

Police and Crime Panel

Meeting to be held on 17th December 2012

Confirmation Hearing for the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire.

(Appendix 'A' Refers)

Contact for information: Roy Jones 01772 5336199, Office of the Chief Executive
roy.jones@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report sets out the arrangements and process for the holding of a confirmation hearing in relation to the appointment of a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire

Recommendation

The Panel is asked to make a recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) as to whether or not the candidate for the position of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC) should be appointed.

Background and Advice

Mr C Grunshaw, the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire attended the Police and Crime Panel on the 26th November 2012 and addressed the meeting with regard to his role and priorities for policing in the future.

At the meeting Mr Grunshaw also informed the Panel of his intention to appoint Mr I Master as the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and it was agreed that a confirmation hearing in respect of the appointment would be held at the next scheduled meeting of the Panel on the 17th December 2012.

Process for a confirmation hearing

1. On the 30th November the PCC wrote to the Chair of the PCP to formally give notice of his intention to appoint Mr Master as DPCC. Enclosed with the notification were details of the criteria used to assess his suitability, why the candidate satisfied those criteria, and the terms and conditions on which he is to be appointed. In addition Mr Master has provided a personal statement and a declaration of eligibility for the position of DPCC.

Copies of all the relevant documents are set out in Appendix 'A'.

2. The Panel has until the 21st December 2012 to review the proposed appointment by holding a confirmation hearing and as agreed at the last

meeting such a hearing will be held on the 17th December. The purpose of the confirmation hearing is to enable the candidate to appear before the Panel to answer questions relating to the appointment.

3. The Chair will write to Mr Master to formally invite him to attend the confirmation hearing and will provide him with details regarding the arrangements for the hearing.
4. At the hearing attention will focus on assessing Mr Master's suitability for the role of DPCC as measured against the principles of professional competence (a candidate's ability to carry out the role) and personal independence (the need for the candidate to act in a manner which is operationally independent of the PCC). If this is to be a political appointment to assist the PCC to drive their vision and priorities, consideration of their independence will be different to that of other chief officer appointments. However, the DPCC will need to understand the separation of political and operational responsibilities for policing.
5. Members of the Panel may put questions to Mr Master at the hearing in order to assess whether he:-
 - has relevant knowledge, skills and experience to enable them to carry out that role;
 - has the personal independence to exercise the role as set out in the role profile;
 - has the time and capacity to carry out the position.
6. As soon as possible after the hearing the Panel must make a report and recommendation to the PCC as to whether or not Mr Master should be appointed. The report must be published in a manner which is considered appropriate and the Chair of the Panel will inform the PCC in writing of the Panel's views on Mr Master's suitability for the post and the recommendation as to whether or not he candidate should be appointed.
7. The PCC may choose to accept or reject the Panel's recommendation as to whether or not Mr Master should be appointed and must notify the Panel of his decision, though he is not required to give reasons for the decision.

Legal Implications

These are included in the report.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation set out.

Consultations

Report prepared by the Secretariat for the PCP in consultation with officers from the Office of the PCC.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The holding of a confirmation hearing is in accordance with the provisions of the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Letter and enclosures received from the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the intention to appoint a DPCC	30 th November 2012	Christine Durber, Lancashire Police Authority 01772 533415

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate
N/A