



# HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Thursday 24 April 2014  
Hertfordshire County Council

## MINUTES

**Present** Cllr M Alexander, East Hertfordshire District Council (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr S Gaygusuz (substitute), St Albans City and District Council  
Cty Cllr P Ruffles, Hertfordshire County Council  
Cllr D Scudder, Watford Borough Council  
Cllr C Storer (substitute), Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

**Also Present** Mr M Ramsey, prospective co-opted member  
Mr B Jones, prospective co-opted member  
Mr G Miles, Broxbourne Borough Council  
Mr T Hewins, Broxbourne Borough Council  
Mr D Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)  
Mr D Gibson, Deputy PCC  
Mr R Wilsher, PCC Chief Executive  
Mr J Franklin, PCC Chief Financial Officer  
Mr C Connolly, Hertfordshire Constabulary

1 member of the public attended.

### 1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

#### Apologies

Cllr R Hannam, Broxbourne Borough Council (Chairman)  
Cllr Ms S Bedford, Three Rivers District Council  
Cllr Mrs A Brewster, St Albans City and District Council  
Cllr A Franey, Welwyn Hatfield District Council  
Cllr C Goldstein, Hertsmere Borough Council  
Cllr N Harden, Dacorum Borough Council  
Cllr T Hunter, North Hertfordshire District Council  
Mr I Laidlaw-Dickson, Co-opted member  
Cllr Ms S Taylor, Stevenage Borough Council  
Dr M Verlot, Co-opted member  
Ms D Currie, Deputy PCC Chief Executive

## **REVIEW AND CONFIRMATION HEARING OF PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

The Vice Chairman advised that the Panel was not attended by quorum of members so no formal decision could be made in accordance with the Act.

The Commissioner commented that there are a number of statutory positions in his office which require a confirmation hearing by the Panel, which includes the Chief Executive role and, in this case, the Chief Financial Officer. Until recently, Mr James Hurley, Director of Resources at Hertfordshire Constabulary, also fulfilled the role of the Commissioner's Chief Financial Officer. As part of the Stage Two transfer arrangements at the end of March 2014, Mr Hurley's employment transferred fully to the Constabulary. External professional bodies, such as The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), have expressed opinions that it is not appropriate for the position to be shared with the Constabulary. Therefore, as the Police Authority had previously employed a Hertfordshire County Council employee as their treasurer, the difficulties associated with finding a suitable candidate for a part time role and the intention to review the permanent senior leadership structure in the Commissioner's office, it was considered appropriate to seek seconded support from Hertfordshire County Council.

The Commissioner proposed that Mr John Franklin, Head of Accountancy Services at Hertfordshire County Council, is seconded on a part time basis to fulfil the role of Chief Financial Officer. The appointment would follow the direction of providing one civil service across the county, as part of the public sector's savings requirements. Despite the recent media headlines, Mr Franklin will be paid the same salary as he currently earns. His salary is currently £66,000 and the Commissioner's office will refund to Hertfordshire County Council the pro-rata cost of his salary, employment on costs and travel which will be £19,500 for the full year.

The Commissioner advised that at a future meeting of the Panel, as previously indicated, he will table a report on the future working of the Commissioner's office and the senior officer team.

The Vice Chairman noted that the Department for Communities and Local Government promotes the shared use of resources by public bodies.

Cllr Ruffles commented that the media had covered Mr Franklin's salary, although the unknown not mentioned is the associated on costs. The Commissioner explained that Mr Franklin's current salary of £66,000 has been divided by five and the Commissioner office will pay one fifth of the total, which the figure quoted by the media of £19,500 includes on costs. Mr Franklin will earn the same salary as he currently does.

The Vice Chairman asked about the logistics of where Mr Franklin will be based and whether he will spend one day a week in the Commissioner's office. Mr Franklin considered the working arrangements to be more flexible and he will attend meetings as required, such as the Strategic Executive Board, Audit Committee and the Police and Crime Panel, and physically be located where he needs to be.

The Vice Chairman suggested that the Commissioner's budget is smaller than Hertfordshire County Council's budget. Mr Franklin advised he is working closely with Mr Hurley and they both have a strong working relationship, as they started as trainees at Hertfordshire County Council at a similar time. The role has a responsibility for the Commissioner's domestic budgets, oversight of the treasury management function and the strategic decisions, such as setting the budget, as well as close working with the Constabulary.

The Vice Chairman asked Mr Franklin to summarise his background and experience. Mr Franklin advised that he joined Hertfordshire County Council in 1995 on the graduate finance programme as a Cambridge graduate. He qualified as a CIPFA accountant in 2000 and is still a member. Mr Franklin has held numerous roles at Hertfordshire County Council, including the financial management of children's services, strategic financial planning and as a programme manager. His current responsibilities in his role as Head of Accountancy Services include:

- The production of Hertfordshire County Council's statement of accounts;
- Hertfordshire County Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, annual integrated planning/budget process and council tax precept setting;
- The preparation of Hertfordshire County Council's monthly and quarterly revenue and capital budget monitors;
- Hertfordshire County Council's capital planning, monitoring and control processes;
- Monthly/quarterly presentation and discussion of budget monitors/financial accounts with the Senior Management Board, Executive Member for Resources, Cabinet, Resources and Transformation Panel and Audit Committee; and
- Liaison with External Audit, Audit Manager and Internal Audit regarding the annual report.

Cllr Scudder asked what particular actions needed to be delivered in the role. Mr Franklin suggested that his experience could speed up the decision making and streamline the treasury management function. The Commissioner stated that Mr Franklin will provide a greater overview of strategic matters, such as the precept and balancing the budget.

Cllr Gaygusuz asked whether Mr Franklin was headhunted. Mr Wilsher confirmed that the Commissioner's office approached Hertfordshire County Council and asked Mr John Wood and Ms Sarah Pickup, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer respectively, whether the authority could provide seconded support. They proposed Mr Franklin.

**It was agreed by the five members of the Panel present on a show of hands to support Mr Franklin's appointment.**

It was indicated that a report of the Panel's decision will be forwarded to the Commissioner's office and added to the Panel's website.