

# Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

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**Date of Meeting:** 12 March 2021

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

**Subject:** Confirmation Hearing for the proposed appointment of the  
Chief Constable

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## 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 Chief Constable for the Cheshire Constabulary.

## 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 appoints the Chief Constable for that area. Schedule 8 requires that a Police and Crime Commissioner to notify the relevant Police and Crime Panel of the proposed appointment of a Chief Constable. 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 At the time of writing the selection process for candidates was not complete. Details of the Commissioner's chosen candidate will be forwarded to Panel members when available and details placed on the Police and Crime Panel's pages of the Cheshire East website. The Commissioner has agreed to provide the Panel with the information outlined in paragraph 3.1 above.
- 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. The report must state the outcome of the review by the Panel. In the case of the proposed appointment of a Chief Constable the possible outcomes are:
- A recommendation as to whether or not the candidate should be appointed, or
  - A veto of the proposed appointment, if at least two-thirds of the members of the Police & Crime Panel vote in favour of making that decision. In the case of a veto the candidate must not be appointed by the Commissioner.
- 3.4 The Panel cannot delegate its scrutiny of the appointment of the Chief Constable to a sub committee.
- 3.5 Although the Panel must conduct a Confirmation Hearing and report its recommendations to the Commissioner, if a report is not made following a period of three weeks, the Commissioner can go ahead and appoint.
- 3.6 At the request of the Chairman, the Independent Recruitment Panel member, Gill Lewis, will attend the meeting and will briefly outline the recruitment process that was followed.
- 3.7 A copy of the Local Government Association publication "Police and Crime Panels – Guidance on Confirmation Hearings" is attached for reference as Appendix I.

#### **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**

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