

**ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR FEEDBACK REPORT FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Report to Overview Select Committee – 26 July 2016

Name of Meeting:	Police & Crime Panel Meeting
Date of Meeting:	4 July 2016
Report by:	Councillor P Wotherspoon
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor P Wotherspoon

Feedback:

The meeting was held at County Hall, Lewes and there were apologies for absence from Wealden District Council, Rother District Council, West and East Sussex County Councils and Worthing Borough Council.

In addition to the Panel, in attendance were Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, Mark Streater, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer of the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and their Chief Finance Officer.

Brad Watson was elected Chairman of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.

Bill Bentley was elected Vice-Chairman of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.

The Panel considered a report by the Clerk to the Panel which set out the political makeup of the Panel's constituent authorities.

This resulted in changes being made to the Constitution for the Panel in relation to:

- independent members of the Panel and their substitution;
- the appointment of Additional Local Authority Members;
- The arrangements in place for when an additional member ceases to be a member of the Panel;
- The quorum for future meetings of the Panel

The Panel agreed to:

1. Renew the appointment of Mr Graham Hill, an Independent Co-opted Member;
2. Appoint Mr Peter Nightingale, another Independent Co-opted Member;
3. Amend its Constitution to permit Independent Co-opted Members to have substitutes;
4. Appoint Ms Susan Scholefield as a substitute Independent Co-opted

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Member;

5. Invite both WSCC and ESCC to appoint an additional local authority member;

6. Appoint a Liberal Democrat member of ESCC and a UKIP member of WSCC.

In view of the changes made, there is now the need for this Council's Constitution to be updated accordingly. I therefore ask the Committee to make the following recommendations to the Constitutional Review Task and Finish Working Party [the next meeting is taking place on 24 August 2016]:

- That the new version of the Panel's Constitution replaces Arun's existing version for the Sussex Police and Crime Panel at pages 87 to 92 in this Council's Constitution at Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions – Paragraph 10.0 – Sussex Police and Crime Panel; and
- That the Head of Legal and Administration be authorised to make any further consequential amendments

The Panel considered the Commissioner's Annual Report which provided an update of the Commissioner's performance against the priorities, objectives and measures as set out in the Police and Crime Plan for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. The Panel raised a number of issues with the Commissioner all of which are detailed in the minutes that I am arranging to be circulated.

The Chief Executive of the OSPCC took the Panel through the Police and Crime Plan 2017/21. He advised that a reference group had been established to work on the plan, and that the Panel will have an update on the Plan at its September 2016 meeting, and a final draft in January 2017. He added that there was an invitation for the Panel to have its own Working Group.

It was resolved that the Panel accepts the Commissioner's Annual report, and it asked that the Commissioner works with the Chief Constable to ensure that the local policing model does not lose sight of the local connection.

The Panel considered the annual report from the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel which provided the annual budget report setting out the costs of the operation of the Panel over the course of the last year and a summary of the main achievements of the Panel.

It was resolved that the Panel notes the budget outturn for 2015/16 and agrees that future meetings of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel commence at 11.00 am, with a pre-meeting at 10 am. This follows the training that took place and from the training the agreement that future meetings of the panel have a pre-meeting.

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The Panel then considered and agreed the Work Plan of the Panel for 2016/17.

The Panel received and noted a report providing an update on complaints received in the last quarter.

The Panel received and noted a schedule of written questions submitted and the responses from the Commissioner's Office.

The Panel asked the Commissioner to provide comments on the Sussex wide review on the reporting of domestic violence.

The Panel raised the following issues and questions of the Commissioner:

- The Commissioner confirmed she was unable to comment on reporting that a division tasked with spying on alleged extremists had been tracking political activities, since an inquiry was currently underway
- The Panel questioned whether the level of PCSOs was acceptable and the Commissioner explained that this was a period of change, and that after the model had been fully implemented, Sussex would have its full complement of PCSOs.
- The Panel asked if the Commissioner was confident that Sussex Police had done enough to encourage the reporting of hate crime. The Commissioner confirmed that there had been no reported rise, but was aware of people's resistance in reporting, and that further work in encouraging reporting was being undertaken.
- The Panel asked if the Commissioner regretted comments she made after the EU referendum and the Commissioner explained that her remark was commenting upon a historic event that had happened.
- The Chairman asked for an update on the potential for the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner to take over fire and rescue services. The Commissioner explained that she had made contact with appropriate bodies, and was building a business case to assess this. Once this assessment has taken place, she was happy to share the results with the Panel.

After an adjournment the Panel received and noted the procedure to be followed at confirmation hearings of the Panel.

The Panel considered a report by the Police and Crime Commissioner concerning the proposed appointment of a new Chief Finance Officer of the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. The Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner introduced the candidate and explained the selection process to make the proposed appointment. The

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candidate answered questions on the following topics:

- Developing new skills;
- Examples of challenging the accepted wisdom of an organisation;
- What success looks like;
- What is value for money;
- Building relationships with key external partners;
- Innovation;
- Financial challenges; and
- Advising the Commissioner against unwise acts.

Finally the Panel thanked the departing Chief Finance Officer for his assistance and wished him well with his adventure to California.