

# Minutes

---

**Minutes of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel held on Friday 27 November 2015, in Council Chamber Cherwell District Council Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AA, commencing at 1.00 pm and concluding at 1.30 pm.**

## **Members Present**

Councillor Patricia Birchley (Buckinghamshire County Council), Councillor Angela Macpherson (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Councillor Kieron Mallon (Oxfordshire County Council), Curtis-James Marshall (Independent Member), Councillor Chris McCarthy (Vale of White Horse District Council), Councillor Bob Pitts (Wokingham Borough Council), Councillor George Reynolds (Cherwell District Council), Councillor Dee Sinclair (Oxford City Council) and Councillor Quentin Webb (West Berkshire Council)

## **Officers Present**

Clare Gray

## **Others Present**

David Carroll (Deputy PCC), Paul Hammond (Office of the PCC), Jacob Rickett (Office of the PCC), Anthony Stansfeld (PCC) and Ian Thompson (Office of the PCC)

## **Apologies**

Councillor Julia Adey (Wycombe District Council), Councillor Margaret Burke (Milton Keynes Council), Councillor Robert Courts (West Oxfordshire District Council), Councillor Emily Culverhouse (Chiltern District Council), Councillor Trevor Egleton (South Bucks District Council), Julia Girling (Independent Member), Councillor Jesse Grey (Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), Councillor Iain McCracken (Bracknell Forest Council) and Councillor Ian White (South Oxfordshire District Council)

## **14. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **15. Confirmation Hearing for the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner**

The Panel received the report of the PCC regarding the proposed extension to the contract of the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides, under section 18 (1), that the PCC for a Police Area may appoint a person as the Deputy PCC for that area. The PCC must notify the Panel of his proposed appointment to the post of Deputy PCC including:-

- The name of the person whom the Commissioner is proposing to appoint
- The criteria used to assess the suitability of the candidate for the appointment

- Why the candidate satisfies those criteria
- The terms and conditions on which the candidate is to be appointed.

The current Deputy PCC, David Carroll had been appointed to 31 December 2014 and as the current PCC, Anthony Stansfeld, has been confirmed as the Conservative Party candidate for the PCC elections in May 2016 he wished to propose to the Panel that Mr Carroll's appointment and contract of employment be extended until the end of the PCC's current tenure in office to 11 May 2016.

Members asked the following questions of the PCC and Deputy PCC:-

Curtis James Marshall

With the increasing pressure on the Police Force does the PCC believe that one Deputy PCC is enough? Should there be a Deputy for each area?

The PCC reported that with increasing responsibilities there was more pressure on the office and depending on the elections it may be worth the PCC considering whether to have a full time Deputy.

Cllr Angela Macpherson

When meeting with other PCC's would you say that Mr Carroll undertakes a similar role to other Deputy PCC's bearing in mind that some PCC's have more than one Deputy? Do you benchmark?

The PCC reported that it was difficult to benchmark as all Deputy's had very different roles. He commented in particular on the importance of chairing the Complaints Integrity and Ethics Panel, helping the PCC cover the Thames Valley as it was such a huge area and providing assistance with the Estates Strategy.

The Deputy PCC reported that he deputises for the PCC. For example he presented the PCC's Annual Report to the Panel meeting in September as the PCC was unable to be present. He visited many different Councils across the Thames Valley, attended stakeholder meetings, talked to the public and attended meetings in London when necessary. He worked well with the team and attended meetings to contribute to the PCC's agenda. He had developed the Complaints, Integrity and Ethics Panel since its inception.

Cllr Kieron Mallon

How do you utilise your Deputy PCC and does he provide formal feedback to you on stakeholder meetings that he attends?

The PCC reported that feedback was often verbal as it was an open ended job and there was a lot to cover. He was satisfied with this approach.

Cllr Quentin Webb

Is there a list of permissible delegated responsibilities?

The PCC reported that he was responsible across the Board and he could not devolve this responsibility. The PCC had increased responsibility now with Restorative Justice and Victims Commissioning. There was also more collaborative work with partners such as the Fire and Rescue Service which could be complex which was why the role of the Deputy PCC may need to be considered after the elections.

Cllr Kieron Mallon

What is your view on the cost of the PCC's office?

The PCC reported that it was one of the lowest cost offices in England per head of population and had been complimented by the Taxpayers Alliance. However there were increasing responsibilities and there may need to be a review following the elections.

Curtis James Marshall

As a Chairman of a Select Committee, Deputy Cabinet Member and also Deputy PCC could you provide assurance to the Panel that you have enough time to undertake your DPCC role effectively and are there any conflicts of interest that have arisen ?

The Deputy PCC reported that the other roles that he undertook complemented the work of the Deputy PCC, with his knowledge of partner agencies and contact with the public.

Cllr Kieron Mallon

Do you mostly focus on Buckinghamshire or work equally across the Thames Valley?

The Deputy PCC reported that he worked across the Thames Valley and had recently visited areas such as Slough, Oxford City and Milton Keynes.

Cllr Patricia Birchley

When deputising, what difficult decisions have you made since your appointment and how have you dealt with this?

The Deputy PCC reported that he had set up the Complaints Integrity and Ethics Panel and undertaken a selection process to appoint an Independent Member. He had faced a number of challenges which he had built on. One area which was sometimes difficult was managing the expectations of the public.

Curtis James Marshall

Can you give an example of where you have challenged the PCC on an area of policy?

The Deputy PCC reported that he was a Member of the Management Team where debates often take place on the Police and Crime Plan, policy and budgeting issues where he will contribute. This was a continuous process.

Cllr Angela Macpherson

How have you contributed to public awareness of the PCC's role and been accountable for the delivery of a particular policy to the public?

The Deputy PCC reported that people across the Thames Valley were aware of his profile and he spent a lot of time talking to the public and raising awareness. He gave an example of a recent Business Federation meeting. One of the issues with Thames Valley was that it was covered by a number of media areas/TV stations and it was difficult to get a consistent message out to the public in the Thames Valley.

Cllr Patricia Birchley

How often do you meet with the Chief Constable on your own?

The Deputy PCC reported that he did not have specific one to one meetings with the Chief Constable but he would attend meetings with the Chief Constable when required, including the Complaints Integrity and Ethics Panel which the Chief Constable attended.

The Panel, through discussion and examination of evidence agreed:-

- The answers provided by both the PCC and David Carroll highlighted the value of the position of DPCC, particularly in relation to building relationships with key partners across the Thames

Valley. There was also some discussion about whether it would be more appropriate, given the PCC's additional responsibilities; a full time post should be considered.

- David Carroll also highlighted a number of key areas where he has taken a lead and as such added value to the work of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, these include:
  - Chairing the Complaints, Integrity and Ethics Panel
  - Supporting the PCC in the development of the priorities for the Police and Plan by engaging with partners.
  - As a Member of the Management Team contributing to financial and policy issues.
  - Attending meetings with stakeholders and the public across the Thames Valley influencing policing and crime issues.

The Panel agreed that the candidate demonstrated a range of experience in the field of police and crime and was confident and knowledgeable in these areas. After deliberations members:-

**RESOLVED**

**That the Panel endorse the proposed extension of Mr David Carroll's appointment as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley to Wednesday 11 May 2016.**

On a vote 8 were in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

**16. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

29 January 2016

**CHAIRMAN**