

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF MEETING

**SOUTH WALES POLICE AND
CRIME PANEL MEETING**

THURSDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 2020

PRESENT: Councillor R Young (Bridgend CBC) (Chair)

Councillors:

B Bowen-Thomson (Cardiff Council), J Cowan (Cardiff Council), R Lewis (Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC), G Thomas (Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC), P Rees (Neath Port Talbot CBC), B Gray (Vale of Glamorgan) and S Jago (Merthyr Tydfil CBC)

Co-optees:

M Jehu (Vice-Chair)

Outside Bodies:

A Michael (Police and Crime Commissioner)
MJukes (Chief Constable)
J Vaughan (Deputy Chief Constable)
L Jones (Interim Chief Executive)
P Curran (Chief Finance Officer)
U Hussain (Chief Finance Officer)
I Fox (Co-optee – pending confirmation)

Officers:

S Jones (Senior Solicitor)
M Edmunds (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
11	Briefing Session	The Chair welcomed Councillors Benjamin Grey and Graham Thomas as new members to the Panel and introduced newly appointed co-optee Ian Fox, who is awaiting final ratification on his appointment.

		<p>The Chair advised Panel of the format of the meeting and Simon Jones explained the procedure for acceptance/rejection of the precept.</p> <p>The Panel then considered in detail the issues that were to be considered at the Meeting.</p>
12	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Erika Kirchner and Emma Wools, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.
13	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were received.
14	Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 17 September 2019 of South Wales Police and Crime Panel	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held 17 September 2019 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
15	Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales' Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020 to 2024 & Precept Proposal 2020/21	<p>The Chair welcomed Panel and member of the public to the meeting and suggested due to new appointments the Panel and the Commissioner's Team provide introductions.</p> <p>The Commissioner and his Team provided background information and a detailed presentation on the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020 to 2024 & Precept Proposal 2020/21 with particular reference to the following:</p> <p>(Alun Michael)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Grant • DRIVE Programme • Women's Pathfinder • Swansea Help Point • Neighbourhood Policing • Working with Partners • Recorded Crime/Public Experience of Crime • Potential Precept Zone • Cumulative Impact of Central Government Decisions on Police Funding • Change in police officer numbers 1979 – 2018 • Precept history • Precept Settlement 2020/21 <p>(Matt Jukes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational context • 999/101 calls – Increase in calls (not necessarily reporting crime, but calls for help where other services are not available 24 hours a day) • Current and emerging operational context – risks to South Wales' communities (drug harm and supply; serious violence; domestic violence and abuse; child exploitation; rape and serious sexual offence; counter terrorism) • Recorded crime is rising (more complicated crime

		<p>e.g. fraud)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recorded crime over the last five years • Time to investigate to a positive outcome • Non-Crime Demand (missing persons, LAC, mental health) • Hidden harm – drug deaths (South Wales highest area in the UK for drug deaths) • Disrupting supply chain • What we have in place (public service centre; agile and digital; developments) • Quality of outcomes • Reduction in recorded crime (anti-social behaviour; burglary; vehicle offences) • Quality of service (public perception; domestic abuse victims) • Operational Summary <p>(Uma Hussain)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Forecast 2020 – 2021 • Police Settlement 2020 – 2021 – Uplift • Changes in Central Government cash funding to Police forces • Independent value for money judgement • Difference in the amount of crime experienced in South Wales compared to most similar Forces and All Forces 2018 - 19 (based on HMICFRS data). • £58m efficiency savings 2010 – 2019 • Medium term financial projections • Precept history <p>(Peter Curran)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Budget – Police Grant/Police Precept • Council Tax bands across South Wales Police area • Percentage of dwellings below Band D charge • Financial Summary • Precept Public Consultation Survey • Precept Settlement 2020/21 <p>The following questions/matters were raised by the Panel and answered in detail by the Commissioner’s Team:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages of the drug related deaths – young or old • Proceeds of crime • CCTV – contributions/funding by Local Authorities • CCTV – crime detection or prevention • Partnership working/precept rise • Commissioner’s office – how much does Commissioner give to Chief Constable; how much he keeps; is Commissioner’s office contributing to efficiency savings • What has been done to minimise level of precept • What is the rationale for the cuts in the capital grant • Decarbonisation agenda
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Agreed that the following items be included as agenda items at a future meeting:

- CCTV
- Decarbonisation agenda
- Difference in the amount of crime experienced in South Wales compared to most similar Forces and All Forces 2018 - 19 (based on HMICFRS data).

A short break was taken at 1.10 p.m.

The Panel reconvened at 1.20 p.m.

Matt Jukes summarised advising four areas of policing costs (police officers; non-operational police staff (HR, recruitment); operational staff (call handlers, PCSO's) and non staff spending (technology)) and how these would be negatively affected if the budget was not met.

Further discussion took place regarding public perception, child poverty, reasonable/realistic risks, rising recorded crime.

Alun Michael and the Officers then left the Meeting to enable the Panel to consider the recommendation.

Simon Jones reminded the Panel on the voting procedures and advised the Panel that they must vote to either:-

- a) Support the precept without qualification or comment
- b) Support the precept and make recommendations, or
- c) Veto the proposed precept (by the required majority).

A vote was then taken on whether to support the precept of 5.9% which was supported but not unanimously.

A comment was made that although the precept was agreed it was disappointing that the financial burden had fallen on the tax payer rather than the Government and as such it was

Resolved that:

The Panel supports the precept of 5.9% which is £272.72 for a Band D property with comment that the Panel was disappointed that the financial burden of policing continues to be put on the council tax payer as opposed to direct funding from Central Government. The Panel however supports the precept to allow the police to maintain its current level of service.

Mr Michael and the Officers re-entered the Meeting and were advised by the Chair of the decision of the Panel.

Mr Michael thanked the Panel for their outcome.

16	Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales' Police Precept Consultation Public Survey Results	To receive the Report.
17	PRESENTATION	Presentation received.
18	Co-option of a new Independent Member to the South Wales Police and Crime Panel	<p>The Chair summarised the report and asked the South Wales Police and Crime Panel to endorse the interview panel's decision of appointing Mr Ian Fox as the new independent co-opted member.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Mr Ian Fox be appointed as independent co-opted member on the South Wales Police and Crime Panel until the 31st October 2020.</p>
19	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair deemed the following matters urgent under any other business:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Jane Hutt <p>Mel Jehu, Vice Chair (representing Panel) attended the meeting and provided Panel with a summary of the meeting, with particular reference to the issues affecting Panel and the work of the Commissioner and the Chief Constable; appointment issues; time to get decisions from Home Office; funding; initiatives and champions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from the Public <p>Simon Jones took the Panel through a letter received from a member of the public (Mr J) who asked "what is the Commissioner going to do to ensure that the Chief Constable takes all practical steps to eliminate and prevent police officers in South Wales exploiting victims for sex".</p> <p>Discussion took place with regard to the question that had been received and was originally scheduled to be discussed at the December 2019 meeting which was cancelled. Simon Jones advised a response had been received from the Commissioner's office, which was then presented to the Panel, but suggested bringing back as an item to a future meeting as the Commissioner acknowledged the importance of this matter and how it is dealt with.</p> <p>The Chair thanked members for their attendance.</p>