 **West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Draft Minutes**

**April 26th 2013, Wakefield Town Hall**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Box (Chair) - City of Wakefield MDC

Councillor Hussain - City of Bradford MDC

Councillor Ferriby - City of Bradford MDC

Councillor Walls - City of Bradford MDC

Councillor Sweeney - Calderdale MBC

Councillor Smith - Kirklees MC

Councillor Hall - Kirklees MC

Councillor Iqbal - Leeds City Council

Councillor Carter - Leeds City Council

Councillor Askew - City of Wakefield MDC

Roger Grasby - Independent

Jo Sykes - Independent

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sue Hall - W Yorks. Criminal Justice Board

Clare Elliott - AWYA

Samantha Wilkinson - AWYA

Jonathan Skinner - AWYA

Liz Ogden - City of Wakefield MDC

1. **Introductions and Apologies**

1.1 Apologies from Cllr Alison Lowe, Leeds City Council, were noted

**2. To approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Shadow Police and Crime Panel held 8th March and deal with any matters arising.**

2.1 **RESOLVED**

2.1.1 That the minutes of the last Police and Crime Panel meeting were approved as a correct record.

**3. To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the agenda on the grounds of urgency.**

3.1 The Chair confirmed that there were no items to add to the agenda.

**4. Members’ Declaration of Interest**

4.1 No declarations of interest were made.

**5. Moving Forwards: Panel’s Work Programme**

5.1 The Panel agreed the need to have a substantive, informal discussion on the way in which it takes forward its work programme as it moves into the new phase of assessing the Commissioner’s impact across West Yorkshire.

5.2 **RESOLVED**

5.2.1 That the AWYA schedule an additional, private meeting in advance of the Panel’s next meeting on June 7th to discuss its forward work programme and the most effective way of delivering it.

**6. Commissioner’s Approach to ‘Crime’**

6.1 Sue Hall, Chair of the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board, made the Panel aware of the relationship between the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Criminal Justice System as laid out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

6.2 Sue Hall drew the Panel’s attention to the similarities between the priorities of the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board and a number of the objectives within the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan. It was emphasised that these overlaps necessitate a strong working relationship between the Board and the Commissioner.

6.3 The Panel recognised the fact that the discussions between the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board and the Police and Crime Commissioner are in their infancy but agreed that they would welcome future updates on the impact of their collective efforts.

6.4 **RESOLVED**

6.4.1 That Sue Hall provides quarterly updates to the Panel on the difference that is being made through collaboration between the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

6.4.2 That Sue Hall circulates to the Panel:

* The West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board’s action plan
* A briefing note on the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board, including its operational arrangements

6.4.3 That Clare Elliott circulates the final report of the West Yorkshire Police Authority’s Transition Board to the Panel.

**7. Commissioner’s Partnership Executive Group**

7.1 Sue Hall explained to the Panel the background and rationale for the Commissioner’s Partnership Executive Group which aims to seek holistic, partnership based solutions to complex policing and crime issues.

7.2 The Panel were informed that two specific pieces of work have been initiated so far, one of which is around a joint approach to mental health and the other being a stakeholder planning event on May 10th which will focus on how the objectives within the Police and Crime Plan can be delivered at a time of diminishing resources.

7.3 The Panel expressed a number of concerns about the Partnership Executive Group and so asked that Sue Hall communicate the following recommendations to the Group on their behalf:

* Awareness of the Group to be raised
* Lines of accountability to be clarified
* Objectives of the Group to be refined
* Membership of the Group to be reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose and includes representation from at least one of the Community Safety Partnerships and from the Youth Justice Service
* Level of representation from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to be reduced.

7.4 **RESOLVED:**

7.4.1 That Sue Hall makes the Partnership Executive Group aware of the issues raised by the Panel, as outlined above.

**8. Complaints**

8.1 Clare Elliott confirmed to the Panel that no complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner have yet been submitted.

**9. Independent Audit Committee**

9.1 Trevor Lake, Chair of the Independent Audit Committee, and Judith Heeley, Chief Finance Officer of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, attended for this item.

9.2 Trevor Lake explained to the Panel the background to the establishment of the Joint Independent Audit Committee and the process for the selection of Committee members. The Panel’s attention was drawn to the Committee’s Statement of Purpose and Terms of Reference, forward work-plan and members’ handbook, all of which had been circulated with the Panel’s papers.

9.3 Trevor Lake emphasised to the Panel that the Committee’s role is not to hold the Commissioner or the Chief Constable to account but is instead to provide appropriate assurances to both on the adequacy of their governance, internal control and risk management arrangements.

9.4 The Panel queried whether the Joint Committee would be in a conflicting position should issues arise with either the Commissioner’s or the Chief Constable’s approach to governance or risk management. In response, Trevor Lake assured the Panel that the Committee’s on-going independence and integrity will be of paramount importance and that this integrity will allow officers from both organisations to comfortably report any suspected malpractice should they deem it necessary.

9.5 **RESOLVED:**

9.5.1 That the Joint Independent Audit Committee presents its Annual Report to the Panel meeting in October 2013.

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

**Mark Burns-Williamson, Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire, and Fraser Sampson, Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, were in attendance for Item 10**

**10. Regional and National Collaboration across Forces**

10.1 Mark Burns- Williamson made the Panel aware of the background to collaboration across Police Forces in Yorkshire and Humber and explained that a recent meeting between the region’s Commissioners and Chief Constables indicated a real willingness to progress this collaboration further.

10.2 Mark Burns-Williamson explained that the size of the West Yorkshire Police Force means it is able to meet the conditions within the Strategic Policing Requirement without requiring support from other Forces. However, the Panel was assured that West Yorkshire is still extremely keen to collaborate with other Forces and this is also being promoted by the Home Secretary.

10.3 The Panel was informed that work on an ‘options appraisal’ has been initiated in order to understand how regional collaboration might best be governed and to explore what the cost implications might be.

10.4 Mark Burns-Williamson emphasised that the purpose of collaboration is to both improve operational effectiveness and to realise efficiency savings but it was also stressed that these goals must not be achieved at the expense of the commitments made in each Commissioner’s manifesto.

10.5 In response to questions from the Panel, Mark Burns-Williamson clarified that:

* Regional collaboration is likely progress more quickly under a Commissioner model than was the case with Police Authorities
* There is a distinction between projects initiated in response to the Strategic Policing Requirement and efforts to improve collaboration across the region
* Regional collaboration will help Commissioners to balance national priorities with local demands
* Progress on the National Police Air Service is complex but going well and the Home Office has identified some additional funding to compensate for the risks being taken by West Yorkshire Police

10.6 **RESOLVED**

10.6.1 That the Police and Crime Commissioner provides the Panel with regular updates on his response to the Strategic Policing Requirement and on his approach to collaborating with other forces across the region.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

**11. Forward Agenda Plan 2013**

11.1 The forward agenda plan was noted.

**12. Any Other Business**

12.1 No other business was raised.

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

13.1 The next meeting is scheduled for June 7th, 10:30 – 12:30 pm.

13.2 An additional Panel meeting will be scheduled in May 2013 (as outlined in 5.2)