

## **INDEPENDENT CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider whether to extend the terms of office of the existing Independent Co-opted Members or undertake a recruitment process.

### **Information and Advice**

2. Following an open and comprehensive recruitment process, the Police and Crime Panel on 3 June 2019 appointed Lesley Darby and re-appointed Christine Goldstraw, Suma Harding and Bob Vaughan-Newton as Independent Co-Opted Members for the period up to the 31 May 2021. At that meeting, the Panel also agreed to receive a report in late 2020 to enable consideration of any reappointments / recruitment at that future point.
3. The Panel Arrangements state the following about such appointments:-

*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.*

For clarification, this does not mean that the recruitment process takes place every 2 years. It is for the Panel to decide how often the recruitment process is undertaken.

### **Possible Options**

#### **Option A – extend the terms of office of the existing Independent Co-opted Members**

4. All four of the existing Independent Co-opted Members remain fully-engaged and active in the work of the Panel (both locally and at a national level).
5. Unlike in 2019, all four Members have also indicated a willingness to remain involved with the Panel after their current end date of 31 May 2021.
6. It is recognised that three of these Members have been involved with the Panel for a number of years. Due to the high turnover in elected Members on the Panel, this has brought the added benefit of offering a degree of continuity not otherwise possible. These Members have also been able to develop and share their knowledge and expertise in relevant areas, as well as sharing best practice with newly appointed Members.
7. Should reappointment be the Panel's preferred option, the Panel will need to decide whether to opt for a one or two year term of office. Members may feel that there are benefits in extending for a one year period at this stage to enable

recruitment to be undertaken in a year in which there are no local elections (2022).

#### Option B – start a recruitment process

8. As in 2018, the Panel could choose to start an open recruitment process for up to 4 Independent Co-opted Members.
9. The Panel could also choose to offer the existing Independent Co-opted Members the opportunity to apply again as part of that process.
10. Members may feel that the advantages of potentially being able to bring in new Members at this stage is outweighed by:-
  - possible issues faced in recruiting during the ongoing lockdown restrictions and;
  - the fact that the forthcoming Nottinghamshire County Council election in May 2021 could result in further changes in elected Member representation on the Panel (with further co-options possibly necessary to achieve political balance across the whole of the Panel area) which again could result in further issues in continuity of membership.

#### **Other Options Considered**

11. None - the existing terms of office are due to expire on 31 May 2021 and therefore if the Panel does decide to go out to recruit, then consideration at this stage would leave sufficient time to undertake the recruitment process.

#### **Reason for Recommendation**

12. To enable timely Panel consideration of the possible options at this stage.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Panel considers which Option (A or B) detailed above it wishes the support officers to implement.

#### 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) Reports to the Police and Crime Panel meetings of 24 June 2013, 30 October 2013, 16 December 2013, 15 June 2015, 24 April 2017, 23 April 2018, 7 February 2019 and 3 June 2019 and the minutes of those meetings.

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Pete Barker / Keith Ford, Democratic Services, Nottinghamshire County Council  
Tel: 0115 977 2590 / 0115 977 4416 E-mail: [keith.ford@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:keith.ford@nottscc.gov.uk) / [peter.barker@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:peter.barker@nottscc.gov.uk)