



Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel

Hosted by Somerset County Council Democratic Services



Minutes of the Police and Crime Panel

23rd June 2020 (10.30) - Confirmatory Hearing ('Remote' meeting held under the provisions of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020)

Present:

Local Authority and Independent Member Representatives:

Peter Abraham (Bristol City Council), Chris Booth (Somerset West and Taunton Council), Richard Brown (Chair/Independent Member), Asher Craig (Bristol City Council), Janet Keen (Sedgemoor District Council), Joseph Mullis (Independent Member), Franklin Owusu-Antwi (South Gloucestershire Council), Afzal Shah (Bristol City Council), Andrew Sharman (Vice-Chair/Independent Member), Heather Shearer (Mendip Council), Alastair Singleton (Bath and North East Somerset), Pat Trull (South Gloucestershire Council), Andy Wait (Bath and North East Somerset Council), Martin Wale (South Somerset Council), Richard Westwood (North Somerset Council).

Host Authority Support Staff:

Scott Wooldridge - Monitoring Officer
Jamie Jackson - Strategic Manager, Democratic Services
Andrew Randell - Senior Democratic Services Officer

Police and Crime Commissioner and Support Staff:

Sue Mountstevens - Police and Crime Commissioner
Mark Simmonds - OPCC Interim Chief Executive Officer
Paul Butler – Recommended Candidate – Interim Chief Finance Officer

1. Apologies for absence

An apology was received by Councillor Josh Williams.

2. Public Question Time

None.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Confirmatory Hearing – Interim Chief Finance Officer

(1) The meeting was convened to undertake a confirmatory hearing following notification of the appointment of an Interim Chief Finance Officer by the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, Sue Mountstevens, in line with the Panel's statutory obligations under Schedule 1 to The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, 2011.

(2) The Panel considered a report by the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) Lead Officer outlining the confirmatory hearing process. This would allow the Panel to conduct a remote public confirmation hearing under the provisions of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 that came into force on 4 April 2020 and thereby fulfil its statutory obligation to review the appointment and make a recommendation to the Commissioner. The Monitoring Officer, Scott Wooldridge, gave advice on process and procedure

(3) The Panel was recommended to:

- consider the information which had been submitted by the OPCC in accordance with its statutory responsibilities set out in the report to the PCP Lead Officer's report
- conduct a confirmatory hearing process as a means of confirming the preferred candidate's suitability for the role in accordance with the Panel's statutory duty and with due regard to the guidance from the Home office and Centre for Public Scrutiny
- agree a report incorporating the Panel's recommendation on the appointment to be submitted to the Commissioner as soon as possible thereafter.

(4) Appendices to the report comprised the following:

- criteria summary - statement of why the candidate satisfied the criteria and terms and conditions of appointment
- role profile
- terms of appointment
- advertisement
- letter of proposed appointment

- independent member report.

(5) The Chair welcomed the Police and Crime Commissioner and the preferred candidate for appointment as Interim Chief Finance Officer, Paul Butler. The Commissioner outlined the process which had been followed for the appointment of an Interim Finance Officer, and the rationale/business case for the position. The responses made by the Commissioner to questions from Panel members are summarised below:

The Panel were subsequently introduced to Paul Butler who set out his ambitions for the role and his knowledge of the role and expectations around the ethos and awareness of financial wellbeing.

The Panel resolved to move into closed session to consider its decisions. Sue Mountstevens, Mark Simmonds and Paul Butler left the meeting.

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended).

The Panel agreed that the recruitment and appointment process has taken place and were in unanimous agreement to consider the recommendation.

5. Panel Decision on the Proposed Appointment to the Position of Interim Chief Finance Officer

All Panel Members were provide the opportunity to provide their respective opinions on the Commissioner's preferred choice of candidate. It was agreed that: both the business case for the position and the credentials of the preferred candidate met the required standard; and that Paul Butler had demonstrated both the professional competence to deliver the role of Interim Chief Finance Officer and the personal independence necessary to exercise that role.

RESOLVED that following a brief discussion and being put to the vote, the Panel agreed unanimously, to endorse and support the Commissioner's decision to appoint Paul Butler to the position of Interim Chief Finance Officer.

The Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Paul Butler returned to the meeting and were advised of the Panel's decisions.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting would be confirmed and the panel notified in due course
(The meeting ended at 10.54)

Chair