

Summary of decisions from the meeting of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel, held in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday 23 June 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
Frankie Ricci
Keith Barber
Russ Savage
Jeremy Lager
Mike Lilley
Paul Stalker
Ross Playle
Mike Garnett
Mark Heard
Ian Shead
Gary Collins
Lee Scordis

Representing

Basildon Borough Council
Braintree District Council
Brentwood Borough Council
Castle Point Borough Council
Chelmsford City Council
Colchester Borough Council
Epping Forest District Council
Essex County Council
Harlow District Council
Maldon District Council
Southend-on-Sea City Council
Thurrock Council
Co-opted Member for Balanced Appointment

Co-opted Independent Members

John Gili-Ross (Chairman)

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)
Rick Hylton	Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
Emma Tombs	Democratic Services Manager

1 Election of Chairman

Having been proposed by Councillor Heard and seconded by Councillor Garnett and there being no other nominations, it was

Resolved:

That John Gili-Ross was duly elected as Chairman of the Panel.

2 Review of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel's Constitution Procedure Rules

The Panel received report EPFCP/08/22 which asked the Panel to consider a change to the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel's Constitution Procedure Rules.

An amendment to Recommendation 2 was proposed by Councillor Ricci and seconded by Councillor Dadds, which sought to remove all references in the Constitution and appendices to only Council Members being eligible for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. On being put to the vote the amendment was passed and it was

Resolved:

1. That the Panel amends the Procedure Rules within its Constitution to allow for the appointment of up to two Vice-Chairmen.
2. That the Panel removes the word 'Council' from each reference in the Constitution and appendices relating specifically to Panel Members eligibility for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, so that the positions are open to all Panel Members.

3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Two nominations were received for the position of Vice-Chairman. Councillor Dadds being proposed by Councillor Heard and seconded by Councillor Shead and Councillor Ricci being proposed by Councillor Stalker and seconded by Councillor Garnett, there being no other nominations it was

Resolved:

That Councillor David Dadds and Councillor Frankie Ricci be duly elected as Vice-Chairmen of the Panel.

4 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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

5 Balanced Appointment Objective Report

The Panel received report EPFCP/09/22 advising that the composition of the Panel did not fully comply with the statutory 'balanced appointment objective' and setting out the proposed steps necessary to achieve it for this Panel period.

Resolved:

1. The Panel applies to the Home Secretary for permission to co-opt one Labour Member and one Liberal Democrat Member for one year.

2. The Labour Group and the Liberal Democrat Groups each be invited to put forward suitable nominations to fill these posts in the event that permission is granted.
3. That a report be brought back to the Panel as soon as we have heard from the Home Secretary.

6 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22 March 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7 Questions to the Chairman from members of the public

There were none.

8 Review of Terms of Reference: Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee

The Panel received report EPFCP/10/22 setting out the revised Terms of Reference and Procedure Rules for the Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee.

An amendment to Recommendation 3.1 was proposed by Councillor Playle and seconded by Councillor Shead, which sought to include the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service in the definition of Integrity with regard to behaving in a way that commands public trust and confidence and in the definition of Ethics, setting out the behaviours, values and beliefs. On being put to the vote the amendment was passed and it was

Resolved:

1. That the revised Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee Terms of Reference and Procedure Rules be adopted in the form appended to the Panel report EPFCP/10/22, subject to the inclusion of the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service in the definition of Integrity with regard to behaving in a way that commands public trust and confidence and in the definition of Ethics, setting out the behaviours, values and beliefs.
2. That the following four members of the Panel be appointed to the Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee –
 - Councillor Ian Shead
 - John Gili-Ross
 - Councillor Lynda McWilliams
 - Councillor David Dadds

9 Review of Terms of Reference: Complaints Sub-Committee

The Panel received report EPFCP/11/22 setting out the revised Complaints process for the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel Complaints Sub-Committee,

which also sought agreement to identify members to sit on the Sub-Committee as required for 2022-23.

Resolved:

1. That the revised Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel Complaints process, including the terms of reference of the Complaints Sub-Committee, be adopted in the form appended to the Panel report EPFCP/11/22.
2. That the following Panel Members be nominated to a pool of members for 2022-23 from which membership of the Complaints Sub-Committee will be drawn as and when a meeting is convened –
 - Councillor Jude Deakin
 - Councillor Ian Shead
 - John Gili-Ross
 - Councillor Mike Garnett
 - Councillor Lynda McWilliams
 - Councillor David Dadds
 - Sheila Murphy

10 Police and Crime Plan Performance Measures - Quarter 4 2021-2022

The Panel received report EPFCP/12/22 which provided an overview of Essex Police's progress in delivering the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan, based on data and other information to the end of March 2022.

Resolved:

1. That the Panel received and noted the report.
2. That the Panel consider adding an item to the Forward Work Plan to take a more focussed look at performance against Priority 1 – More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing (see Minute no.14, below).

11 The 2023/24 Budget Setting Process

The Panel received report EPFCP/13/22 which provided the Panel with an outline of the 2023/24 budget setting process for the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority (PFCCFRA) and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for Essex (Essex Police).

Resolved:

1. That the Panel received and noted the report and accepted the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's invitation to participate in this process through the creation of a 2023/24 Budget Setting Working Group of the Panel, in line with the process set up for 2022/23 budget setting.
2. That the membership would be confirmed and the dates would be provided to the Working Group.

12 Review of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority's Constitution

The Panel received report EPFCP/14/22 which invited comments from members of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel on the contents of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority's updated Constitution prior to its adoption.

Resolved:

That following review of the proposed updated Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority's Constitution, there were no recommendations on its content and the updated Constitution was noted.

*** Variation in the Order of Business**

The Chairman proposed a variation in the order of business to take the PFCC Decisions report as the last item of business and the other items in the order of the agenda. Having been proposed by Councillor Dadds and seconded by Councillor Barber it was

Resolved:

That the order of business be varied to take the PFCC Decisions item as the last item of business and the other items in the order of the agenda.

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

Due to time limitations, the Commissioner's update would be provided in writing and published on the Council website.

Resolved:

That the report be received in writing after the meeting.

14 Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel Annual Report

The Panel received report EPFCP/16/22 which provided an overview of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel's (the Panel) activities during the 2021/22 municipal year and also set out the Forward Work Plan for 2022/23.

Resolved:

1. That the Panel received and noted the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel Annual Report for 2021/22.
2. That the Panel reviewed the Forward Work Plan and agreed the addition of a focussed look at performance against Priority 1 – More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing.

15 Essex PFCP Grant Claim and Outturn Report - 2021/22

The Panel received report EPFCP/17/22 updating the Panel on the outturn position against the grant to be filed with the Home Office prior to the deadline of 31 July 2022. The return had been signed off by the accountable body's accountant and reflected the actual and forecast expenditure incurred in the administration of the Panel.

Resolved:

That the report was noted.

16 Report of the Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee

The Panel received report EPFCP/18/22 which provided the minutes of the meeting of the Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee which met on 22 March 2022.

Resolved:

That the Panel received and noted the report.

17 National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels (NAPFCP) update

Due to time limitations, the Chairman's update would be provided in writing and published on the Council website.

Resolved:

That the report be received in writing after the meeting.

18 Dates of Future Meetings

The Panel received report EPFCP/19/22 setting out the proposed schedule of meeting dates for 2022-23.

Resolved:

That the schedule of meeting dates be agreed as –

- Thursday 21 July 2022 – 2:00pm
- Thursday 29 September 2022 – 2:00pm
- Thursday 8 December 2022 – 2:00pm
- Thursday 7 February 2023 – 10:00am
- Thursday 20 February 2023 – 2:00pm (Reserve date)

19 Date of Next Meeting

The Panel noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 21 July 2022.

20 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Decisions Report

The Panel received and raised questions on report EPFCP/15/22 which provided information about financial and strategic decisions made by the PFCC.

Resolved:

That the Panel received and noted the report.

There being no urgent business, the meeting closed at 4.50pm.