

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

27 June 2014 – at a meeting of the Panel held at 10.00 a.m. at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

Len Brown (1)	Arun DC
David Simmons	Adur DC
Liz Wakefield	Brighton and Hove CC
Geoffrey Theobald	Brighton and Hove CC
Eileen Lintill	Chichester DC
Chris Oxlade	Crawley BC
Bill Bentley	East Sussex CC
Rosalyn St Pierre	East Sussex CC
John Ungar	Eastbourne BC
Emily Westley	Hastings BC
Sue Rogers	Horsham DC
Sarah Osborne (2)	Lewes DC
Christopher Snowling	Mid Sussex DC
Robin Patten	Rother DC
Johanna Howell (3)	Wealden DC
Brad Watson	West Sussex CC
Paul Yallop (4)	Worthing BC
Graham Hill	Independent

- (1) Substitute for Paul Wotherspoon
- (2) Substitute for Andy Smith
- (3) Substitute for Claire Dowling
- (4) Substitute for Worthing vacancy

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Wotherspoon (Arun DC), Andy Smith (Lewes DC), Claire Dowling (Wealden DC) and Sandra Prail (Independent).

In attendance: Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner; Mark Streater, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer of the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (OSPCC); John Eagles, Chief Finance Officer of the OSPCC and Ninesh Edwards and Matthew Evans (Host Authority - West Sussex CC).

Election of Chairman

1. The Panel proposed and seconded Brad Watson as Chairman of the Panel for the forthcoming year. The appointment was agreed by the Panel.

Resolved – that Brad Watson is elected Chairman of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.

Election of Vice-Chairman

2. The Panel proposed and seconded Bill Bentley as Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the forthcoming year. The appointment was agreed by the Panel.

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Resolved – that Bill Bentley is elected Vice-Chairman of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.

Declarations of Interest

3. In accordance with the code of conduct members of the Panel declared the personal interests contained in the table below. Paragraph 16 and 50 also contain declarations of interest.

Panel Member	Personal Interest
Sarah Osborne	Member of Lewes Community Safety Partnership
Brad Watson	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership
Robin Patten	Member of Rother Safety Partnership
Graham Hill	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership Senior Service Delivery Manager for Victim Support charity Member of Crawley Community Safety Partnership Board
Christopher Snowling	Member of Mid Sussex Safety Partnership
Sue Rogers	Chairman of Horsham Safety Partnership
Paul Wotherspoon	Member of Safer Arun Partnership
Eileen Lintill	Chairman of Chichester Safer Community Partnership
Chris Oxlade	Member of Crawley Community Safety Partnership
Bill Bentley	Member of East Sussex Safer Community Partnership
Dave Simmons	Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership, Adur and Worthing Chairman of Safer West Sussex Partnership
Len Brown	Member of Safer Arun Partnership
Emily Westley	Chairman of Hastings Safety Partnership
Liz Wakefield	Member of Brighton and Hove Community Safety Forum

Minutes

4. The Panel noted an inaccuracy in the minutes of the last meeting; Liz Wakefield's apologies were not recorded.

5. Resolved – That subject to the correction above the minutes of the meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel held on 24 January 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

Review of Panel Membership and Proportionality

6. The Panel considered a report by the Clerk to the Panel which set out the political makeup of the Panel's constituent authorities (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). The Panel was asked to: consider the reappointment of the two independent co-opted members; consider whether the two County Councils should be invited to make one additional appointment each to address the political balance of the Panel; and agree the party political affiliation of the two additional members.

7. Resolved – that the Panel agrees:

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- 1) To renew the appointment of the two independent co-opted members for a period of one year;
- 2) The review of proportionality and the requirement for a 20-member Panel including two additional local authority members from the County Councils for a period of a year; and
- 3) That the two additional County Council appointments should be made as follows: the additional member from West Sussex County Council should be drawn from the UKIP Group and the additional member from East Sussex County Council from the Liberal Democrat Group.

8. At 10.10 a.m. Rosalyn St Pierre took her seat on the Panel as the additional member from East Sussex County Council.

Public Question Time

9. The Chairman introduced the public question time which was an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the Panel and the Commissioner. Eight questions had been received by the deadline (schedule of questions attached to the signed version of the minutes).

10. **Question 1** The first question received was for the Commissioner, the questioner was unable to attend the meeting and the Chairman posed the question which queried the Commissioner's expenditure on a cartoon depiction of the Police and Crime Plan and whether this represented value for money. *The Commissioner said that it did represent value for money and explained that a detailed response had been provided to the questioner in response to a freedom of information request received in May.* The Panel asked that when a question was received that the Commissioner had previously responded to, a copy of that response should be shared with the Panel.

11. **Question 2** The second question received was for the Commissioner and the questioner was in attendance to ask a question which asked what criteria the Commissioner used to grant personal meetings to residents who had written to her. *The Commissioner explained that she had no policy regarding appointments but had a comprehensive programme of community engagement to ensure that she was able to talk to residents of Sussex about the Police and Crime Plan and priorities for Sussex.* The questioner was advised to contact the Commissioner's Office if there was any further information to raise relating to earlier correspondence.

12. **Question 3** The third question received was for the Commissioner, the questioner was unable to attend. The Commissioner was asked about the enforcement of 20mph speed limits in Sussex. *The Commissioner responded to explain that the question related to operational policy of Sussex Police, acknowledged that the issue was significant to a number of residents and that she would facilitate a full response to the questioner from the Police.* The issue had been raised at a performance and accountability meeting and appropriate traffic calming was expected to be implemented in 20 mph zones to obviate the need for enforcement. The Panel explained that often the response of Sussex Police had been that a 20 mph limit was impossible to enforce and it therefore fell to the County Councils to address such issues. The Commissioner was asked for a clear policy on how speed limits would be monitored and problem areas addressed.

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13. **Question 4** The fourth question received was for the Commissioner, the questioner was unable to attend. The Commissioner was asked about the role of Sussex Police during the anti-fracking protests at Balcombe in 2013 and the perception that it had acted in the interests of the site operator. *The Commissioner explained that the Police had to achieve a balance between allowing protest to take place whilst ensuring that the site operator was able to undertake their lawful and licensed activities. The Commissioner referred to the performance and accountability meeting in September 2013 which focused on the policing of the protests.* The Panel queried: the number of protesters charged with offences that had been acquitted; the public perception of undercover policing activities at the protests; and if any information derived from these activities had been shared with the site operator. *The Commissioner responded to explain that the arrests had been evaluated in the review conducted into the operation which was available on the Sussex Police website and that she was unable to provide detail of the sharing of information, obtained through undercover operations, with the site operator.* It was the contention of some members of the Panel that the claim in the question that fracking was unpopular with the majority of people across Sussex was not substantiated by strong evidence.

14. **Question 5** The fifth question received was for the Commissioner, the questioner was unable to attend. The Commissioner was asked for detail regarding prosecutions for speeding in 20 mph zones in Chichester and Bognor Regis. *The Commissioner confirmed that the question related to operational matters of Sussex Police but she would ensure a full response was provided to the questioner.* The Panel noted that the enforcement of 20 mph speed limits was an issue of interest to the public and clarity was required about the role of the Commissioner and how she was able to coordinate with local authorities and influence speeding issues. *The Commissioner referred to the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and explained that she would work to ensure that the Partnership was performing effectively.*

15. **Question 6** The sixth question received was for the Commissioner, the questioner was unable to attend. The Commissioner was asked about the right to silence and self-incrimination. *The Commissioner confirmed that the question was operational and required a large amount of detail. Sussex Police would be asked to provide a response.* The Panel requested sight of the response that was sent to the questioner.

16. **Question 7** The seventh question was for the Commissioner and the questioner was in attendance to ask a question on the processing of crime statistics. *The Commissioner confirmed that the information requested was very detailed and that she would request a response from Sussex Police. A review of crime statistics and reporting was currently taking place and the results of this review would be available in October. The Commissioner had raised issues concerning crime reporting and statistics in performance and accountability meetings with the Chief Constable.* In a supplementary question the questioner asked the Commissioner to consider the introduction of a Red/Green/Amber system to report on the latest statistics relating to individual wards. *The Commissioner would pass the suggestion on.* The Panel raised concerns about the public perception of increases in crime statistics and the impact on community safety. It was felt that more information about the processing and compilation of crime figures would assist public understanding of any perceived increases. *The increase in the reporting of crime, particularly hate crime, was an objective of Sussex Police.*

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17. **Question 8** The eighth question was for the Commissioner and the questioner was in attendance to ask a question on domestic violence strategies to support victims and witnesses. *The Commissioner confirmed that domestic violence was a key priority and that Sussex Police had achieved White Ribbon status. Work had been undertaken to seek to clarify pathways between all agencies with a responsibility in the field including the criminal justice system. Innovations in victim support included the establishment of a victim support partnership. As a supplementary question the questioner asked how strategies were raising awareness of domestic violence support and establishing access points for victims. It was acknowledged that this was a complicated area with a number of different organisations operating within domestic abuse. Victims did not necessarily have to go directly to the Police but could access support services including Worth in West Sussex, Rise in Brighton and Hove and the Refuge in East Sussex. It was recognised that these organisations were raising awareness of support available.*

Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report

18. The Panel considered the Commissioner's Annual Report (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes) which provided details of the work of the Commissioner during 2013/14. The Commissioner introduced the report and highlighted: collaborative work with Surrey Police; the Estates Strategy; the Safer in Sussex Community Fund; the precept increase; the recruitment of additional officers; and the establishment of a Youth Commission.

19. The Panel raised the following issues with the Commissioner:

- The Commissioner was asked how she had publicised the Youth Commission in local authority areas. *The Commissioner reported that the Commission was producing very positive outcomes and that it had been publicised to schools and existing Youth Councils and Youth Cabinets in Sussex.*
- The Panel asked if serving PCSOs would be given the opportunity to apply for newly created positions produced as a result of the Commissioner's recruitment drive. *It was confirmed that PCSOs could apply for the roles and would need to pass through the selection process.*
- Details were requested of how the Safer in Sussex Community Fund was impacting on crime and disorder and methods to evaluate the effectiveness of the Fund. Street Games in Hastings was highlighted as a successful project that had produced a positive reduction in criminal activity in the area. Reassurance was requested that the funding would continue to be provided in future years. *Work was on-going with the allocation of funding and a measurement of the impact of funding initiatives would be undertaken. Assurance was sought from applicants that the projects accorded with the priorities contained in the Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner confirmed that the funding would continue.*
- The Panel queried the collaboration that had been undertaken with Surrey Police. Residents in the North of the county close to the border with Kent often contacted Kent Police in preference to Sussex Police. It was felt that efforts to collaborate with the Kent force should be as proactive as collaboration activities with Surrey Police. *The Commissioner confirmed that operational collaboration occurred with all neighbouring forces. The five South East forces coordinated in the policing of borders to address organised crime. The work undertaken with Surrey Police was an operational and organisational collaboration.*

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- The Panel asked whether the framework to assess the success of CSPs had been effectively applied during the year. *The objective of the framework had been to ensure that partnerships were effective and that they worked collaboratively. The framework required CSPs to align with the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan and coordinate funding pots.*
- The examples of the Estates Strategy outlined in the Annual Plan referred to accommodation in West Sussex. The Commissioner was asked for examples from East Sussex. The co-location of Sussex Police in Hove Town Hall was welcomed and further information was sought on other large accommodation at Sussex House and Johns Street. *Examples in East Sussex included in Eastbourne, where the Police Station had been moved into council offices, and in Newhaven, where accommodation had been shared with the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. At Johns Street there was an investment programme to refurbish the building that was currently in progress; Sussex House was a leased property from Brighton and Hove City Council and discussions were on-going. Officers from Sussex House would be transferred to Johns Street and Sussex HQ.*
- Concern was expressed that a £400,000 underspend from the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership was reported in the outturn position from the last year but serious problems with speeding in rural areas of Sussex remained. The work of local Speed Watch organisations was highlighted; the reported underspend could be utilised by established and new groups. *The Commissioner was supportive of the Community Speed Watch groups and encouraged more communities to be involved in local campaigns. The Commissioner raised the performance of the Roads Policing Unit during regular meetings with the Chief Constable.*
- The recruitment exercise undertaken by the Commissioner to increase police visibility was queried particularly where vacancies on Neighbourhood Policing Teams existed. Such issues were present in Horsham and in Adur DC. Concern was expressed that neighbourhood policing teams were being involved in police response situations which detracted from the role of community policing. *The Commissioner reported that the recruitment exercise was making good progress and a response regarding the number of officers around Horsham would be requested from Sussex Police. The issue regarding neighbourhood policing teams and involvement in response situations would be raised with the Chief Constable.*

20. Eileen Lintill left the meeting at 11.19 a.m. and re-joined the meeting at 11.23 a.m.

- The Commissioner was asked about her commitment to victim support and building trust between victims and the criminal justice system. It was noted that a low level of reporting existed in rural areas. The Panel highlighted the significant work undertaken by voluntary organisations within victim support and the importance of their involvement in plans for the future provision of victim support. *The responsibility for victim services passed to the Commissioner next year. Work had been undertaken with other areas and PCCs to commission the best services. A number of local areas in the South East had collaborated to commission victim services and would be going out to tender shortly. Reporting in rural areas was a challenge particularly amongst young people.*
- The Panel also requested a rolling update on the allocation of funding under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). *The Commissioner confirmed that part of*

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the Safer in Sussex Fund was provided through POCA and a breakdown was provided on the Commissioner's website.

- The Panel queried the reported increase in Hate Crime and asked if this was the result of greater levels of reporting. A breakdown of the increase across the five strands of hate crime was requested. *The increase demonstrated an increase in the level of reporting which was welcomed. A breakdown would be provided.*
- Recent press reports of absconded prisoners from Ford Prison were raised and if any details or figures concerning the issue could be circulated to reassure residents that the issue was not as serious as portrayed in the media. Furthermore it was asked if the Chief Constable was consulted about the type of prisoner located within Sussex prisons. *The Assistant Chief Constable had met the Governor of Ford Prison along with a representative of the Ministry of Justice. There would be a response from the Chief Constable to the query concerning prisoners allocated to Sussex Prisons. The issues affecting Ford Prison would be raised at the Sussex Criminal Justice Board which contained representation from the Sussex Prisons.*
- The impact of Heritable Bank and the lack of returns on investments due to risk aversion following the 2008 financial crisis.

21. It was requested that rather than merely note the Commissioner's Annual Report the Panel should support or acknowledge and accept the report.

22. Resolved – that the Panel notes and accepts the Commissioner's Annual Report and agrees to write to the Commissioner to outline the comments made.

23. Sarah Osborne and Rosalyn St Pierre left the meeting at 11.47 a.m.

Sussex Police Contact Management Arrangements

24. The Panel considered a report by the Police and Crime Commissioner which provided an update on the call handling rate on the 101 non-emergency phone line, an issue raised at the June 2013 annual meeting. Mr Streater introduced the report and explained that problems with the call-handling rates had arisen as a result of the introduction of the Niche system. The system would realise significant savings for Sussex Police and after the initial problems improvements to call-handling had been achieved.

25. Sarah Osborne and Rosalyn St Pierre re-joined the meeting at 11.51 a.m.

26. The Panel raised those points below in the discussion that followed:

- It was understood that the Commissioner had challenged the Chief Constable on the call-handling performance of the 101 phone line but there were still problems as experienced by members of the Panel. The Panel felt that problems had been on-going for a year and asked whether the system was fit for purpose. Rapid improvements to the service were required.
- Concerns were also raised regarding the call out response times to non-emergency calls. *Statistics relating to call out times received a high level of public satisfaction but the Commissioner would raise the issue with the Chief Constable.*

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27. Sue Rogers left the meeting at 11.56 a.m.

28. The Panel continued to consider issues relating to call-handling, below:

- A briefing note had been submitted by the member of the public who had originally raised the issue at the previous annual meeting. It was agreed that this should be circulated to the Panel and that a further report in October should provide an update on progress with the issue. *The Commissioner requested that she raise the issue with the Chief Constable. It was suggested that the Panel could undertake a visit of the call centre.*

29. Sue Rogers re-joined the meeting and Chris Oxlade left the meeting at 12.00noon. Liz Wakefield left the meeting at 12.05 p.m.

30. Resolved – the report was noted and it was agreed that the Panel would undertake a visit to the call centre.

31. Liz Wakefield re-joined the meeting at 12.10 p.m. and Joanna Howell and Graham Hill left the meeting.

Annual Report from the Host Authority

32. The Panel considered the annual report from the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel (copy appended to the signed copy of the minutes) which provided the annual budget report setting out the costs of the operation of the Panel over the course of the last year. In addition the report asked the Panel to agree the continuation of West Sussex County Council as the Host Authority and minor changes to its constitution. The report also asked the Panel to agree the work plan for 2014/15 and note the change to the mileage rate for expenses which had reduced to 46.9p per mile.

33. Johanna Howell and Graham Hill re-joined the meeting at 12.14 p.m.

34. Members of the Panel who did not wish to continue receiving paper copies of the agenda were asked to express their preference to the host authority.

35. Resolved – that the Panel:

1. Notes the budget outturn for costs relating to the administration of the Panel in 2013/14;
2. Agrees that West Sussex continues as the host authority;
3. Agrees the changes to the Panel's constitution as outlined in Section 5 of the report;
4. Agrees the work plan for 2014/15; and
5. Notes the new mileage rate of 46.9 p per mile.

Quarterly Report of Complaints

36. The Panel received and noted a report from the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel which provided an update on the complaints received by the Panel since the previous meeting (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes).

Commissioner's Question Time

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37. The Commissioner was asked about officer vacancies, the perceived reduction in the number of PCSOs in Horsham and forms of transport available to Horsham officers. *It was confirmed that there had been no reduction in the number of PCSOs. Funding had been allocated for the recruitment of officers and no reduction in the number of PCSOs was planned. The Commissioner would ask Sussex Police to comment on the deployment of PCSOs in Horsham and transport available.*

38. The Panel raised the importance of community policing. Local policing knowledge and intelligence was of great importance particularly in terms of cross-border working and collaboration between local forces. Greater resource needed to be concentrated on the border between Sussex and Kent, in collaboration with Kent Police, which was a burglary escape route. *The Commissioner would raise the issue with the Chief Constable.*

39. The success of alcohol initiatives in Hastings as a Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA) was raised by the Panel and reassurance was sought that funding would be on-going for the project. *The Commissioner supported the project which was one of 20 LAAAs and welcomed the close working relationship between police officers and officers from Hastings BC.*

40. Speeding on rural roads was a significant issue for residents in Sussex and in West Sussex there had been consideration of a 40 mph limit on all rural roads. *The Commissioner emphasised the role of CSPs to help define local priorities which could include rural speeding.*

Verbal report of visit to Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel

41. The Panel received and noted a verbal update from Eileen Lintill on her visit to a meeting of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel to witness arrangements and ways of working at other PCPs. The Panel was informed of the following issues relating to the meeting of the Thames Valley PCP:

- At the meeting attended only 7 members of the Thames Valley Panel were present out of a possible 20;
- The meeting was not webcast, no members of the public were in attendance. It was the intention of the Panel to encourage greater public attendance;
- The Panel had themed meetings which took place twice a year to scrutinise specific topics from the Police and Crime Plan;
- The Panel also considered the integrity of crime data compiled by the Thames Valley Police Force;
- There was a facility for questions to be submitted by Panel Members in advance of the meeting to be answered by the Commissioner;
- The work programme considered by the Panel included a Task and Finish Group which would focus on partnership arrangements between the Commissioner and other local agencies;
- There was a greater amount of data relating to performance measures from priorities contained in the Police and Crime Plan that was considered at meeting of the Panel;
- The Panel received presentations from members of local CSPs;
- The Panel was looking to introduce a facility for public questions;
- The venue for the meeting rotated around the area; and

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- The Panel has an informal pre-meeting before each formal meeting.

42. John Ungar left the meeting at 12.35 p.m.

Appointments to Working Groups

43. The Panel considered appointments to the vacancies on the Police and Crime Plan working group and the Victims' Services working group following the changes to the membership of the Panel.

44. John Ungar returned to the meeting at 12.39 p.m.

45. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman were ex-officio members of the Police and Crime Plan working group and there was one remaining vacancy for a member from an East Sussex District or Borough Council. More information on the functions of the working group was sought by the Panel before a volunteer committed to the group's membership.

46. There were two vacancies on the Victims' Services Working Group and Liz Wakefield volunteered to fill one of the vacancies. A volunteer for the remaining vacancy would be sought after the meeting.

47. Resolved – That Liz Wakefield is appointed to the Victim Services Working Group.

48. The Panel agreed an adjournment at 12.45 p.m. Emily Westley, Graham Hill and Chris Oxlade left the meeting at 12.45 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1.35 p.m.

Procedure to be followed at Confirmation Hearings

49. The Panel received and noted the procedure to be followed at confirmation hearings of the Panel (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes).

Declarations of Interest

50. Members of the Panel declared the following personal interests ahead of the confirmation hearing;

- Bill Bentley declared a personal interest in the confirmation hearing relating to the Chief Finance Officer. The candidate was known to Mr Bentley when he worked for East Sussex County Council; and
- Geoffrey Theobald declared a personal interest in the confirmation hearing for the Chief Constable. Mr Theobald had been a member of the Police Authority when the candidate, Giles York, had been appointed to Sussex Police.

Confirmation Hearing for Chief Constable

51. The Panel considered a report by the Police and Crime Commissioner concerning the proposed appointment of the Chief Constable of Sussex Police. The Commissioner introduced the candidate, Giles York, and informed the Panel of the

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selection process to make the proposed appointment. The candidate answered questions on the following topics:

- Equalities and the involvement of minority groups in community policing;
- Improving service delivery in uncertain and austere times;
- Effective control of undercover officers;
- The use of Tasers and firearms;
- How to involve CSPs, local partners and the public in policing;
- How to ensure all staff are performing to the required standard;
- Funding cuts and impacts on policing;
- Working with forces from bordering areas; and
- Advising the Commissioner against an unwise act.

52. The Panel agreed an adjournment at 2.20 p.m. and Geoffrey Theobald left the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 2.24 p.m.

Confirmation Hearing for Chief Finance Officer

53. The Panel considered a report by the Police and Crime Commissioner concerning the proposed appointment of the 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, Carl Rushbridge, and explained the selection process to make the proposed appointment. The candidate answered questions on the following topics:

- Building relationships with key external partners;
- Treasury management and acceptable investment risks;
- Areas of limited personal skills and experience;
- Examples of challenging the accepted wisdom of an organisation;
- Advising the Commissioner against an unwise act; and
- Coping with opposition to proposed changes.

54. The Panel thanked John Eagles, the departing Chief Finance Officer for his assistance and wished him well in the future.

Exclusion of Press and Public

55. Resolved – That under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, of Schedule 12A, of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified under the item and that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption of that information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

Determination of recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Exempt: paragraph 1, Information about individuals

56. The Panel considered the appointments of the proposed Chief Constable of Sussex Police and Chief Finance Officer of the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and agreed to recommend that the proposed candidates were

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appointed. The Panel was content that the professional competence and personal independence of the candidates had been established.

Chairman