

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF MEETING

**SOUTH WALES POLICE AND
CRIME PANEL MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY, 2021

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), C Richards (City and County of Swansea), W Evans (City and County of Swansea), B Gray (Vale of Glamorgan) and S Jago (Merthyr Tydfil CBC)

Co-optees:

I Fox (Independent Co-optee)
M Jehu (Vice-Chair)

Outside Bodies:

A Michael, South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
Jeremy Vaughan, Chief Constable
Jenny Gilmer, Deputy Chief Constable
Lee Jones, Chief Executive, SWP
Umar Hussain, Chief Finance Officer, SWP
Peter Curran, Chief Finance Officer, SWP
Richard Watkins, Communication and Public Engagement, SWP
Paul Fisher (South Wales Police)

Officers:

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

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
52	Briefing Session	The Panel discussed the items that were to be considered at the meeting.
53	Apologies for Absence	No apologies for absence were received.
54	Declarations of Interest	<p>Councillor Bernie Bowen-Thompson declared a personal interest as Chief Executive for Safer Wales as they receive funding from the Commissioner's Office.</p> <p>Mel Jehu declared a personal interest as a non-executive trustee with Safer Merthyr Tydfil as funding is received from the Commissioner's Office.</p>
55	Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)	<p><i>I Fox requested that amendments be made to the Minutes of Tuesday, 8th December 2020 at Item 47 :-</i></p> <p><i>First bullet point to read – Have you considered using the multi agency Public Protection Arrangements?</i></p> <p><i>Second bullet point to read - Can the panel have a list of performance measures?</i></p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th December 2020 be accepted as a true record subject to the foregoing.</p>
56	Our Police Our Community - Public Consultation Results 2021 - 2022	<p>The Commissioner briefed the Panel and handed over to Lee Jones to present the 'Our Police Our Community - Public Consultation Results 2021 – 2022' report. L Jones provided a summary and invited questions from the Panel.</p> <p>The following questions and comments were raised:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns raised over low level of public response, length of consultation, engagement, target audience and results. • Request for responses/results to be provided by area. • 101 appears to be more of a logging mechanism, need to look at improving this. • Appears to be a reduction in visible Police Officers/PCOs rather than an increase. • Whether there are awards to nominate PCOs to show appreciation and acknowledge the work that they have done? • Following recent publications in the press regarding English Police Forces not recording one in five crimes and cases being closed without proper investigation, assurance/reassurance is sought that recording practices/issues do not exist in South Wales Police. • Clarity sought over the five priorities identified in the responses.

		The Chair thanked the Commissioner's Office for the report.
57	Budget and Demand Presentation	<p>The Chair suggested that Item 6 (Budget and Demand Presentation) and Item 7 (Precept Budget Report and Medium Term Financial Strategy) be dealt with as one item. The Commissioner agreed that dealing with the items as one would set the context and led to the recommendation in the report.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the Chief Constable to the meeting.</p> <p>The Commissioner provided a summary introduction and started the presentation to Panel providing further detail on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive Tackling Perpetrators and Preventing Harm • Women's Pathfinder • Working with Partners <p>The Commissioner handed over to the Chief Constable to continue the presentation.</p> <p>The Chief Constable provided further detail on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand in 2020 compared to 2019 • Calls for Services (999 & 101 calls) • Volumes of Key Demands • Impact of Drug Demands (Drug Trafficking, Drug Possession, Possession of Weapons and Serious Violence). • Police Response – 381,330 occurrences • Fewer Reports – Positive Action Maintained • Domestic Violence and Abuse Support • Tackling High Harms • High Performing Force • Victim Satisfaction Surveys • £2.1m Investment in incident resolution team, vehicle logistics, mental health triage and missing persons team • Officer Uplift Investment • Delivery Plan 2021-24 : Themes and High Level Priorities • Key Challenges Going Forward <p>The Commissioner invited Chief Finance Officer, Umar Hussain to provide details on the finances.</p> <p>Mr Hussain presented information on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget 2021 – 22 Headlines • Independent Value for Money Judgement • £58M cuts 2010 • Cumulative Impact of Central Government Decisions on Police Funding • Change in police officer numbers 1979 and forecast to 2022 • Reconciliation of Funding 2021/22

- Medium Term Financial Projections 2021-25

In conclusion Chief Finance Officer (Treasurer) – Peter Curran presented information on:

- Wales: Precept History
- Percentage of Dwelling below Band D Charge
- Council Tax Bands across South Wales Police Area
- Home Office Precept Settlement

Due to inconsistent internet connection, the Commissioner took over the presentation and presented the following information:

- Public Consultation
- Cumulative Impact of Central Government Decisions on Police Funding
- What we are paying for?

The Chair thanked the Commissioner and his Team for the presentation and invited Panel to ask questions.

The Panel raised the matters listed below and asked the following questions:

- How much will the infrastructure costs be to support the additional new officers and how much of the increase in the precept will be used to contribute towards this?
- Clarity sought over amount of covid funding that had been received and how many covid calls were received and dealt with.
- Concern over level of increase versus the decline in visible police officers.
- What extent has the lack of going to Court due to covid had an impact on police time and work and how long will the backlog take to clear?
- What percentage of the precept goes towards the Commissioner's Office?
- Concern raised on the amount of potential redundancies following the end of the furlough scheme and the impact that the increase in council tax would cause on families.
- Concern raised regarding the year on year precept increase over and above the rate of inflation.

The Chair thanked the Commissioner and his Team for the detailed answers provided to the questions/points raised and invited them to leave the meeting for the Panel to deliberate and make their decision regarding the precept.

58	Precept Budget Report and Medium Term Financial Strategy	<p>The Commissioner and his Team were invited back into the meeting to receive the Panel decision.</p> <p>The Chair advised the Commissioner that the Precept of 5.5% increase had been approved by a majority vote. It was agreed an official form of words would be shared in due course via a report.</p> <p>The Commissioner thanked the Panel.</p>
59	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	No other business was deemed urgent by the Chair.