

REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP –INDEPENDENT CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Panel's independent co-opted membership.

Information and Advice

2. Each Police and Crime Panel is required to co-opt at least two independent members.
3. As part of the initial establishment of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel, it was previously agreed that appointments should be sought from local magistrates and Nottinghamshire Probation Trust as a means of bringing in relevant knowledge from those areas. The two independent co-optees in question (Suma Harding and Christine Goldstraw OBE respectively) were initially appointed in December 2012.
4. With Secretary of State agreement, the Panel thereafter co-opted an additional two independent members (Bob Vaughan-Newton and Rizwan Araf) in October 2013 in order to capture a more diverse range of skills and experience.
5. As a means of retaining the existing knowledge, to ensure greater continuity of membership (in light of the various changes to the elected member representation) and to help the Panel's membership reflect the communities it serves, it was agreed in June 2015 to extend the co-option of all four independent co-optees for a further two years to June 2017.
6. It should be noted that one of the independent co-optees, Christine Goldstraw OBE, has also subsequently been elected as the Chair of the Panel.
7. The Panel Arrangements state:-

Independent members will be appointed for a term of 2 years. There will be no restriction on the overall time period that an independent member can serve on the Panel.

8. The views of elected Panel Members on this issue have been sought and the majority have responded. These responses have underlined an appreciation for the skills and experience which the existing independent co-optees bring to the Panel and general support for extending the terms of office of all four existing independent co-optees for a further two years.
9. In order to assist with succession planning and to give a staggered approach to future recruitment and induction, it is proposed:-

- a) that all four independent co-optees be offered an initial further two year term of office up to May 2019;
- b) that the issue be considered again by the Panel in April 2018, with a view to:-
 - i) ceasing the membership of two of the four current independent co-optees from May 2019;
 - ii) extending the membership of the other two independent co-optees to May 2020;
 - iii) starting the process to recruit four new independent co-optees, with a view to two new independent co-optees taking up office from June 2019 and two more taking up office from June 2020.

Other Options Considered

- 10. The Panel could decide to seek to replace one or more of the independent co-optees at this point but that would result in the loss of skills and experience which elected Members have indicated brings value to the work of the Panel.
- 11. The Panel could decide to reduce the number of independent co-optees to the legal minimum of two. However, the Secretary of State has previously approved this increase in independent co-optees, on the basis that this helped to meet the Panel's balanced membership objectives and optimised the Panel's overall range of skills, experience and perspectives.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

- 12. To enable Members to consider the Panel's independent co-opted membership.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the Panel agrees:-
 - a) to offer each of the four current independent co-optees a further two year term of office up to May 2019;
 - b) to consider this issue again in April 2018 with a view to:-
 - i) ceasing the membership of two of the four current independent co-optees from May 2019;
 - ii) extending the membership of the other two independent co-optees to May 2020;
 - iii) starting the process to recruit four new independent co-optees, with two taking up office from June 2019 and two more taking up office from June 2020.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- 1) Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (published)
- 2) Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel's Panel Arrangements (published)
- 3) Minutes of the Police and Crime Panel meetings of 24 June 2013, 30 October 2013, 16 December 2013 and 15 June 2015.

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