

Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel, held in the Chamber of County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday, 17 June 2021

Present:

Councillor

Frankie Ricci
Keith Barber
Godfrey Isaacs
Jeremy Lager
Beverley Oxford
Ross Playle
Michael Garnett
Arthur Williams
Ian Shead
Lynda McWilliams
Gary Collins
Colin Day

Representing

Braintree District Council
Brentwood Borough Council
Castle Point Borough Council (Vice-Chairman)
Chelmsford City Council
Colchester Borough Council
Essex County Council
Harlow District Council
Rochford District Council
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Tendring District Council
Thurrock Council
Uttlesford District Council

Co-opted Independent Members

John Gili-Ross (Chairman)
Sheila Murphy

Also in attendance

Pippa Brent-Isherwood	Chief Executive, Office of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Gemma Bint	Democratic Services Officer
Sophie Campion	Senior Democratic Services Officer, Secretary to the Panel
Ben-Julian Harrington	Chief Constable, Essex Police
Roger Hirst	Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Jane Gardner	Candidate
Emma Tombs	Democratic Services Manager
Jo Turton	Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer

1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The report of the Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received.

1. The membership of the Panel was noted. Councillor Oxford was present in a non-voting capacity due to her membership appointment being subject to a call-in period.
2. The following apologies were noted:
 - Councillor Chris Hossack, Brentwood Borough Council (substituted by Councillor Keith Barber)
 - Councillor Andrew Baggott, Basildon Borough Council

- Councillor Mark Heard, Maldon District Council
- Councillor Aniket Patel, Epping Forest District Council

3. The following declarations were made by Members:

- Councillor Lynda McWilliams declared a Code Interest in that her son is a police officer. Councillor McWilliams participated fully in the meeting.
- Councillor Frankie Ricci declared a Code Interest in that his son is a police officer. Councillor Ricci participated fully in the meeting.

2 Urgent Business

In the opinion of the Chairman, there were no matters that should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances as a matter of urgency.

3 Proposed Re-Appointment of the Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

The Committee considered report EPFCP/16/21 which set out the arrangements for the review of the proposed re-appointment of Jane Gardner as Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner before she could be confirmed in her post.

The Commissioner provided a brief outline of how the selection process had been carried out in 2016. He explained to the Panel the wide range of experience that Ms Gardner had brought to the role, the complementary skill sets and her significant contribution and success in the role for the past four years. Taking all of that into account the Commissioner had taken the decision not to re-advertise the position and proposed to re-appoint Ms Gardner as his Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

The hearing then focused on the suitability of the candidate for this role. Ms Gardner briefly addressed the meeting summarising her experience in the role and her ambition for continuing to work in the role and making improvements to the services in response to the public need. Members of the Panel noted the work that Ms Gardner had done and her experience in the role over the past four years.

In response to questions regarding how the process of re-appointment was undertaken, the Commissioner explained that he had taken advice on the process from his Monitoring Officer, had taken into account employment factors and Ms Gardner's exemplary performance in the role and was satisfied that the process undertaken had complied with the Act.

It was proposed and **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the deliberation stage, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person).

4 Confirmation Hearing for the Proposed Re-Appointment of the Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

The Panel considered the proposed re-appointment and unanimously **RESOLVED** to recommend to the PFCC that he proceed in appointing Jane Gardner to the position of Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. The Chairman would write to the PFCC to confirm this, by way of a letter.

There being no urgent exempt business, the meeting closed at 4.37pm.

Chairman
21 October 2021