

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF MEETING

**SOUTH WALES POLICE AND  
CRIME PANEL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 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), 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:**

M Jehu (Vice-Chair)

**Outside Bodies:**

Alun Michael (Police and Crime Commissioner)  
Lee Jones (Interim Chief Executive)  
Umar Hussain (Chief Finance Officer)  
Peter Curran (Chief Finance Officer)  
Victoria Madelin (Commissioner's Executive Advisor and Support Officer)  
Richard Watkins (SWP – Communication and Public Engagement)

**Officers:**

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

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
27	Briefing Session	The Panel discussed the items that were to be considered at the meeting.
28	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Mr Ian Fox (Co-optee) and Emma Wools (Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner).
29	Declarations of Interest	<p>Councillor Bernie Bowen-Thompson declared an interest as she works with Safer Wales and they receive funding from the Commissioner's Office.</p> <p>Mel Jehu declared an interest as a non-executive trustee with Safer Merthyr Tydfil and funding is received from the Commissioner's Office.</p>
30	Minutes of meeting Thursday, 4 June 2020 of South Wales Police and Crime Panel	<p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 be accepted as a true record.</p>
31	COVID 19 Update Report	<p>The Chair welcomed the Commissioner and his Team to the Meeting and invited him to provide a briefing on the Covid 19 update report.</p> <p>The Commissioner wished to thank his Team for the work undertaken during this extraordinary time of Covid 19.</p> <p>The Commissioner and Team provided detailed information on the report with particular reference made to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRIVE</li> <li>• Re-opening of Courts</li> <li>• Nightingale/Blackstone Courts</li> <li>• Operational Policing</li> <li>• First Minister's announcement on use of facemasks</li> <li>• Partnership Working</li> <li>• Cardiff Bay</li> <li>• South Wales Local Resilience Forum</li> </ul> <p>The following matters were raised by Panel Members and answered in detail by the Commissioner's office:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facebook questions/calls received</li> <li>• Whistleblowing</li> <li>• Covid testing – access difficulties for Police</li> <li>• Drive Project coming to Swansea (practical ways of working)</li> <li>• Policing – use of face masks in stores/gathering of 30 people outdoors/returning from abroad and compliance</li> <li>• Domestic abuse and child protection (request for an update to be provided to Panel in the New Year)</li> <li>• WLGA restrictions/11 p.m. close of pubs.</li> </ul>

		<p>Panel Members praised Police Officers for the way they were handling and dealing with Covid 19.</p> <p>The Commissioner suggested that with Panel's approval that an item be added to the December agenda to provide an update on the new BCU's and operational policies.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The South Wales Police and Crime Panel note the content of the report and the significant ongoing activity by South Wales Police and Commissioner during the Covid 19 outbreak and beyond.</p>
32	Finance Report and Presentation	<p>The Commissioner and Chief Finance Officer summarised the Finance Report and advised more reference to Part C of the report would be made in the Presentation. Information on the following topics were presented:</p> <p>Part A: Provisional 2019/20 Year-End Position  Part B: In-Year 2020/21 Position for Quarter 1  Part C: Strategic &amp; Longer-Term Financial Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of Baseline Grant</li> <li>• Apprenticeship Levy</li> <li>• Funding for Cardiff as a Capital City</li> <li>• Pensions Grant</li> <li>• Preserving Existing Programmes</li> <li>• Further efficiency savings (cuts) imposed</li> <li>• Review of the Police funding formula</li> <li>• Other macro-economic issues</li> </ul> <p>The following questions/matters were raised by Panel and responded to in detail by the Commissioner's office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do we know how much Edinburgh get as a capital city for their policing.</li> <li>• Is North Ireland Police Force funding different to South Wales.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>
33	CCTV Presentation	<p>The Commissioner thanked the Chief Finance Officer for the work undertaken with regard to this presentation, but due to time constraints requested that a brief presentation be made and that this item be brought back to Panel for further discussion in the future.</p> <p>The Chief Finance Officer referred in particular to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National CCTV Working Partners</li> <li>• Our Vision</li> <li>• Short and Long Term Goals</li> <li>• Research Undertaken to Date – Key Findings</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Governance Structure</li> <li>• Project Delivery Board</li> <li>• National Service Level Agreement</li> </ul> <p>The following questions/matters were raised by Panel Members and answered in detail by the Commissioner's office:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the focus on live monitoring or evidence</li> <li>• Cost versus effectiveness</li> <li>• Engagement/consultation with the public/Local Authorities</li> <li>• Breakdown/cost implication for each Council</li> <li>• Timescales of the project</li> <li>• Are all local authorities on board with moving this project forward</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The Panel note the content of the presentation.</p>
34	Annual Report	<p>The Commissioner referred Panel to the Annual Report which he advised was a substantial document and thanked Lee Jones and the Team for pulling the report together.</p> <p>Simon Jones provided clarity on approving this report and providing recommendations.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The Panel consider, note and agree the content of the report for the financial year 2019/20 summarising formal scrutiny and engagement as required by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.</p>
35	Scrutiny and Engagement Report	<p>The Commissioner referred Panel to the Scrutiny and Engagement Report and provided a brief summary of the content.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The Panel note the content of the report.</p>
36	Independent Custody Visiting Report	<p>The Commissioner provided Panel with a brief summary on the Independent Custody Visiting Report.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The Panel consider and responds to the Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) Report for the financial year 2019/20.</p>
37	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that a request was received from the Commissioner's office to set a new date for the precept meeting.</p>

		<p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>A new date of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 be agreed for the precept meeting.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and appreciation for the Commissioner moving the agenda along as swiftly as possible.</p>
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