

MINUTES

Meeting: Police and Crime Committee
Date: Thursday 9 February 2017
Time: 10.00 am
Place: Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA

Copies of the minutes may be found at:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/police-and-crime-committee>

Present:

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman)
Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair)
Tony Arbour AM
Sian Berry AM
Andrew Dismore AM
Len Duvall AM
Florence Eshalomi AM
Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Keith Prince AM
Peter Whittle AM

1 Apologies for Absence and Chairman's Announcements (Item 1)

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Kemi Badenoch AM, for whom Tony Arbour AM attended as a substitute.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

2.1 Resolved:

That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Agenda Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.

3 Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 Resolved:

That the minutes of the Police and Crime Committee meeting held on 12 January 2017 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 Summary List of Actions (Item 4)

4.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

4.2 Resolved:

That the completed and ongoing actions arising from the previous meetings of the Committee, as listed in the report, be noted.

5 Action Taken Under Delegated Authority (Item 5)

5.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

5.2 Resolved:

That the recent action taken by the Chairman, Steve O'Connell AM, under delegated authority, following consultation with the party Group Lead Members, namely to agree the scope for the Committee's scrutiny on the role of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Metropolitan Police Service in tackling allegations of electoral fraud and malpractice, be noted.

6 Response to the Committee's Letter on Preventing Extremism (Item 6)

6.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

6.2 **Resolved:**

That the response from the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to the Committee's letter on preventing extremism, be noted.

7 Tackling Allegations of Electoral Fraud and Malpractice (Item 7)

7.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat, as background to putting questions to invited guests on tackling allegations of electoral fraud and malpractice in London.

7.2 The Chairman welcomed the following guests to part one of the session, which focussed on the role of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), the Electoral Commission and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in tackling allegations of electoral fraud and malpractice:

- Detective Inspector Gail Granville, Special Enquiry Team, MPS;
- Commander Stuart Cundy, Special Enquiry Team, MPS;
- Nick Vamos, Head of Special Crime, CPS;
- Claire Bassett, Chief Executive, Electoral Commission; and
- Robin Merrett, Head of Operational Oversight Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).

7.3 In advance of the meeting, Councillor Peter Golds CBE (an invited guest for the second part of the discussion) had provided the Committee with a letter, which was provided to the other guests and referred to during the discussion. The letter is attached at **Appendix 1**.

7.4 A transcript of the discussion is attached at **Appendix 2**.

7.5 During the course of the first discussion, the Head of Operational Oversight, MOPAC agreed to provide:

- Confirmation about whether the answers provided to MOPAC by the MPS (as attached to the agenda to this meeting) were interrogated following receipt.

7.6 During the course of the first discussion, the Chief Executive, Electoral Commission, agreed to provide:

- A breakdown of electoral fraud cases by type for London and the UK over the last

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three years; and

- The materials used for training Police Officers at the annual single point of contact seminar and the biennial roundtable.

7.7 Following a suggestion, the Chief Executive, Electoral Commission, also agreed when the Electoral Commission's guidance is reviewed to look into the issue of Police Officers wearing body-worn cameras when they are on duty outside a polling station.

7.8 During the course of the first discussion, Commander Cundy, Special Enquiry Team, MPS agreed to provide the email trail between the MPS and MOPAC regarding the information set out in Appendix A of the letter from the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, which had been appended to the Committee's report.

7.9 During the course of the discussion, DI Granville, Special Enquiry Team, MPS, agreed to provide the training presentation provided to Borough Commanders on election issues.

7.10 Part two of the session focussed on how MOPAC and the MPS addressed allegations of electoral fraud and malpractice during the 2014 Mayoral election in Tower Hamlets, and the following guests joined the panel:

- Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM, Tower Hamlets Commissioner;
- Mayor John Biggs, Tower Hamlets Executive Mayor;
- Councillor Peter Golds CBE, Tower Hamlets; and
- Francis Hoar, Barrister, Field Court Chambers.

7.11 A transcript of the discussion is attached at **Appendix 3**.

7.12 During the course of the second discussion, Commander Cundy, Special Enquiry Team, MPS agreed to provide:

- Data on the number of witnesses whom the MPS had interviewed in 2014 in relation to the 2014 election in Tower Hamlets; and
- The number of statements that the MPS took in relation to the 2015 election in Tower Hamlets.

7.13 During the course of the discussion, Commander Cundy, Special Enquiry Team, MPS, also agreed to meet with Mr Golds and other potential witnesses.

7.14 During the course of the discussion, Nick Vamos, the Head of Special Crime, CPS, agreed to check what had happened to the 27 files relating to the allegations of election fraud and malpractice in Tower Hamlets, which had been passed to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

7.15 During the course of the second discussion, the Head of Operational Oversight, MOPAC, agreed to provide confirmation of whether meetings between the former Deputy Mayor for

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Policing and Crime and Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis concerning the allegations of election fraud and malpractice in Tower Hamlets had been minuted, and if so, the Committee requested that he provide those minutes.

7.16 At the end of the discussion, the Chairman thanked the guests for their attendance and very helpful contributions.

7.17 **Resolved:**

(a) That the report and discussion be noted; and

(b) That the Chairman writes to guests requesting the follow-up information as outlined in paragraphs 7.5 to 7.9 and 7.12 to 7.15 above.

8 Police and Crime Committee Work Programme (Item 8)

8.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

8.2 **Resolved:**

That the work programme as set out in the report be noted.

9 Date of Next Meeting (Item 9)

9.1 The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 23 February 2017 at 10am in the Chamber, City Hall.

10 Any Other Business the Chairman Considers Urgent (Item 10)

10.1 There was no other business the Chairman considered urgent.

11 Close of Meeting

11.1 The meeting ended at 1.35pm.

Chairman

Date

Contact Officer: Joanna Brown or Teresa Young; Telephone: 020 7983 6559; Email: joanna.brown@london.gov.uk/teresa.young@london.gov.uk; Minicom: 020 7983 4458