



REPORT OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

DETERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR STAFF FOLLOWING A CONFIRMATION HEARING

Position: Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Candidate: Mr Brian Ashton

Date of Notification: 27 November 2012

Date of Confirmation Hearing: 6 December 2012

Date of Report: 11 December 2012

Guidance

This is the report of the Police and Crime Panel following the confirmation hearing for the appointment of the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire.

Mr Brian Ashton is the proposed appointee to the role of the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner under section 18 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. His proposal is made by Sir Graham Bright, the elected Police and Crime Commissioner. The Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel undertook its review of that appointment on 6 December 2012 in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Act.

Hearing

On 6 December 2012 the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel reviewed a notice from the Police and Crime Commissioner to appoint Mr Brian Ashton to the position of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

During the hearing, which included an interview with the candidate, the Panel had regard to the information submitted about the candidate, the criteria used to assess the suitability of the candidate for the appointment and the terms and conditions on which the candidate was to be appointed.

Decision

This report confirms the decision of the Panel is to approve the appointment of Mr Brian Ashton as the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner subject to the Commissioner noting the following pertinent points arising out of its consideration of the appointment.

Reasons for the decision

The Panel considered Mr Ashton to be a confident and capable person with a good history of public service. It was particularly noted by the Panel that Mr Ashton has sound commercial experience and is adept in dealing with budgets and these skills will inevitably add value to his role.

The Panel welcomed the Mr Ashton's stated aim of undertaking more community engagement, which was reflective of the Commissioner's approach in the pre-election period. The Panel believes that the Deputy's role would be considerably enhanced by increasing his understanding and appreciation of the diversity of the various communities which exist across the whole County. In particular the Panel considered that a greater awareness of the differences in the policing of the urban, as opposed to the rural, environment would bring a knowledge and understanding that would benefit both of these communities.

The Panel would also encourage the Deputy to develop a greater understanding of the role played by the Community Safety Partnerships within the policing of Cambridgeshire. This could only add further value to this role.

This report is sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner, the proposed candidate and is also published onto the host Authority's website (www.peterborough.gov.uk/cpcp).

Terms of Reference

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 creates the post of elected police and crime commissioner for each force area, who will be responsible for holding the chief constable to account. The commissioner themselves will be scrutinised by a police and crime panel made up of local councillors from the force areas, and some independent co-opted members.

Under the Act, a principal role for the new panels will be to conduct hearings for certain senior staff including chief constable, before they are confirmed in their posts.

Signed..... *Cllr Mac McGuire.....*

Date...11 December 2012....

Chairman of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel