



Dorset Police and Crime Panel Complaints Sub-Committee

Minutes of a meeting held at Dorset County Council,
County Hall, Dorchester on 30 July 2013.

Present: **Members**

Borough of Poole

Phil Goodall (Vice-Chairman)

Bournemouth Borough Council

John Adams (Chairman)

West Dorset District Council

John Russell

Dorset County Council

Ian Gardner

Officer advisers to the Dorset Police and Crime Panel Complaints Sub-Committee:

Jonathan French, Corporate Policy and Performance Officer (Complaints), Dorset County Council
Fiona King, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Dorset County Council

Apology

12. An apology for absence was received from Iain McVie.

Code of Conduct

13. There were no declarations by members of any disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

Minutes

14. The minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2013 were confirmed and signed.

Noted

Matters Arising

Minute 6.5 – Complaints Monitoring Protocol

15. Prior to the meeting members had received copies of neighbouring Police and Crime Panels complaints protocols and noted the progress forms used in Avon and Somerset and suggested that it might be helpful to produce something similar for Dorset.

Minute 6.6 – Complaints Monitoring Protocol

16. Following discussion members felt that 6.6 (ii) should read 'that the complaints proforma/template be composed and sent to both the PCC's Chief Executive and the complainant to obtain pertinent information to the complaint'.

Exempt Business

Exclusion of the Public

Resolved

17. That in accordance with Section 100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting in relation to the business specified in minutes 18 - 20 because it was likely that if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

Consideration of a Complaint against the Police and Crime Commissioner (Paragraphs 1, 2 and 7)

18.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive, Dorset County Council, which presented a complaint about an alleged failure of the Police and Crime Commissioner to deal with crimes against the complainant.

18.2 The Chairman advised members that the Head of Professional Standards was now looking into the complaint on behalf of the Chief Constable.

18.3 The Sub-Committee considered if the complaint fitted into any of the three areas on which they were able to determine:

- Complaints relating to rudeness by the PCC
- Complaints relating to inappropriate references to people, places or issues by the PCC
- Very minor or spent convictions by the PCC.

18.4 One member commented that the complainant felt that a crime had been committed against him but there was no evidence to substantiate this and it noted it was not the PCC's responsibility to be involved in operational issues.

18.5 Members concluded that the complaint did not fall within any of the 3 categories that they could consider and felt that the PCC had done everything he could have done to help the complainant. He had in fact progressed the matter as far as his responsibility allowed. This now concluded the matter as far as the Committee were concerned.

18.6 The Sub-Committee noted that the PCC had now passed the matter to the Chief Constable and that those investigations were continuing.

Resolved

19. That the Police and Crime Panel's Administrator write to the complainant to advise him of the Sub-Committee's considerations.

Reason for Decision

20. To consider complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner in line with the Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference.

Meeting Duration: 2.00pm – 2.45pm