

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF MEETING

**SOUTH WALES POLICE AND
CRIME PANEL MEETING**

TUESDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 2018

PRESENT: Councillor R Smith (In the Chair)

Councillors B Bowen-Thomson, T Davies, K Gibbs, R Lewis,
P Rees, J Thomas and R Young

Co-optees:

Mr Melvin Jehu and Mr Martyn Jones

Outside Bodies:

Mr Alun Michael Police and Crime Commissioner
Ms Emma Wools Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Mr Richard Lewis Deputy Chief Constable
Mr Umar Hussain Chief Finance Officer
Mr Lee Jones Interim Chief of Staff
Mr Stephen Trigg Chair Local Police Federation

Officers:

Simon Jones (Senior Solicitor) and Howard Jones (Scrutiny
Officer)

Mair Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
1	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Richards and Councillor K Roberts.

2	Declarations of Interest	<p>Councillor B Bowen Thomson advised that she was involved with a Community Safety Charity – Violence against women and girls.</p> <p>Mr M Jehu advised that he sat on the Board of Safer Merthyr Tydfil.</p> <p>Councillor R Lewis advised that his portfolio covered Community Safety and Domestic Violence.</p>
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Former Chief Constable

The Chair welcomed Peter Vaughan former Chief Constable to the Meeting and together with Mr Jehu and the Panel thanked Mr Vaughan for his Service to the Force over a number of years.

Mr Vaughan then thanked the Panel for their support.

3	Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held 5 December 2017 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
4	Public Questions	<p>Simon Jones outlined in detail to the Panel the mechanisms available for the public to raise questions with the Panel.</p> <p>Mr Jones then referred to correspondence received in relation to a complaint that had been ongoing for three and a half years and the actions that had been undertaken to date.</p> <p>Mr Jones then read out the letter that had been received in full for the information of the Panel and advised that the letter was being dealt with by the Panel Chair and the Monitoring Officer and a response would be sent.</p>
5	Briefing Session	<p>Simon Jones referred the Panel to a Briefing Note that explained the Panel's role and its options for decision making in relation to the proposed Precept.</p> <p>The Panel then discussed in detail the issues that were to be considered at the Meeting.</p>
6	The Medium Term Financial Strategy	<p>The Chair welcomed Alun Michael Police and Crime Commissioner, Richard Lewis Deputy Chief Constable, Emma Wools Deputy Commissioner, Lee Jones Interim Chief of Staff, Umar Hussain Chief Finance Officer and Stephen Trigg Chair Local Police Federation to the Meeting.</p> <p>The Panel were then circulated with a letter from Matt Jukes Chief Constable in relation to the item.</p> <p>The Panel were also circulated with a further Appendix (13a) in relation to the Revenue Budget 2018/19.</p> <p>The Panel then received a Presentation from Mr Michael,</p>

Mr Lewis, Ms Wools, Mr Hussain, Mr Trigg and Mr Jones giving details of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-2022 and Police Precept 2018-19:

- Change in Police Officer Strength 1979 to 2017 – England and Wales and South Wales Police
- Cumulative Impact of Government Decisions on Police Funding 1995–2022
- Prevention and Intervention – Bid Title
- Police and Crime Commissioners Budget
- Budget Pressures from Cuts and Inflation
- Budget Reconciliation and Savings 2016-2019
- Capital Programme and Funding
- Comparative Position Reserves
- Percentage of Debt to Annual Budget 2017-18
- Vulnerability Gap
- Pay and Price Inflation / New NI Charges / LPGS Apprenticeship Levy / Vulnerability Gap / Emergency Services Network
- Precept History to 2017/18
- Police Precept as % of Total Budget
- What we do compared to our most similar Forces
- Total Crime Recorded 2017
- Crime: Increasing and more complex
- Violence against the Person- Violence without injury-Sexual Offences
- Hidden Harms
- Non Crime Demand is Huge
- Policing the Capital: A Unique Challenge
- Major Events
- The Funding Settlement
- Council Tax Bands across the South Wales Police Area
- Percentage of Dwellings with less than Band D Charge
- Savings made to 2017/18
- National picture of a £12 Precept increase in terms of %
- Unresolved Funding Inequities
- Comparison of Policing Performance
- Changes in External Grant Funding 2010-2018
- Conclusions
- Precept History to 2017/18

Mr Michael then referred to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-2022 and recommended an increase of £1.27 per month or 7%.

The Panel then raised the following questions on the report and were responded to in detail by Mr Michael:

- What has changed from the last Panel Meeting to increase the Precept to 7%
- Is 7% enough to ensure that there are no extra pressures on Officers
- Increased Governance Costs

		<p>Mr Michael and the Officers then left the Meeting to enable the Panel to consider the recommendation.</p> <p>Considerable debate then ensued on the recommendation as contained within the report with the Panel commenting that any savings were not to be taken away from front line Policing</p> <p>Simon Jones then reminded the Committee that to Veto the recommendation eight Panel Members had to vote for the Veto.</p> <p>A vote was then taken on whether to Veto the recommendation of 7% and the number required to Veto was not reached. Therefore it was</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>There is an increase of £1.27 per month (£15.28 per annum or 7%) which results in a Council Tax on a Band D Property of £233.52 and gives a total Precept requirement of £113,598,846 which would be Precepted on the relevant billing Authority in accordance with Appendix 13.</p> <p>Councillor J Thomas left the Meeting at 1.30 pm.</p> <p>Mr Michael and the Officers re-entered the Meeting and were advised by the Chair of the decision of the Panel.</p>
7	Annual Report	<p>Alun Michael referred the Panel to the Annual Report.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The contents of the Annual report be agreed with no recommendations from the Panel.</p>
8	Correspondence received - Nomination of SWPCP Member to sit on the Swansea Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel.	<p>The Chair referred the Panel to correspondence received from the Swansea Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The request to nominate a Panel Member to sit on the Swansea Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel be declined.</p>
9	Oversight of Complaints	<p>The Chair referred the Panel to the 'Oversight of Complaints' report.</p> <p>A Member then referred to the issue of vexatious complaints and enquired if there was a Policy in place for this.</p> <p>Another Member then recommended that a standard letter be compiled in relation to vexatious complaints.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p>

		<p>(a) The content of the report be noted (b) A letter be drafted for consideration at the next Panel Meeting in relation to vexatious complaints</p> <p>Councillor R Young left the Meeting at 1.42 pm.</p> <p>Councillor B Bowen-Thomson left the Meeting at 1.42 pm.</p>
10	Sixth National Conference for PCP's	<p>The Chair referred the Panel to the Conference that he and the Vice Chair had attended and the Panel were circulated with notes arising from the Conference.</p> <p>The Chair also advised that any questions arising from the Conference be addressed to himself or the Vice Chair.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The update from the Chair be received.</p>
11	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.</p>