

## **Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 10.00am in Committee Room 'A', Town Hall, Blackpool**

**Present:**

**Chair**

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

**Committee Members**

Councillor Alyson Barnes, Rossendale Borough Council - Vice Chair

Councillor Ben Aitken, Fylde Borough Council

Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council

Councillor Peter Rankin, Preston County Council

Councillor Tony Harrison, Burnley Borough Council

Councillor Terry Hill, Ribble Valley Borough Council

Councillor Andy Kay, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Councillor Jennifer Mein, Lancashire County Council

Councillor Ian Moran, West Lancs Borough Council

Councillor Miles Parkinson, Hyndburn Borough Council

Councillor Ian Taylor, Blackpool Borough Council

Councillor David Whipp, Pendle Borough Council

Paul Richardson, Independent Co-opted Member

Also in attendance

- Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire
- Angela Harrison, Monitoring Officer
- Sian Roxborough, Head of Legal Services, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
- Phil Llewellyn, Executive and Councillor Support Manager, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

### **1. Appointment of Chairman**

Sian Roxborough requested nominations for Chair of the Panel for 2015/16.

Councillor Alistair Bradley was nominated by Councillor Alyson Barnes, which was seconded by Councillor Tony Harrison.

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Alistair Bradley be appointed as Chair of the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel for the 2015/16 Municipal Year. (Councillor Alistair Bradley in the Chair).

## 2. Appointment of Deputy Chairman

The Chair requested nominations for Vice Chair of the Panel for 2015/16.

Councillor Alyson Barnes was nominated by Councillor Miles Parkinson which was seconded by Councillor Peter Rankin.

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Alyson Barnes be appointed as Vice Chair of the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

## 3. Membership and Host Authority

It was reported that following the Local Elections on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the political balance had been recalculated and the balance that achieved complete political balance across the 15 Local Authorities was:

**18 Elected Members** (plus 2 Independent persons) on the following basis:

<b>Labour</b> 9	<b>Conservative</b> 7	<b>Lib Dem</b> 1	<b>Independent Member</b> 1
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This reflected the number of seats won across the County and respective Councils.

However this did not equally reflect the respective controlling parties on each Council.

Each Local Authority therefore was consulted on the revised balance of the Panel for 2015/16 as above which resulted in a need to reflect upon how the political balance should be finalised for 2015/16.

Whilst it had not been possible to achieve exact political balance, Local Government Association Guidance [‘LGA’] on Panel Arrangements and the Balanced Appointment Objective stated:

*‘In some cases it may be difficult to achieve political balance, especially where it is not possible to co-opt additional Councillors on to the Panel. Councils may not be persuaded to nominate opposition Members to achieve complete political balance and as the Home Office legal clarification points out, in recognition of this the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act states that the balanced appointment objective must be secured ‘as far as is practicable’. As the Home Office has also pointed out, whatever membership is eventually agreed on, the rationale for doing that needs to be robust enough to withstand legal challenge.’*

In Lancashire, given the current make-up and controlling influences of Councils, a proposal had been drafted to amend the political balance to the following:

<b>Labour</b> 10	<b>Conservative</b> 6	<b>Lib Dem</b> 1	<b>Independent Member</b> 1
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As reported previously, Local Authorities combined must ‘agree’ to the balance of the Panel and the Home Office had powers to intervene and make appointments if agreement

could not be reached locally, though it had been made clear that the best Panel arrangements were those which were locally determined.

Each Local Authority in the Lancashire Police Area had been consulted and most had nominated representatives, however Lancashire City Council and Fylde Borough Council would confirm their nominations following their Council meetings later in July.

The Panel were asked to consider the constitution of the Panel in view of the above and the requirement to 'agree' the membership in order to achieve the 'balanced appointment objective', including the requirement for the Panel to be politically balanced.

There then followed a debate on the proportionality of the Panel and the appropriate political balance, and on the Conservative nominations to the Panel. Sian Roxborough and the Chair outlined the consideration and methodology behind the proportionality calculations for the clarity of the Panel. In terms of Conservative nominations, 6 Panel Members were required and only 4 Panel Members had been nominated to date. Councillor Terry Hill suggested that the two remaining nominations should come from Ribble Valley and Wyre Borough Council, as they had the highest Conservative majorities.

In relation to the Host Authority arrangements Members were reminded that at the AGM meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013, it was agreed that Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council would act as Host Authority for the Panel, with the Host Authority role to then rotate between Blackpool Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council in subsequent years.

At the last AGM meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014, it was agreed that Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council would continue as Host Authority until 2016. In May 2016 elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner would be held and Members were requested to consider the Host Authority arrangements going forward, as the current arrangements only had one year to run and continuity and succession planning considerations needed to be discussed in good time. It was proposed that the Panel consider the hosting arrangements for 2016 onwards at a subsequent meeting.

The Chair advised that he felt that over the course of its operation the Panel had lost sight of its remit somewhat and it was therefore proposed that as outlined in the report at Agenda item 11 (Timetable of meetings and work proposed for 2015/16) that an induction meeting would be held in September 2015 to highlight the remit of the Panel and look at best practices. Councillor Tony Harrison reported that he had recently attended a national Conference in Nottingham which highlighted the different ways Panels worked across the country, and that it may be appropriate to keep some of the Panels budget for training of Members. The Commissioner welcomed the induction session and offered to host it at Hutton and build in a tour of the headquarters at the same time.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the political balance of the Panel in 2015/16 be confirmed as follows:

Elected Members (plus 2 Independent persons) on the following basis:

<b>Labour</b> <b>10</b>	<b>Conservative</b> <b>6</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b> <b>1</b>	<b>Independent Member</b> <b>1</b>
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- 2) That the following appointments made by Local Authorities be noted and that in order to meet the required political balance, two further Conservative nominations are required to complete membership for 2015/16.

Local Authority	Representative (s)	Political Party
Lancashire	J Mein	Labour
Blackburn with Darwen	A Kay	Labour
Blackpool	I Taylor	Labour
Burnley	T Harrison	Labour
Chorley	A Bradley	Labour
*Fylde	B Aitken H Speak	Conservative Independent
Hyndburn	M Parkinson	Labour
*Lancaster	TBC	
Pendle	D Whipp	Lib Dem
Preston	R Boswell	Labour
Ribble Valley	T Hill	Conservative
Rossendale	A Barnes	Labour
South Ribble	M Green	Conservative
West Lancs	I Moran	Labour
Wyre	R Berry	Conservative

- 3) That a report on Host Authority arrangements from July 2016 be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.

#### **4. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Robert Boswell, who had sent Councillor Peter Rankin on his behalf, and Councillor Michael Green.

#### **5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 be agreed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Paul Richardson and Councillor Alyson Barnes being recorded as having given apologies.

#### **6. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Roger Berry enquired whether he would need to declare an interest in relation to the last item on the supplementary agenda issued for the meeting (IPCC report – PCC case review report) as the matter involved Wyre Borough Council. Councillor Berry was advised that this was not necessary as this agenda item related to a case review report undertaken by the IPCC and was for noting only.

#### **7. Public Questions**

No public questions had been received.

## 8. Complaints

The Minutes of Complaints Sub Committee meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 were submitted for information.

Additionally, the standard update report on complaints was submitted which set out the current position with regard to complaints received to date in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

A report setting out the position with regard to outstanding complaints received in relation to the PCC/DPCC up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015 was set out in Appendix A.

The Panel were asked to note the current position regarding complaints.

**RESOLVED** – 1. That the Minutes of the Complaints Sub Committee meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 be agreed subject to the deletion of ‘Councillor’ under Minute No 2 ahead of ‘Shiraj Vali in the Chair’ in the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014; and

2. That the update in relation to Complaints be noted.

## 9. Report on Appointment of Independent Panel Member

A report was submitted that set out required arrangements for the appointment of Independent Members of the Panel following the resignation of Shiraj Vali, Independent Member.

It was a requirement that the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire appoint and co-opt to the Panel two independent persons.

The Local Government Association had produced guidance on how Police and Crime Panels should go about appointing independent co-opted members, a copy of which was attached (Appendix A). Once appointed the two co-opted independent persons had equal voting rights, and would be appointed for a 4 year term.

On 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013 the Panel agreed its arrangements and within this set out the process for the appointment of the two independent persons, which were outlined in the report submitted.

The Panel were asked to consider and agree the arrangements proposed for the vacancy of one Independent Member.

There followed discussion on the makeup of the Panel and the need to reflect on the diversity of Lancashire if possible, particularly in terms of ethnicity and sexuality.

In relation to the two Conservative vacancies referred to in Minute No 3, Councillor Terry Hill advised that he would arrange for his Council to nominate a female Councillor to help make the Panel more representative.

During discussion, reference was made to the excellent service provided by Shiraj Vali during his time on the Panel and the Chair agreed to pass on the thanks on behalf of the Panel.

In relation to a query on the number of terms the Independent Member could serve, Sian Roxborough agreed to e-mail the Panel to confirm that Independent Members could serve more than one term.

There then followed discussion on the appropriate political balance of the five person selection Panel.

**RESOLVED** – 1. That the selection process should take account of the need for better representation of the diversity of the population of Lancashire and that the political balance of the selection Panel should be as follows: Labour 2, Independent 1, Lib Dem 1 and Conservative 1, (Nominations at the meeting received were the Chair and Vice Chair for Labour, and David Whipp, with the remaining two places to be nominated after the meeting); and

2. That the Chair write a letter of thanks to Shiraj Vali on behalf of the Panel.

## **10. Update from the Police and Crime Commissioner**

A Supplementary Agenda for the meeting had been issued under which five items were listed for Agenda Item 10 – Annual Report, Community Engagement Strategy, Update Report, Performance Report and Decisions.

Reference was made to the late arrival of the reports and also to the format of the reports. Councillor Alistair Bradley advised that he would meet with the Commissioner and his officers to ensure that reports were submitted to Panel Members in good time and also in a useful format for Members to scrutinise.

The Commissioner then delivered a presentation on his Annual Report for 2014/15 and asked for Members views and feedback before the report was finalised and submitted to the Panel for formal scrutiny.

The presentation outlined the aims and priorities of the Police and Crime plan 2013/18 and 2014/15 performances against the plan. The presentation detailed the plan delivery in context which was against a backdrop of 5 years of austerity, and provided a breakdown of where the money from the 2014/15 budget was spent. Savings identified between 2011/12 and 2017/18 were highlighted along with the costs of running the PCC office. The Presentation also highlighted performance in context 2014/15, the Commissioners top five priorities in 2014/15 and the demand on the Police service, as well as priorities delivered. The presentation also looked at 2015 beyond and outlined the Lancashire Constabulary's policing pledge and the Commissioners pledge to the Panel and the public of Lancashire.

The Panel discussed the draft Annual Report and asked the Commissioner a number of questions and made the following initial comments on the draft report:

- Contract Management 101 – No information in the report to support the claim that the service has improved. Should be a statement on the chart relating to 101 response rates, the actual levels, and this information should go in the final

report. It would be helpful to contrast performance in 2014/15 with previous years and show trends.

- Reduction in Crime – report doesn't show the picture that serious crime rates are up.
- Include section in Annual Report on Complaints against the Police.
- Frontline Policing – the report doesn't explain reality of what is happening, more detail needed on what has been done, and future plans.

The Chair requested that Panel Members feedback any further comments on the Annual Report to Phil Llewellyn, who would then feedback the responses to the Police Crime Commissioner's office.

Due to time considerations the Commissioner did not run through his Update report on a page by page basis, but instead received questions from the Panel on the Update Performance and Decisions reports as follows:

**Community action fund** – In response to questions on the publicity for the availability of this funding, the Commissioner and Angela Harrison advised that they were happy to receive suggestions on how this could be better publicised, and that bids that helped the Commissioner meet his identified priorities were encouraged. Angela Harrison agreed to circulate more details to Members of the Panel.

**101 Response times** – In response to questions on response times and abandonment rate issues the Commissioner advised that he was not satisfied when members of the public could not get through, but that he was satisfied that when the switchboard situation was rectified, the service would be much improved. The Commissioner agreed to report back on this to a future meeting of the Panel.

#### **Decisions – Extension of Chief Constable Contract**

The Commissioner advised that the Chief Constable Contract had been extended to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, but this was the last extension after what the Chief Constable would retire. The post would be advertised in the Autumn of 2016 and the Commissioner stated he would keep the Panel updated on the recruitment process.

**Forensic Audit** - The Commissioner agreed to update Councillor Tony Harrison in relation to a query about the number of staff employed in the team and the subsequent long waiting list for work by the service.

**RESOLVED** – 1. That the draft Annual Report 2014/15 be noted and that Panel Members feedback any further comments ahead of submission of the final report to the Panel;

2. That the Community Engagement Strategy be noted;

3. That the Update report be noted;

4. That the Performance Report be noted; and

5. That the Decisions report be noted.

## 11. Timetable of Meetings

A timetable of meetings for 2015/16 was submitted to the Panel for consideration. Officers were also looking at a suitable date in September when an induction meeting could be held for new Members of the Panel (existing Panel Members would also be invited as it will give an opportunity to refresh existing knowledge).

In order to plan the business of the Panel effectively, it was also suggested that the Panel consider a work programme for 2015/16 and allocate the programme across the meetings for 2015/16 as appropriate. The Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan was attached and to assist Members in identifying areas for scrutiny.

It was pointed out that the proposed April 2016 meeting would be within the purdah period for the Commissioner, therefore Officers were requested to look at a suitable date in March.

Councillor Terry Hill indicated that the two evening meetings (January & April) would clash with Ribble Valley Council meetings, but the Chair advised that as previously agreed by the Panel, meetings would be held at different times of the day (two evening and two daytime) and that Panel Members could send substitutes.

**RESOLVED** – That the timetable of meetings for 2015/16 be agreed, with the change to the April date to March 2016.

**AT THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING**

## 12. IPCC Reports – PCC Case Review Report

Members of the Panel received a copy of the Case Review Report produced by the Independent Police Complaints Commissioner in relation to allegations of false accounts by the PCC.

**RESOLVED** – That the Case Review Report be noted.

## 13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Panel would be held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015, at 10.00am in Meeting Room 'A' in Blackburn Town Hall, BB1 7DY.

Signed .....Chair  
2015