

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Purpose of the Report

1. To enable the Panel to review this proposed senior appointment by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Information and Advice

Background

2. Schedule 1 of The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires Police and Crime Panels to hold confirmation hearings for Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed appointments to the posts of Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.
3. After taking up office on 22 November 2012, the Police and Crime Commissioner has subsequently notified the Host Authority (Nottinghamshire County Council) of his proposal to appoint Chris Cutland to the post of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. As a result, the Panel must now review this proposed senior appointment via a confirmation hearing.
4. The Commissioner's formal notification of the proposed appointment will be circulated to Members and published on Nottinghamshire County Council's website once received. This will include details of the criteria used to assess suitability for the post; how the candidate meets those criteria; and the terms and conditions on which the candidate is to be appointed.

Process

5. The confirmation hearing should be held in public, with the proposed appointee requested to attend to answer questions.
6. In line with guidance from the Local Government Association and Centre for Public Scrutiny, the focus of questioning from the Panel should be limited to issues of **professional competence** and **personal independence**. These are the standards that have been adopted in similar hearings held in the House of Commons.
7. This guidance also recommends that the Panel's decision-making should take place in closed session rather than in public.
8. Following the decision-making, the Panel must make a report, including a recommendation as to whether or not the appointment should be made. A recommendation that an appointment is not made is different to a veto and the

Police and Crime Commissioner could choose to ignore any such recommendation (with regard to appointments, the Panel only has power of veto over the appointment of a Chief Constable).

9. In response to the Panel's report, the Police and Crime Commissioner must then notify the Panel whether they will accept or reject the Panel's recommendation. There is no duty for the PCC to give reasons for their decision.

Other Options Considered

10. None – the Panel is required to hold a confirmation hearing for any senior appointment made by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Reasons for Recommendation/s

11. To enable the appointment of the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner to be considered by the Panel in line with the confirmation process.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Panel review the proposed appointment of Chris Cutland to the post of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and make a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- 1) Report to Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel 19 October 2012 – 'Rules of Procedure' and the minutes of that meeting (published).
- 2) 'Police and crime panels – Guidance on confirmation hearings' – Local Government Association and Centre for Public Scrutiny (published).

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