

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 5
9 NOVEMBER 2016	Public Report

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Appointment of Independent Co-opted Members

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The report is intended to enable the Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel to agree to the co-option of a second independent member to serve on the Panel from 9th November 2016. The report also requests the agreement from the Panel to seek approval from the Secretary of State to increase the number of co-opted independent members from two to three.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel:

- a) Agrees to co-opt Claire George as an independent member of the Panel under Schedule 6 Part 2 Paragraph 4 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 with effect from the date of this meeting 9th November 2016.
- b) Agrees to seek the approval of the Secretary of State under Schedule 6 Part 2 Paragraph 4(4) of the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 to increase the number of independent co-opted members from 2 to 3.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.1 Under the Panel’s Arrangements, two Independent Co-opted Members shall be appointed to the Panel. This to be changed to “three Independent co-opted Members shall be appointed to the Panel” once approval has been received from the Secretary of State.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 A vacancy arose earlier this year due to the resignation of Miss Francesca Anderson. The Act requires the Panel to have a minimum of 2 Independent Co-opted Members. A recruitment process was undertaken which identified sixteen candidates, of whom five were invited for interview on 28th September 2016. The interview panel consisted of Edward Leigh, Cllrs Bisby, and Shelton.

4.2 The interview panel unanimously agreed that Claire George was the strongest overall candidate and would be highly suitable for the role of Independent Co-opted Member. It is therefore proposed Claire George is appointed to the Panel. The Interview panel also recommends that an application be made to the Secretary of State to be able to appoint an extra Independent Member to the Panel in order to have three Independent Co-opted Members.

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 The Interview Panel agreed that it wished to recommend to the Panel that it agrees to co-opt three independent members. This is clearly one more than the two independent co-opted members that the panel is statutorily required to have. The Interview Panel reached this conclusion based on the following considerations:

- The strengths of the individual candidates it saw, the potential contribution that their

- skills, knowledge and experience could make to the effectiveness of the Panel, and the wish not to lose the benefit of this.
- The potential benefit to the Panel of increasing the overall number of independent co-opted members, including assisting the co-opted members themselves by giving them an additional peer on the Panel and recognising that independent co-opted members, unlike councillor members, do not have substitutes.
 - Increasing the size of the Panel from 13 to 14 members represents a comparatively small change, which should not have any negative effect on the way that the Panel operates in practice, as might possibly be the case if a larger increase in its membership was being proposed.

The Schedule 6 Part 2 Paragraph 4(4) of the 2011 Act permits a Police and Crime panel to make a resolution changing the number of co-opted members on the panel, provided that:

- The number of co-opted members is greater than two;
- The total membership of the panel, including both local authority members and co-opted members, does not exceed 20; and
- The Secretary of State agrees that the panel should have that number of co-opted members.

In practice, a Police & Crime Panel seeking to change the number of co-opted members included in its membership is required to make a formal resolution to do so and to write to the Secretary of State setting out the case for the change and seeking approval for it.

Appointing more than two independent co-opted members would not put the Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel in a unique position. The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel and Northamptonshire Police & Crime Panel are examples of panels that have already chosen to do this as its current membership includes three/four independent co-opted members.

Claire George has been invited to attend this meeting and if the Panel agrees to the recommendation as set out in this report then Claire George can be formally co-opted onto the Panel.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 None

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 N/a.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

9.1 Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011

Police & Crime Panels (Nominations, Appointments and Notifications) Regulations 2012

10. APPENDICES

10.1 None