

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 3
15 DECEMBER 2014	Public Report

Report of: Ian Phillips, Peterborough City Council, Police and Crime Panel Lead

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PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER’S CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

1.1 This report is submitted to the Panel following a notification from the Police and Crime Commissioner of his proposed appointment to the post of Chief Finance Officer on 3 December 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Panel notes the process to be followed to undertake the Confirmation hearing for the post of Chief Finance Officer as identified below.

2.2 That the Panel considers the Police and Crime Commissioner’s report (Appendix A) and reviews the proposed appointment of Josie Gowler as the Chief Finance Officer for the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

2.3 That the Panel considers the information provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner (see appendices A,B,C) and, following questioning of the candidate at the hearing, agrees a recommendation to the Commissioner on whether or not to appoint Josie Gowler to the post of Chief Finance Officer in accordance with 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 3 - To hold a confirmation hearing and review, make a report, and recommendation in respect of proposed senior appointments made by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Paragraph 6, Schedule 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires every Police and Crime Commissioner outside London to appoint a person to be responsible for the proper administration of the Commissioner’s financial affairs, referred to as the Chief Finance Officer.

4.2 The Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner formally notified the Chair of the Police and Crime Panel of his proposed appointment to the post of Chief Finance Officer on 3 December 2014.

4.3 Under the terms of the Act, this Panel is required to:

- Review the proposed senior appointment
- Make a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner on the proposed senior

appointment

- Include within the report recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner as to whether or not the candidate should be appointed. It should be noted that for Schedule 1 appointments, the Panel has no power to veto the appointment.

4.4 **Appendix A** to this report includes a report from the Police and Crime Commissioner that proposes Josie Gowler for the post of the Chief Finance Officer and details the criteria that was used to assess her suitability, how she has satisfied the criteria and the terms and conditions on which she is to be appointed. The person specification is outlined in **Appendix B**. The responsibilities of the post from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountability are set out in **Appendix C**.

4.5 The Panel is therefore required to question the candidate in order to confirm she has the necessary professional competence to carry out the role. Following the hearing, the Panel will arrive at a conclusion on the proposed candidate during a closed session.

4.6 The Panel will then publish a report within five working days on the proposed appointment to the Police and Crime Commissioner, with a recommendation as to whether or not the candidate should be appointed. The Act allows the Police & Crime Commissioner the right to accept or reject the Panel's recommendations; however, he must inform the Panel of his decision

5. **KEY ISSUES**

5.1 To assess whether the proposed candidate is suitable for the post and make a recommendation to the Commissioner.

6. **Consultation**

None

7. **Implications**

None

8. **APPENDICES**

- 8.1
- Report from the Police and Crime Commissioner (Appendix A)
 - Job description and person specification (Appendix B)
 - Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountability responsibilities (Appendix C)