



Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner

Councillor Jason Ablewhite
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel
c/o Ian Phillips
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By email: ian.phillips@peterborough.gov.uk

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I refer to Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel's meeting on the 17th June 2015 and the actions arising from the meeting on which the Panel sought my response.

The Panel wished to understand the process I was undertaking to recruit the new Chief Constable. As the Panel will be aware, the assessment and interview process I led has now been completed. I have now formally notified the Panel of my proposed appointment of Alec Wood as Chief Constable. The Panel will also be presented with a report to consider the Confirmation Hearing on the 16th September 2015, which will demonstrate the criteria used to assess Alec's suitability, how he satisfies the criteria, and the terms and conditions on which he is to be appointed.

The Panel also asked for further detail on three specific areas relating to the financial information that was presented to them. Firstly, in respect of the Revenue Capital and Revenue Resources Investments the interest payable and receivable for the past three financial years is as follows:

£000	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Interest payable	521	475	510
Interest receivable	53	94	124

Since 2012 we have pursued a policy of maximising our return whilst continuing to minimise our risk as far as possible.

Secondly, the 'reduction in on-going revenue' stated in the Capital Spent (£146k) for Automatic Number Plate Recognition refers to the revenue costs of the new

equipment. The new maintenance contract is cheaper than the previous contract, and will save Cambridgeshire Constabulary £169k across five years at today's prices.

Thirdly, Capita Asset Service are paid £6,750 per annum for treasury services (this figure being most recent figures for the November 2014 to October 2015 fee year). Capita did not receive any additional remuneration above and beyond this annual fee for the advice culminating in the updated Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2015/16.

There was a subsequent enquiry from the Panel regarding the costs of my office. The comparative figure for 2013/14 office costs (stated as £727k in the 2013/14 accounts) was adjusted to £871k in the 2014/15 accounts. During the audit of the 2013/14 accounts it was discovered that an error had been made (a journal had been mis-posted in the year). While it was not necessary to correct the accounts themselves, when the 2014/15 accounts were being prepared in May/June 2015 it was felt that the comparative figure should be corrected to aid transparency and comparability between the years.

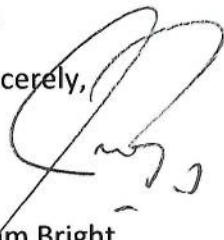
I am grateful to Cllr Herbert for his recent suggestions on making my website easier to navigate. I wish to assure the Panel that a refresh of the website will be undertaken as soon as possible, and documents such as annual accounts and other financial documents will be easier to locate. In future I am happy to advise the Panel when draft and final annual accounts are made available.

The Panel also sought to ascertain the level of false reporting of domestic abuse. As the Panel will be aware, the recording or no-criming of allegations is an operational matter and one for the Constabulary to handle, in line with National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS). However, I wish to assure the Panel that the Constabulary would not seek to suggest to a victim of such a serious and unacceptable crime that they had made a false report. However, in circumstances where on scrutiny of the incident, and in accordance with the NCRS, a crime is deemed to have been raised incorrectly, then it will be no-crimed. This is different to a false report of a crime.

I refer to the Panel's reports dated 27th July 2015 regarding the variations to both Objective Three and Appendix 2 of my Police and Crime Plan. In accordance with paragraph 6 of Schedule 5 to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 this letter also acts as my formal response to the Panel's reports. As such I note the Panel's decision and their recommendation. As requested by the Panel, I enclose a diagram of the linkages illustrating the key controls assurance mechanisms referred to in the Performance Framework.

Finally, there are a number of items listed on the Panel's Agenda Plan which are yet to be programmed in to their meeting timetable. It would be helpful if the Panel could confirm the items they wish to support and scrutinise me on and for which meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Graham Bright
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner