**Item 2**



**West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Draft Minutes**

**13th June 2025, Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Eileen Taylor - Leeds Council

Councillor Andrew Carter - Leeds Council

Councillor Oliver Edwards - Leeds Council

Councillor Nussrat Mohammed - Bradford Council

Councillor Celia Hickson - Bradford Council

Councillor Chris Hayden - Bradford Council

Councillor Geraldine Carter - Calderdale Council

Councillor Ann Kingstone - Calderdale Council

Councillor Alison Munro - Kirklees Council

Councillor Beverley Addy - Kirklees Council

Councillor Jackie Ferguson - Wakefield Council

Councillor Maureen Cummings - Wakefield Council

Mrs Joanne Sykes - Independent

Mr Trevor Lake - Independent

In attendance

Tracy Brabin - Mayor of West Yorkshire

Alison Lowe - Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Jonathan Pickles - West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Wendy Stevens - West Yorkshire Combined Authority

John Robins - West Yorkshire Police

Sarah Fraser - West Yorkshire Police

Sharon Fraser - Wakefield Council

Fiona Bernardo - Wakefield Council

Rebecca Westerman - Wakefield Council

**1. Appointment of Chair**

* 1. Cllr Eileen Taylor was elected as Chair of the Panel for 2025/26, and Cllr Maureen Cummings was elected as Vice-Chair for the same period.

**2. Police and Crime Panel Membership**

2.1 The membership of the Panel for 2025/26 was noted and Panel endorsed the appointment of the two local authority co-opted Panel members.

2.2 The Chair welcomed the new members on to the Panel.

**3. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Gwen Lowe (Cllr Beverley Addy substituting) and Anthony Smith (Cllr Alison Munro substituting).

**4. To approve, as a correct record and deal with any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 11th April 2025.**

4.1. The Deputy Mayor asked for an amendment to the minutes at 5.7, to reflect the fact that the additional funding requested by her and the Mayor for the CSEA had been granted.

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

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

**6. Members’ Declaration of Interests**

6.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**7. Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct of Business**

7.1 The Panel reviewed the Police and Crime Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct of Business to ensure that they up to date and remain fit for purpose. There were no proposed changes to the Procedures and Protocols at this time.

**7.2 RESOLVED**

**7.2.1** Panel endorsed the existing Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct of Business as set out.

**8. Panel Budget Outcome 2024/25 and Draft Budget 2025/26**

8.1 The Home Office have not yet announced their 2025/26 settlement for Police and Crime Panels, so the item was proposed to be deferred until this is available, which is likely to be July or August of this year. A draft budget will be provided to Panel as soon as possible afterwards.

**9. Performance Monitoring – Q4**

9.1 The Mayor introduced her report and gave an overview of the latest performance statistics. The report informs and supports the Police and Crime Plan’s vision of a Safer, Just and Inclusive West Yorkshire.

9.2 The Mayor was asked to add some context or reassurance around the ethnic discrepancy in Stop and Search statistics, especially for members of the public who may see the statistics in isolation. The Mayor said that the Deputy Mayor has been leading the way in the drive for equity in Stop and Search statistics, receiving regular reports from West Yorkshire Police (WYP), and attending meetings where the strategy is discussed. She believed that the quality of the data in this area has greatly improved, and that a targeted effort born from the Police Race Action Plan, with support from the Command Team, has seen improvements. Positive actions in this area have included an increase in the number of Body Worn Cameras for Stop and Searches, and the attendance of all staff and officers on a two day cultural competence course. Community Outcome Meetings (COM) are held in public, and the public can see the Mayor and Deputy Mayor challenging the Force on these areas, and they both also regularly appear on local radio stations and in-person Question Time sessions to answer questions directly from the public on these, and other issues.

9.3 The Deputy Mayor added that she believed that training courses are helping officers to be aware of unconscious bias and have helped to ensure that attitudes are changing. She acknowledged the longstanding issues, and that cultural change is slow. She confirmed her belief that the Force is taking a proactive and positive approach to the issues, and that progress is being made.

9.4 The Chief Constable added that the figures often reflect the fact that most stop and searches take place in deprived areas of West Yorkshire, many of which have a high proportion of ethnic minority groups within their population. Local communities are supportive of the work to drive down crime within these areas, however he acknowledged the effect on data disproportionality.

9.5 A further question was asked around if and how this is communicated to young people who are being stopped and searched, and who feel that they are targeted. The Mayor spoke about the wider need to build trust and confidence between young ethnic minority groups and the police more widely and asked Panel members to help feed these messages back.

9.6 The Deputy Mayor gave further context around the impact of the Police Race Action Plan, including the Community Alert model which is being rolled out and provides citizens with information about positive initiatives that are happening locally.

9.7 She relayed how WYP use social media and reach out to young people through Youth Advisory Groups and Panels, emails, and videos, as part of the continued communication drive. She assured Panel of her confidence in the ongoing work in this area and that awareness is on the rise. She asked Panel members to share or forward communications as widely as possible to help spread messages.

9.8 Question were asked around the impact of the Mayor’s work on violence against women and girls, given that figures for these crimes are high. The Mayor said that since she had become Mayor, she has expressly targeted work to tackle violence against women and girls. She also said that she felt that an increase in trust and confidence that the police will take action has increased the number of women and girls likely to report crimes in this area. She highlighted her work establishing the first Women’s Safety Unit, the stalking advocacy service, and male behaviour change campaign ‘Just Don’t’, the work on Safer Parks, and the continued rollout of the Pol-Ed programme in schools, which covers healthy relationships and consent. The Mayor was confident that the work was having positive outcomes, and that higher reported crime is one outcome of encouraging victims to come forward.

9.9 The Deputy Mayor described further initiatives which take place in this area; there is the ongoing work within the Violence Reduction Unit, rapid deployment to domestic abuse callouts, new analytical tools, and two day training courses for police officers. In addition, and in response to the last HMICFRS PEEL report, management of domestic abuse investigations has been enhanced. She also noted that in satisfaction surveys, domestic abuse victims consistently rate their experience higher than other groups of victims.

9.10 Further questions were asked around the early release of domestic abuse perpetrators, strategies for tackling different levels of sexual offences, and enhancing safety through street lighting and smart planning decisions.

9.11 The Chief Constable added that WYP have been very successful in getting sexual offence cases accepted by the CPS at first triage, however, there remain frustrations in the legal system around restrictions on charging perpetrators at the scene of a callout.

9.12 A question was asked about consistency of messaging around 101 calls. There has been an increase in 999 calls which has been attributed to people getting ‘fed up’ of waiting for their call to be answered. WYP have responded by adding a recorded message, highlighting online reporting as an option. This has reduced waiting times and increased online reporting. The Deputy Mayor acknowledged that victims can get frustrated with a perceived lack of communication from case officers, which is attributed to the high numbers of officer caseloads. She spoke about a new online innovation called ‘Track My Crime’ which will enable victims to check the progress of their case online and alleviate this issue from both the victim and the case officers perspective.

9.13 The Mayor was asked if she could assure Panel of progress around serious violence and knife crime. She assured Panel that serious violence is a priority in the Police and Crime Plan and is being addressed through the Violence Reduction Partnership.

9.14 Panel questioned the Mayor around the satisfaction and confidence of residents in the police. The Mayor told Panel that the new Your Views survey had been commissioned and was due to begin interviews in July. She added that they were likely to take a slightly different approach with this survey to broaden the views captured and make the results more reflective of communities in West Yorkshire. The Deputy Mayor highlighted the Community Concerns newsletter which is also used to capture views and could be available in different formats if requested.

9.14 Panel asked the Mayor to give her view on the recent spending review and its potential effect on policing. The Mayor stated that there had been a real terms increase in funding for policing, which she felt reflected the government’s commitment and would improve innovation and technology.

**9.15 RESOLVED**

**9.15.1** Panel noted the report.

**10. Published Key Decisions**

10.1 The Deputy Mayor was asked if she could share the name of the company who have secured the contract to run the new Your Views survey. She replied that she would be able to do so when the contract begins, which is likely to be late summer or early autumn.

**10.2 RESOLVED**

10.2.1 The Deputy Mayor’s office to provide details of the company who have secured the contract for the Your Views survey when appropriate to do so.

**11. Mayor’s Response to any current issues**

11.1 The Mayor shared information around the upcoming consultation on serious crime.

11.2 The Deputy Mayor has recently met with neighbourhood policing teams and community leaders to focus on town centres. Plans have been developed for a ‘Summer Surge’ to increase police visibility in the coming months.

11.3 The Mayor fed back on a successful event focusing on Violence Against Women and Girls, convened by the Combined Authority. The event included people with lived experience of sexual violence. The Deputy Mayor was invited to speak about the subject at the Home Office Select Committee.

11.4 The Deputy Mayor was asked if she believed that the funding announced for the Safer Communities commitment referenced in the recent Spring Statement would sufficiently cover the cost of the programme. She replied that the previous commitment of £8.5m to fund additional 100 front line police officers and special constables, separate to the CSR, has happened, and that benefits have already been seen in terms of new proactive policing campaigns such as a recent initiative against cuckooing in Halifax. She also confirmed that the funding was in place for the Summer Surge. She acknowledged the continued challenge of the financial deficit and debt within WYP (and other Forces) and has spoken to the Home Secretary and the Chancellor about this. She expressed her view that she would have liked the uplift from the June Spending Review to have been higher than 2.3%, however, current financial challenges have their roots in long-term underfunding of police forces.

11.5 The Mayor was asked if she had had an opportunity to discuss with the Force the current trend to inhale nitrous oxide prior to or during driving, and whether there had been any significant behaviour change following an education programme in Bradford on this. The Deputy Mayor said she hoped it has had a positive impact but that the sample size was too small to obtain any robust feedback on it. She spoke about ongoing educational and preventative work around drug use which her office undertake in partnership with WYP, local authorities and health services. The Chief Constable reminded Panel that members of the public can submit dashcam footage if they witness dangerous driving behaviours.

11.6 The Deputy Mayor was asked if she could share the neighbourhood policing structure when further detail of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee is released. For clarity, the Mayor’s Office confirmed that the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee is a long-term government strategy, of which the Summer Surge is just one part. Headline numbers and structures in different areas of West Yorkshire can be given; however, the Chief Constable was clear that deployment of officers is always subject to change based on the Force’s Threat, Harm and Risk strategy. The Chief Constable also wanted to note, for transparency, that if the Force’s financial situation continues as it is, then PCSO numbers will have to be reduced in future.

**12. Agreed Actions Log**

12.1 A question was asked about whether the Mayor was on track to keep her precept commitment around PCSOs. The Deputy Mayor said that this was in the Forward Plan and due to be reported on in November along with the Mid Term Financial Forecast.

**13. Forward Agenda Plan**

13.1 Panel noted that a report on progress with the Force’s IDM system is yet to be added for later in the year.

**13.2 RESOLVED**

13.2.1 A report on progress with the Force’s IDM to be timetabled for later in 2025.

**14. Complaints Received by the Panel**

14.1 The update report was noted.

**15. Any Other Business**

15.1 The Mayor was asked if she was aware or had been involved in any work to support victims of domestic abuse where their right to remain in the UK is conditional on their marriage. The Mayor said that she has visited women in this situation and would look to see if she could support the issue.

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

16.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 10.00am on Friday, 12th September 2025 in the Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield.