



CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2019, 2.00 PM

Bourges Room - Town Hall

Contact – jane.webb@peterborough.gov.uk, 01733 452281

AGENDA

Page No

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Proposed Appointment of an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner 3 - 8
4. Local Government Act 1972 - Exclusion of the Public

To consider whether to pass a resolution under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that consideration of the item of business is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A, Access to Information: Exempt Information to the Act (as amended).

5. To deliberate upon the Proposed Appointment of an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner

At this point the Chairman will ask the Candidate and members of the Public to leave the room.



Membership - Councillors: A Sharp, M Shellens, N Massey, C Daunton, S Tierney, J Palmer, A Ali, S Wallwork, D Giles, S Warren, C Wiggin

Independent Co-opted Members - Edward Leigh (Chairperson), Claire George

Substitutes - Councillors: L Ayres, L Nethsingha, E Murphy, D Connor, H Masson, C Hogg, A Lynn, H Smith, R Moore, J Huffer

Secretariat - Jane Webb, Peterborough City Council

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 3
27 NOVEMBER 2019	Public Report

Report of: Fiona McMillan, Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer for Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council

Contact Officer(s) – Jane Webb

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PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF AN ACTING POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Panel following the resignation of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite, on Monday 11 November 2019.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide information to Panel Members to assist in the appointment of an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner (“Acting Commissioner”) under Section 62(1)(a) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Panel reviews and considers the information provided within the report and appendix and following any relevant questioning, appoints to the post of Acting Commissioner in accordance with its legal duties under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 This report is for the Panel to consider under its Terms of Reference No 10 – To appoint an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner if necessary

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire, Jason Ablewhite, announced his resignation from office on Monday 11th November 2019, rendering the office of Police and Crime Commissioner vacant.
- 4.2 Section 62(1)(a) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires a Police and Crime Panel for a police area to appoint an “acting commissioner” in these circumstances.
- 4.3 The 2011 Act stipulates that the person appointed to be Acting Commissioner **must** be a person who is “a member of the police and crime commissioner’s staff at the time of the appointment” (Section 62(2) of the 2011 Act). It should be noted that the 2011 Act specifies that the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner is classed as a member of staff (s18 [10]).
- 4.4 The appointment of the acting commissioner ceases to have effect upon the election of a person as police and crime commissioner or on termination of the appointment by either the panel or the acting commissioner. The next scheduled police and Crime Commissioner elections will take place on 7th May 2020.

- 4.5 Home office guidance issued in July 2016 on the Policing and Crime Bill, which introduced amendments to the legislation affecting Police and Crime Commissioners, states:
“In the event of a PCC vacancy arising, either temporarily (eg through illness) or permanently, the Police and Crime Panel appoints someone as Acting Commissioner. Where in place, the Deputy PCC is the obvious person to appoint in such cases.”
- 4.6 The current Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Ray Bisby, has indicated that he is willing to be considered for the role as Acting Commissioner for the interim period until the elections in May 2020. No other member of the OPCC staff has indicated that they wish to be considered for this role. Consequently, the Panel has one member of the OPCC staff to consider for this role. Ray Bisby’s personal statement is attached as an appendix to this report.

5. **ACTING COMMISSIONER’S RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 5.1 S62(4) of the Act states that an acting commissioner may exercise all the functions of a police and crime commissioner, apart from “issuing or varying a police and crime plan” and that any property or other rights vested in the police and crime commissioner also transfer.

6. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents>

The Policing Protocol Order 2011
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/2744/made>

Policing and Crime Act 2017
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/3/contents/enacted>

Policing and Crime Bill factsheet, Home Office, July 2016
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/537272/Factsheet_15_-_PCCs.pdf

PERSONAL STATEMENT

RAY BISBY

I was delighted when the Panel confirmed my appointment as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner in December 2017. I have worked closely with the team within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner throughout my tenure. Jason Ablewhite's recent resignation as Police and Crime Commissioner was clearly a shock for all concerned. I never expected that we would be in this position but I am willing to become Acting Police and Crime Commissioner.

I see the role of Acting Commissioner as one of good stewardship and the careful management of the statutory functions entrusted to the position. I know I would have the support of the team. I would also need the support, as well as challenge, from the Police and Crime Panel.

As Deputy Commissioner I have been exposed to the full range of functions and responsibilities that come with the office of Commissioner. I have been part of key strategic discussions and decision-making processes throughout this time, within the office, with Cambridgeshire Constabulary and wider strategic partners. I have supported the Commissioner and deputised for the Commissioner across the full agenda, from charring boards to representing Cambridgeshire at regional and national fora. I have also taken the lead in relation to a number of areas. I have played an active role in partnership and public engagement. I have undertaken a wide range of visits which ensure I am familiar with the work of the Constabulary and partners. Examples of the work I have undertaken as Deputy Commissioner are included at Appendix 1.

The personal and leadership qualities which I would draw upon to operate effectively include my collaborative approach and my ability to seek out opinions and listen.

In leading the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, it would be my intention to continue to bring the aims of the Police and Crime Plan to fruition, and to ensure the people of Cambridgeshire continue to have a police force we can all be proud of to keep Cambridgeshire and Peterborough safe.

The Panel will be aware from my Confirmation Hearing of my career background. My career has been different from many. I joined the Military in 1975 straight from school as a Musician and Medic, serving in the UK, Germany and Northern Ireland. In 1979, I left the Military and joined the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), serving in local stations, walking the beat and patrols. I also spent time in a Mobile Support Unit, travelling throughout Northern Ireland to support local police with a range of operational matters. I also had a number of other roles with the RUC, such as working within the Juvenile Liaison office, being a Facilitator/Trainer, and undertaking joint working with other agencies including Fire and Ambulance services to provide an improved service to the public.

Having been medically retired from the RUC in 1999, I undertook voluntary work with the Northern Ireland Prison Service. This involved working with both prisoners and prison officers to help resolve their individual or working issues. During this time I gained a BSc Honours Degree in Social Psychology.

In 2007 I moved to Peterborough and wished to continue my voluntary work. I worked with Age UK to start a club for the over 60s. I founded a Neighbourhood Watch Group, which I am still a member of. I have also worked with local schools, and helped local community groups. I was also Chair of a local Policing Board, which provided regular interaction between Cambridgeshire Constabulary and residents.

In 2015 I was asked to stand as a Peterborough City Councillor and was successfully elected, but due to boundary changes, was re-elected the following year to the Stanground South ward.

In 2016 I was appointed Chair of Peterborough City Council's Corporate Parenting Committee. This important role has enabled me to lead major changes that have raised the standards for looked after children in Peterborough. Upon taking up the position of Chair, I was able to help influence other relevant Council committees to recognise the need to prioritise looked after children where appropriate to do so. In addition, children were also given a 'voice' and platform, such as co-charring committee meetings, and encouraged councillors on the committee to become 'Champions' to look at issues such as housing and

education. Ofsted has recognised this as innovative but a better measure is that the children themselves feel empowered to make changes that directly affect their lives. I also sit on the Peterborough City Council's Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

I have previously sat on various other scrutiny committees at Peterborough City Council, namely Children and Education, and was the Adult and Communities Deputy Chair. I was previously a member of the Police and Crime Panel, including being elected as Vice Chair of the Panel. I have acted as Peterborough City Council's representative on a number of bodies including the Italian Community Association.

I have previously volunteered in local schools to support with various areas of the curriculum such as teaching and reading. I was the Vice Chair of Governors at Oakdale Primary School as well as their Safeguarding Governor. I also volunteered with a local sports association.

Examples of experience as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Overall, the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner has included seeking and representing the views and concerns of the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough through a range of means. This has included attending relevant meetings on behalf of the Commissioner; representing these views to the Commissioner and staff so that they may be reflected in the work of the Commissioner; and reporting back to the people of the county on behalf of the Commissioner:

- Member (and occasional Chair) of Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Cambridgeshire Constabulary Business Coordination Board
- Regular strategic discussions with Chief Officers of Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Member (and occasional Chair) of Cambridgeshire Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board, and OPCC lead representative at Community Safety Partnerships
- Member of Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board
- Chair of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership
- Public engagement from OPCC public surgeries and hate crime awareness week to Constabulary 'days of action'. Wide range of visits from mosques and schools to HMP Peterborough
- Member of collaboration governance boards such as the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Alliance; Joint Protective Services Board; Eastern Region Special Operations Unit Board; Eastern Region Strategic Alliance
- Association of Police and Crime Commissioners meetings; member of Local Policing and Partnership Portfolio Group
- Attended Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- Monitoring Constabulary's complaints system through 'dip-sampling'
- Undertaken Local Government Association Leadership Academy

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