

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 31st July 2012

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

(Appendix 'A') refers

Contact for further information: Mike Neville 01772 533431, Office of the Chief Executive mike.neville@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report sets out required arrangements for the appointment of two independent members of the Panel.

Recommendation

The Panel is asked to consider the report and agree arrangements for the appointment of two co-opted independent members, including the establishment of a Selection Panel.

Background and Advice

Process for identifying and appointing co-optees.

As reported elsewhere on the agenda it is a requirement that the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire will have to appoint and co-opt on to the Panel two independent persons.

The Local Government Association has produced guidance on how Police and Crime Panels should go about appointing independent co-opted members, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 'A' to this report. Once appointed the two co-opted Independent persons will have equal voting rights, and will be appointed for a 12 month term.

The current membership of the Panel has been determined in accordance with the 'balanced appointment objective' and as such is intended to reflect the geographical and political makeup of the Lancashire Police area. The Panel as a whole should also have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Police and Crime Panel to discharge its functions effectively.

Whilst membership of the Panel is considered to comprise the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to be effective, as the guidance points out the appointment an additional two independent co-opted persons presents an

opportunity to consider any potential gaps in terms of the experience, knowledge and skills represented such as

- The age range of existing Panel members
- The male/female ratio
- Faith and ethnic groups
- Sexuality

The previously approved Panel Arrangements, as referred to at item , and as set out at Appendix ' ', set out the process for the appointment of the two Independent Persons. This provides for a small Selection Panel, comprising the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and 3 other members of the Panel to meet to consider applications and interview candidates, in accordance with the 'balanced appointment objective'. It will then be necessary to advertise the vacancies and seek nominations in accordance with statutory requirements and as identified in the Panel arrangements with the Lead Authority undertaking this process. Suggested wording for use in advertisements, the personal specification and application form are also included in the Guidance at Appendix 'A'.

The Guidance confirms that traditional paid for adverts in newspapers are not required and opportunities should be taken to secure 'free' advertising through press releases, existing local authority and police websites and publications and existing mailings to parish/town councils and to voluntary organisations. Using a broad range of media should help maximise the likelihood of securing a strong and diverse field of suitable candidates.

The assessment of candidates will depend on the experience, knowledge and skills comprised in the Panel and what would best complement the existing Panel membership. Candidates wishing to be independent co-opted members should not be assessed against their personal political interests.

The Selection Panel should seek to agree a balanced shortlist to ensure that a representative range of social groups are included, particularly in relation to minority ethnic communities, women, people with disabilities and young people.

Interviews will be undertaken by the Selection Panel who , will then make a recommendation to the Police and Crime Panel in October for consideration and a final decision. The successful candidates will then be informed of the decision and invited to attend the subsequent meeting of the Panel for formal appointment.

The Panel is asked to consider and agree the arrangements proposed for the appointment of the two Independent Persons.

Consultations

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The provision of an independent Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire is in accordance with the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
LGA Guidance on appointing Independent co-opted members	April 2012	M Neville, Office of the Chief executive 01772 533431
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		