

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

Date of Meeting: 19 July 2024

Report of: Brian Reed, Head Democratic Services and Governance, Cheshire East Council

Subject: Confirmation Hearing for the proposed appointment of a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

1. Report Summary

1.1 This report sets out the Panel's responsibility for reviewing and reporting to the Police and Crime Commissioner on his proposed appointment of a Deputy Commissioner.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Panel receives this report and conducts a Confirmation Hearing within the statutory framework relating to the proposed appointment.

3. Background information

3.1 The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 specifies that the Police and Crime Commissioner for a Police area may appoint a Deputy Commissioner. In such cases the Commissioner must provide the Panel with the following information:

- The name of the person whom the Commissioner is proposing to appoint ("the candidate");
- The criteria used to assess the suitability of the candidate for the appointment.
- Why the candidate satisfies those criteria; and
- The terms and conditions on which the candidate is to be appointed.

- 3.2 The Commissioner has notified the Panel that he wishes to appoint Gemma Southern and Jane Whalen to a job share position as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. A copy of the letter received from the Commissioner is attached as Appendix I. The information detailed in paragraph 3.1 has been provided. In addition, the Commissioner has provided the Panel's Secretariat with a copy of the Management Decision that he made in relation to the appointment of a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner on a job share basis, this includes a legal opinion, supported by Home Office lawyers, that such an appointment can be made on a job share basis. Cheshire East Council's Head of Legal Services (the Panel's legal advisor) concurs with this advice.
- 3.3 When a Police and Crime Panel is notified of such a proposed appointment it is required, within three weeks, to review the proposed appointment at a Confirmation Hearing and to then make a report to the Commissioner.
- 3.4 A copy of the Local Government Association publication "Police and Crime Panels – Guidance on Confirmation Hearings" is attached for reference as Appendix II.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications to this report.

5. Equality implications

- 5.1 There are no specific equality implications to this report.

6. Contact information

Name:	Martin Smith
Designation:	Registration and Civic Services Manager
Local Authority:	Cheshire East Council
Telephone:	07596 064905
Email:	martin.r.smith@cheshire.gov.uk