

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ESSEX POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD, ON 9 MAY 2013

Present:

Councillor

Malcolm Buckley
Graham Butland
Jeffrey Stanley
Bob Shepherd
Tim Young
Mary Sartin
John Jowers
Paul Sztumpf
Penny Channer
Jo McPherson
Peter Halliday
Gerard Rice
Robert Chambers
Councillor Angie

Gaywood was also
in attendance

Representing

Basildon Borough Council (Vice-Chairman)
Braintree District Council
Castle Point Borough Council
Chelmsford City Council
Colchester Borough Council
Epping Forest District Council
Essex County Council (Chairman)
Harlow District Council
Maldon District Council
Rochford District Council
Tendring District Council
Thurrock Borough Council
Uttlesford District Council
Thurrock Borough Council

Apologies for Absence

Chris Hossack	Brentwood Borough Council
Ann Haigh	Co-opted Member

The following Officers were in attendance throughout the meeting:

Gill Butterworth, Senior Policy and Strategy Officer, Strategic Services
Colin Ismay, Governance Team Manager, Essex County Council, Secretary to
the meeting
Paul Warren, Chief Executive, Rochford District Council

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Confirmatory Hearing for the Post of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

The Panel considered a report by the Secretary to the Panel setting out the
arrangements for the Panel to review the proposed appointment of the Deputy
Police and Crime Commissioner before he was confirmed in his post.

The paperwork

The Commissioner provided the following documents to the Panel:

- Information Pack
- Job Description

- Job Advert
- Sample Application form
- Candidate's Career Summary
- Schedule 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The documents were intended to meet the requirement to provide the Panel with the following information:

- (a) the name of the candidate;
- (b) the criteria used to assess the suitability of the candidate for the appointment;
- (c) why the candidate satisfies those criteria; and
- (d) the terms and conditions on which the candidate is to be appointed.

The Commissioner's preferred candidate was Mr Lindsay Whitehouse, currently Deputy Governor of Her Majesty's Prison Chelmsford.

The Panel followed the procedure for dealing with Hearings agreed at the last meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Whitehouse to the meeting.

The Commissioner explained his reasons for wanting to make an appointment and the selection process. He had not rushed to make an appointment but by Christmas was sure that he needed a Deputy. He explained the skills and experience he had been looking for and the weighting they would be given. He saw the Deputy's role as holding the Police to account with a focus on the operational efficiency of the Police. He was also looking for someone to spend time out in the community and with Criminal Justice experience or an enthusiasm for the subject. He acknowledged that Mr Whitehouse was light in political experience but more weight was given to his business experience and criminal justice role.

The Panel questioned the Commissioner to satisfy itself that he had been objective in his selection process and as to the professional competence of Mr Whitehouse asking questions in relation to the selection process, the interviews and how the Commissioner went about obtaining political advice.

The Panel was reassured as to the rigour of the selection process.

Mr Whitehouse then introduced himself to the Panel setting out his extensive experience across a range of activity, culminating in over five years as Deputy Governor of Chelmsford Prison. The Panel tested Mr Whitehouse's professional competence by asking questions relating to him as an individual; his reasons for applying for the job, how he would deal with giving the Commissioner difficult advice and his experience of dealing with equality and diversity issues; public

meetings and public consultation; crime prevention; obtaining employment for prisoners; and dealing with ethnic minorities and gang culture.

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting to enable the Panel to consider its view. A view was expressed that it would be helpful in making a judgement to be able to see more of the raw data submitted by the candidate.

The Panel having reconvened supported Mr Lindsay Whitehouse's appointment as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner without qualification or comment. The Chairman congratulated Mr Whitehouse on his appointment.

3. Update on On-going Issues

The Commissioner provided the Panel with a brief update regarding on-going issues he wished to bring to its attention.

4. Future Items for in-depth Study

Members were invited to suggest future items for in-depth study and the Commissioner to propose items where he would welcome the Panel's input.

Chairman
1 August 2013