

Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel, held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 19 July 2018

**Present:**

**Councillor**

**Representing**

Anthony Hedley	Basildon Borough Council
Wendy Schmitt	Braintree District Council (Chairman)
Chris Hossack	Brentwood Borough Council
Godfrey Isaacs	Castle Point Borough Council
Bob Shepherd	Chelmsford City Council
Sam Kane	Epping Forest District Council
Malcolm Maddocks	Essex County Council
Penny Channer	Maldon District Council
Jo McPherson	Rochford District Council
Ann Holland	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Lynda McWilliams	Tendring District Council
Alex Anderson	Thurrock Council
Susan Barker	Uttlesford District Council
John Gili-Ross	Independent Member

**Apologies for Absence**

Mike Lilley	Colchester Borough Council
Chris Vince	Harlow District Council
Mike Webb	Rochford District Council
Kay Odysseos	Independent Member

**1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

The report of the Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received and it was noted that

1. Councillor Mike Lilley, Colchester Borough Council; Councillor Chris Vince, Harlow District Council; Councillor Mike Webb, Rochford District Council; and Kay Odysseos, Independent Member had sent their apologies.
2. Councillor Jo McPherson, Rochford District Council substituted for Councillor Webb.
3. Councillor Malcolm Maddocks declared that he is receipt of a police pension. Councillor Ann Holland declared an interest under the Southend-on-Sea Code of Conduct due to her son being a police officer; Councillor Lynda McWilliams declared an interest under the Tendring code of conduct as her son is also a police officer and because she is the Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership of Tendring. Councillor Chris Hossack declared an interest as a member of Brentwood

Community Safety Partnership. Councillor Wendy Schmitt declared an interest as a member of the Braintree Community Safety Partnership; and Councillor Sam Kane declared an interest as a member of the Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership.

**2 Appointment of a Vice-Chairman of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel**

The Chairman of the Panel nominated Councillor Malcolm Maddocks to be Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by both Councillor Susan Barker and Councillor Ann Holland. There were no other nominations and the Panel unanimously agreed to the appointment.

**3 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4 Questions from the public**

There were none.

**5 Report of the Confirmation Hearing for the Essex Police Chief Constable**

John Gili-Ross stated it was disappointing that only one applicant for the position whereas a Chief Constable post elsewhere in the county advertised recently had received four applications. The Commissioner responded the majority of recent Chief Constable vacancies have received a single applicant or, at most two applications. The process had been vigorous throughout and he was happy to put forward the Deputy Chief Constable to the Panel for confirmation to the post of Chief Constable.

The Commissioner continued that amongst other things, there was need to spot and nurture upcoming talent for the future, consider the development needs of senior police officers more broadly and address issues related to the tenure of a Chief Constable to provide greater stability. Chief Constables are appointed on a fixed-term of five years with the option of a three-year extension at the discretion of the Commissioner and confirmation of the Panel. The average term of a Chief Constable in the country is currently 3.6 years.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the element of the Police and Crime Act, 2017 relevant to Commissioner's taking on the role of complaints be added to the forward plan as a future agenda item.

**6 Report of the Confirmation Hearing for the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer of the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner**

An amendment to the report which stated the appointment had been unanimously agreed by the Panel was made and the report was noted.

**7 Commissioners' Decisions Report**

The Commissioner was joined by Jane Gardner, Deputy Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Jo Turton, Chief Fire Officer for this item.

The Commissioner stated there had been significant spend on ICT improvements. The gypsy and traveller team and the bolstering of the cadet force are both steps forward; and the estates programme and disposals are successfully moving apace.

Following a question regarding the lease of a hangar in Wethersfield the Commissioner confirmed the decision was a remnant of his predecessor that he had recently signed-off. The hangar itself is used for historic documentation which will eventually be stored using cloud-based technology.

With regard to grants Jane Gardner confirmed that a multi-agency panel supported this process to provide the check-and-balance in ensuring that grants awarded met the priorities detailed for the funding available.

In response to a question from Councillor Anthony Hedley the Commissioner stated there was nothing to report on speculation about the disposal of Billericay Police Station.

The Commissioner stated the income from disposals will be reported in the year-end budget, but these will not be itemised by asset. Individualised asset budget breakdowns can be made available for Panel members to see should they wish to do so.

Details of all the decisions are in the full reports included on the decisions page of the PFCC website. Robert Fox will circulate the updated Decisions Report to Panel members on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month from this point forward to allow Panel members to formulate questions in advance of meetings. This will be notified to the OPFCC so that the response can be prepared in advance of each Panel meeting.

**8 The Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to update the Panel on any ongoing issues**

The Commissioner informed the Panel that Ben-Julian Harrington will commence as Chief Constable on 4 October 2018 following his confirmation. He will be relinquishing his Deputy Chief Constable role on 3 July 2018 with Matthew Horne returning as Deputy Chief Constable following his return from secondment to the National Crime Agency.

Work to determine a revised Fire and Rescue Service structure should be concluded mid August 2018.

Following a question from Councillor Alex Anderson the Commissioner confirmed that the co-location of police and the fire and rescue service in Thurrock will be on the basis of drop-in and not a 24 hour police presence.

An application has been made to the LGA for the Commissioner to be a representative on the Fire Services Management Committee.

At the AGM of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners the Commissioner was appointed as a Director and Vice-Chairman for this year. The new Chairman of the Association is Mark Burns-Williamson the PCC for West Yorkshire. The Chairman of the Panel congratulated the Commissioner on his appointment.

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**Forward Look**

The Panel noted the work programme. The next Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee meeting will be on 13 September 2018 in Committee Room 6, County Hall. The new complaints procedures will be included in the new forward look.

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**Date of Next Meeting**

The Panel will next meet on Thursday, 19 July at 2.00 p.m. in Committee Room 1, County Hall. The substantive item will be the proposed Fire and Rescue Plan for Essex.

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**Urgent Business**

With no urgent business the meeting closed at 2.42 pm.

**Chairman**