



## **RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

### **Questions and Answers**

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### 1. What is a Police and Crime Panel?

Police and Crime Panels (P&CPs) are being introduced to support and scrutinise the work of the directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). They will both scrutinise the actions and decisions of the PCC and support and challenge PCCs in the exercise of their functions.

### 2. What is an independent member?

P&CPs have two types of member:

- Local councillors – appointed to the Panel by local councils, and
- Independent members – local people who are not councillors, chosen through an open recruitment process.

### 3. How many members will Cambridgeshire’s Police and Crime Panel have?

The Cambridgeshire P&CP will have 13 members. 11 will be local councillors and 2 will be independent members. The councillor members who have already been appointed are as follows:

- Cambridgeshire County Council: Cllr Mac Maguire (Conservative) **Chair**  
Cllr Michael Shellens (LD)  
Cllr Peter Reeve (UKIP)
- Peterborough City Council: Cllr David Over (Conservative)  
Cllr Michael Fletcher (Independent)  
Cllr Julia Davidson (LD)
- Cambridge City Council: Cllr Lewis Herbert (Labour)
- East Cambridgeshire District Council: Cllr Tom Hunt (Conservative)
- Fenland District Council: Cllr David Oliver (Conservative)
- Huntingdonshire District Council: Cllr Jason Ablewhite (Conservative)
- South Cambridgeshire District Council: Cllr Ben Shelton (Conservative)

### 4. Why be an independent member?

As a member of the P&CP you can play a key role in helping to keep local communities safe by supporting and scrutinising the work of the directly elected PCC. It is an important and challenging role which offers you the chance to review the key strategic actions and decisions taken by the PCC, including whether they have achieved the objectives set out in their Police and Crime Plan and Annual Report, considered the priorities of community safety partners and consulted appropriately with the public.

## **5. How will Police and Crime Panels work?**

P&CPs will meet regularly in public to carry out their main responsibilities. There will be at least four meetings per year, but this may increase to cope with the amount of business required to be covered by the P&CP. The P&CP may also need to set up some sub-committees to consider specific aspects of business.

## **6. What will I be expected to do?**

You will be expected to attend and participate in all meetings of the P&CP and any of its sub-committees that you may be assigned to. You will need to be prepared to read papers, reports and background information in advance of meetings and keep up-to-date with national and local crime and disorder issues and maintain a good working knowledge of PCC roles and responsibilities.

## **7. How much time is involved?**

The typical commitment required from a P&CP member is expected to average around one day a month, including preparation time. Meetings will generally be held during normal office hours at varying locations throughout Cambridgeshire.

All P&CP members will receive an induction and other appropriate training to support them in their role and you will be expected to participate in this.

## **8. Are there any rules about conduct or standards?**

The role of a member of the P&CP is a public one, and so at all times members must maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics. You will be expected to abide by the same rules as local councillors. To help you understand this your full induction will include details of these and other requirements.

## **9. Will I receive any payment?**

Members of the P&CP will receive expenses of up to £920 per year.

## **10. How long will I be a member?**

Independent members will initially be appointed for a four year term.

## **11. What qualities do I need?**

The P&CP is an important committee, and as such we need people with the right skills, abilities and experiences. These include:

- The ability to think strategically
- The ability to make good judgements
- The ability to be open to change
- The ability to scrutinise and challenge
- The ability to be analytical
- The ability to communicate effectively

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- The ability to manage time effectively
- Experience of team working
- Self confidence
- Enthusiasm and drive
- Respect for others
- Integrity
- Leadership
- Decisiveness

Please refer to the P&CP Member Role Profile, which is included in the application pack.

### 12. Who can be an independent member?

Age - You must be at least 18 years old.

Other rules - There are some rules about who cannot be an independent member. The following may not be co-opted independent members of the P&CP:

- a) the PCC for the Cambridgeshire Police Area
- b) a member of staff of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- c) a member of the civilian staff of the Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- d) a police officer
- e) a councillor of Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council or South Cambridgeshire District Council
- f) a Member of Parliament, a Member of the National Assembly for Wales, a Member of the Scottish Parliament or a Member of the European Parliament

### 13. How do I apply?

Complete the application form explaining fully why you wish to become an independent member, what you would bring to the P&CP and your relevant skills and experience. Please then e-mail your completed application to [sarah.swift@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.swift@peterborough.gov.uk). If you're unable to email your form, please post it to the following address:

Sarah Swift  
Communities and Targeted Services  
Peterborough City Council  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Bayard Place  
Peterborough  
PE1 1HZ

Applications should be received by 5pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2014.

### 14. What happens next?

The P&CP will appoint a selection panel to consider all applications. Its job will be to shortlist, interview and agree candidates to recommend to the P&CP. The P&CP will then be asked to approve the recommended candidates.

## APPENDIX 5

### **15. How can I find out more?**

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact Sarah Swift using the details shown on the advert.

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