

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, was subsequently 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. Following consideration of this issue at the meeting of 24 April 2017, the Panel agreed:-
 - a) That each of the four current independent co-optees be offered a further two year term of office up to May 2019;
 - b) That the issue be considered 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 independent co-optees, with two successful candidates taking up office from June 2019 and two more successful candidates taking up office from June 2020, and with the incumbents being given an opportunity to reapply as part of this process.
- 9. The four Independent Co-Opted Members have been approached to clarify their intentions in this respect.
- 10. Christine Goldstraw, Suma Harding and Bob-Vaughan-Newton have all expressed an interest in staying on until May 2020 and a willingness to apply again as part of any subsequent recruitment round should their terms of office cease in May 2019 or May 2020. Rizwan Araf has confirmed that he would be happy for his terms of office to cease in either May 2019 or May 2020 and does not intend to re-apply.
- 11. The Panel are asked to confirm the proposed approach agreed in April 2017 and clarify at which point the terms of office of the present incumbents should cease (i.e. May 2019 or May 2020).

Other Options Considered

- 12. 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 the Panel's increase in independent co-optees, on the basis that this helped to meet the balanced membership objectives and optimised the Panel's overall range of skills, experience and perspectives.
- 13. Since agreeing the proposed approach in April 2017, the Panel has subsequently reduced the number of elected Members. However that decision is still open to review and the number of elected Members could increase as a result of changes in political balance in the future.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:-

- 1. Confirms the proposed approach agreed in April 2017 as detailed in paragraph 8 above.
- 2. Decides at what point the terms of office of the four current Independent Co-Opted Members should cease.

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, 15 June 2015 and 24 April 2017.

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