



Proposed Appointment of Police & Crime Commissioner's Interim Section 151 Officer

Summary

The purpose of this report is to enable members of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) to consider the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) proposed appointment of a Section 151 Officer and to report back to the Commissioner.

Background

The previous Chief Executive Officer (CEO), John Smith, resigned on 9 October 2019. As described in the Proposed Appointment of Police and Crime Commissioner's Interim Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer paper previously submitted to the Panel the PCC is proposing to appoint Mark Simmonds to this role, the current Section 151 Officer.

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Section 5 (1) states that the relevant authority must appoint a Monitoring Officer "but shall not be their chief finance officer". Therefore the PCC must appoint a new Section 151 Officer.

The appointment term will be part-time on a 9 month fixed term contract. PCC elections will be held in May 2020 and the fixed term appointment is required to provide continuity of advice to the PCC. The interim post will allow the elected PCC in May 2020 to appoint their own substantive CEO and Section 151 Officers.

Proposed Candidate

The PCC has approached the Chief Constable and requested that his Section 151 Officer, Nick Adams, cover the role of Interim Section 151 Officer for her office, as per attached letters.

Nick Adams has been the Section 151 Officer for the Constabulary for 15 months and immediately prior to this was the Constabulary's Deputy Director for Transformation and prior to that was Head of Finance for 9 years so is extremely capable of fulfilling this role.

Nick will undertake the role under his current terms and conditions.

Confirmation Hearing

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires Police & Crime Panels to scrutinise senior appointments proposed by the PCC. Schedule 1 paragraph 9 defines senior appointments as the PCCs Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer, Chief Finance Officer and the Deputy PCC (if appointed). These are referred to as Schedule 1 appointments.

Under the Act, the PCC must notify the Police & Crime Panel of their preferred candidate for appointment as Interim Section 151 Officer. The Police & Crime Panel must hold a confirmation hearing and provide a report to the PCC regarding the proposed appointment.

Schedule 8 of the Act states that the PCC must provide the following information:

- a) The name of the person whom the PCC is proposing to appoint;
- b) The criteria used to assess the suitability of the candidate and how the candidate satisfies these criteria; and
- c) The terms and conditions under which the candidate is to be appointed.

Sue Mountstevens

Sue Mountstevens
Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset

Attached:

Appendix A – Letter to Chief Constable Andy Marsh
Appendix B – Letter to Chief Finance Officer Nick Adams
Appendix C – CV for Nick Adams