

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

Meeting of a Recruitment Panel established to consider the appointment of Independent Members to the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel, held at Municipal Buildings, Crewe, Friday 30th June 2017

Present: Cllr Andrew Dawson, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Amanda King, Warrington Borough Council
Eric Hodgson, former Independent member of the Panel

Officer: Martin Smith, Civic and Administration Manager, Cheshire East Council

The Recruitment Panel which had been established on 3 February 2017 had been tasked with making recommendations to the Police and Crime Panel over the appointment of Independent Members.

Information about a vacancy for an independent Member of the Police and Crime Panel had been widely circulated across Cheshire earlier in the year. In total seven people had expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Panel. Careful consideration of applications by the Recruitment Panel had narrowed this down to four individuals, all of whom were invited to Crewe for a discussion with the Recruitment Panel.

Four individuals were seen by the Panel and following a discussion with each individual the Panel concluded that all candidates could make a positive contribution to the work of the Police and Crime Panel, and had the skills and personal qualities to be effective members of the Panel. All demonstrated an understanding of the work of the Panel and its relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Recruitment Panel concluded that it would recommend to the Police and Crime Panel that, subject to the receipt of a satisfactory reference, Mr Evan Morris MBE be appointed. This decision was taken on the basis of his application, his answers to questions and the Panel's view that the skills and knowledge he would bring to the Panel would best complement the skills and knowledge of other Panel members.

The Recruitment Panel noted that the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel had extended the membership of Mr Robert Fousert and Mrs Sally Hardwick until such a time as the Recruitment Panel had completed its deliberations and reported back to the Police and Crime Panel.

The Recruitment Panel noted that it wished to extend the terms of office of Mr Fousert and Mrs Hardwick for a second term. Mindful that a decision had been taken some months ago that the terms of office of independent members should be staggered, the Recruitment Panel felt unable to recommend which of the two existing independent members should have the longest term of office, as each had made an excellent contribution to the work of the Police and Crime Panel. The Panel thought it

would be appropriate to consult with Mr Fousert and Mrs Hardwick to ascertain their wishes.

Recommended:

- (i) That a report is taken to the next regular meeting of the Police and Crime Panel in September 2017, recommending that Mr Evan Morris is appointed to serve on the Panel for a term of 2 years, until 30 September 2019.
- (ii) That the terms of office of Mr Robert Fousert and Mrs Sally Hardwick be extended for a second term, with each serving either 3 or 4 years, with terms of office expiring on 30 September 2020 or 30 September 2021 and the decision on length of office being taken by the Police and Crime Panel after consultation with the two individuals.