

# Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

20 June 2014

## Police and Crime Panel



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## Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

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### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with progress of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) for the Durham Constabulary Force area.

### Background

2. This report builds upon information previously presented to the Committee and the aim of this report is to provide an update to Members in relation to the Panel's Membership and Chief of Staff Confirmation hearing held on the 22 April 2014.

### Detail

3. ***PCP Meeting 22 April 2014***  
The purpose of this meeting was in accordance with the Police, Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to hold a confirmation hearing for the Commissioner's proposed candidate, Mr Alan Reiss for the role of his Chief of Staff.
4. Following responses to detailed questions by the Panel to the Commissioner and Mr Reiss, the panel was reassured that:
  - A thorough recruitment and selection process had been undertaken to assess the professional expertise of candidates;
  - The role of Chief Officer will add value to the strategic leadership of your office, delivery of policies and priorities and engagement with all key stakeholders;
  - With regard to professional competence and personal independence, Mr Reiss demonstrated an excellent understanding and experience of policy development, financial management, leadership, political integrity and working with partnerships and agencies.
5. On the basis of information provided within the Commissioner's report and responses to Members questions, the Panel was able to recommend approval for the appointment of Mr Reiss to the post of Chief of Staff.

6. **Panel Membership 2014/15**

Hosted by Durham County Council, the PCP's membership consists of 10 elected Members (Durham County Council 7 and Darlington Borough Council 3 Members) and 2 co-opted independent members. The following are Members of the PCP for 2014/15:

- **Durham County Council** - Councillors J Armstrong, D Boyes, P Brookes, S Forster, L Hovvels, D Stoker and A Willis
- **Darlington Borough Council** - Councillors S Harker, I Haszeldine and B Jones
- **Co-opted Independent Members** - K Larkin-Bramley and N Vaulks

7. The next steps for the Panel is to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair, agree its work programme for 2014/15 and consider the PCC's Annual report at its meeting in June 2014.

**Recommendation**

8. Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within the report and comment accordingly.

**Background Papers**

*Proposed Appointment of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Chief Executive(Chief of Staff) - Durham Police and Crime Panel 22 April 2014*

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance** – the report contains information following the Panel’s consideration of the PCC precept for 2014/15.

**Staffing – None**

**Risk - None**

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None**

**Accommodation - None**

**Crime and Disorder** – information contained within this report is linked to Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan and establishment of a Police and Crime Panel to scrutinise the elected Police and Crime Commissioner.

**Human Rights – None**

**Consultation – None**

**Procurement – None**

**Disability Issues – None**

**Legal Implications** –the Panel’s responsibilities within the Police, Reform and Social Responsibility Act is referenced within the report