

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel

13th October 2020

Title: Review of Independent Member Appointment

1. Purpose of Report

1. The Panel is invited to review the appointment of Independent Member Joseph Mullis (JM)
2. The Panel is invited to consider any representations made by South Gloucestershire Council in respect of the Panel's Operating Arrangements (as they relate to Independent Members) should these be submitted in advance of this meeting.

2. Background

In January 2016, arrangements were made to advertise, shortlist and interview applicants for three Independent Member positions on the Panel.

An initial sift of the applications received was undertaken by the Host Authority HR Officer to identify applications which (i) met the selection criteria, (ii) partially met the criteria and (iii) did not demonstrate sufficiently how they met the criteria. Applications were filed accordingly.

The files were shared with the Panel Members who volunteered to take part in the recruitment process and a meeting took place on the 8th February 2016 to examine the sift and consider the applications suitable for shortlisting. Feedback from this exercise was actioned and interviews took place on 25th February 2016. The interview panel comprised Councillors Ashton, Brown, Wale and Warmington, Patricia Jones (Clerk) and HR Advisor Lorraine Howells.

The Panel's Operating Arrangements currently state that *"An Independent Co-opted Member shall be appointed for a 4 year term and can be re-appointed for a maximum of two consecutive 4 year terms of office provided that the balanced appointment objective is met by that re-appointment."*

3. Review of Panel Operating Arrangements

The Panel has since reviewed its Operating Arrangements and the amendments proposed are required to be endorsed by the Constituent Authorities. Panel Members are aware that the proposed extensions to the term of office of both Councillor Willis and Andrew Sharman to 31st March 2021 have now been agreed by all 9 authorities in the light of COVID 19 and in line with the PCC's extended term.

Additional amendments proposed by the Panel include a “review” of Independent Member appointments after 4 years and the flexibility for Independent Members to reapply after the second 4 year term subject to a formal recruitment process. The Panel is yet to receive the endorsement of South Gloucestershire Council to these other amendments and members are sighted on the correspondence to date.

The Panel is currently compliant with its Operating Arrangements given JM is eligible for a second term and the balanced appointment objective continues to be met. However, it is considered prudent to invite the Panel to review the appointment at this stage. This is in the spirit of the proposed amendment and may be a formal requirement if South Gloucestershire Council provides endorsement to the amendments before this meeting.

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Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel

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