Panel noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 8 December 2022.

There being no urgent business, the meeting closed at 4:50pm.