



Durham Police and Crime Panel

5 January 2017

Appointment of Independent Co-opted Members

Report of Colette Longbottom, Monitoring Officer

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval on the appointment of two independent co-opted Members to the Panel.

Background

- 2 There is requirement under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 for the Panel to have two non-political independent members. The appointment of the two independent members provides the opportunity for the Panel, by carefully selecting individuals to complement the councillors nominated to the Panel, to satisfy the 'balanced appointment objective'. This requires the Panel to have a membership, which when considered collectively, would be geographically and politically representative, would include the necessary experience, knowledge and skills to be effective.
- 3 Independent co-optees are full voting members of the Panel, and therefore have the same responsibilities and duties, and access to the same level of support as elected members on the Panel.
- 4 Following an advertisement in the press inviting applications, prospective candidates were interviewed, and two co-opted Members were appointed. Constituent authorities agreed that the independent members would be appointed for a period from 1 November 2014 to 30 April 2017. The two independent members are Mr N J H Cooke, and Mr D K G Dodwell.
- 5 It is for the Panel to determine whether to extend their contracts further, and if so for how long, or whether to place an advertisement in the local press and seek new applications. There is nothing in the Panel arrangements or in guidance to indicate that existing members could not be re-appointed.
- 6 If the Panel was minded to seek new applications the process would need to meet the following requirements, which are set out in the Panel arrangements:-

- The selection process should include a reasonable period of advertising for the positions, with a closing date of at least 2 weeks' notice from date the advertisement was first placed.
- Information packs be prepared and sent to those requesting application forms.
- The applications will be considered against agreed eligibility criteria written to achieve the balanced appointment objective.
- Any Appointment Panel agreed by the Panel to make the appointment would comprise at least one member of each of the constituent authorities.
- Following the interviews, the Chairman and Vice- Chairman will make recommendations to the Panel about membership.

Term of Office

- 7 Whether the Panel agree to re-appoint the existing two independent members or undertake new appointments, it is suggested that the members be appointed for a two year term expiring 30 April 2019. This would refresh the co-opted members mid-term of the four year term of office of the elected members from one of the constituent authorities. By undertaking the process at a different time to the elected member appointment of one of the authorities, the co-opted members together with the representation of the other constituent authority members would provide continuity on the Panel.
- 8 It is further suggested that following this term, appointments are made to the Panel every four years.

Recommendation

- 9 The Panel either:-
- (i) Extend the appointment of the two independent co-opted Members to the Panel, and if so, determine the period of extension, with a suggestion that this expire on 30 April 2019, following which new appointments be made to the Panel on a four yearly basis,
- OR:-
- (ii) Agree to make two new appointments to the Panel for a period until 30 April 2019, following which new appointments be made to the Panel on a four yearly basis. The requirements for appointment be as set out in paragraph 6 above together with:-
- appointing a selection panel comprising of 5 members, which would comprise of at least one member from each constituent authority, and one member as a reserve;
 - delegated authority be given to the Director of Transformation and Partnerships, and Head of Legal and Democratic Services in

consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Panel to agree the advertising arrangements, eligibility criteria, and drawing up a short-list of candidates;

- following interview the Chairman and Vice- Chairman would make recommendations for appointment to the Police and Crime Panel.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Costs associated with undertaking potential recruitment exercise.

Staffing – None specific in this report

Risk – None specific in this report

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – Potential recruitment process to be carried out in accordance with the Council's recruitment procedure.

Accommodation - None specific in this report

Crime and Disorder - None specific in this report

Human Rights - None specific in this report

Consultation – None specific in this report

Procurement - None specific in this report

Disability Issues – Potential Recruitment process to be carried out in accordance with the Council's recruitment procedure.

Legal Implications – None specific in this report