

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

Date of Meeting: 20 June 2025

Report of: Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services, Host Authority

Subject: Appointment of an Independent Member to the Police and Crime Panel

1.1 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report asks the Panel to consider how it wishes to proceed when the three-year term of office of Mrs Gemma Shepherd – Etchells, as an independent co-opted member of the Panel, comes to an end on 30th September 2025.

2. Recommendation

Recommended:

- 2.1 That in line with the provisions of the Panel's Procedure Rules, a Recruitment Panel is established in order to determine whether reappointment should be offered, or a full recruitment process should be carried out.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Mrs Shepherd – Etchells has served one term on the Panel. She was appointed following a rigorous recruitment process and her term of office expires on 30 September 2025. For the last two years she has served as Chair of the Panel's Complaints Management Sub Committee. She has an excellent attendance record at both formal and informal Panel meetings.

- 3.2 The Panel's Procedure Rules as adopted in June 2022 state that:

When the appointment period for an independent member expires, a Recruitment Panel will be established in order to determine whether reappointment should be offered, or a full recruitment process should be carried out, except in the case of the expiry of the second term of office of an

independent member, at which time a full recruitment process must be carried out.

- 3.3 Recruitment Panels, when created in the past, have normally comprised five members, with an initial (and possibly the only) meeting taking place on Microsoft Teams.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications other than the payment of allowances, which would apply, irrespective of whatever decision is made by the Panel regarding the filling of the position of independent co-opted member of the Police and Crime Panel.

5. Equality implications

- 5.1 There are no specific equality implications related in respect of this issue, but the Panel may wish to consider the overall gender balance, age and ethnicity of current Panel members when determining the most appropriate way forward.

6. Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:

Name:	Brian Reed
Designation:	Head of Democratic Services
Local Authority:	Cheshire East Council
Email:	brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk

