

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Subject: Appointment of Independent Members
Date: 22 October 2012
Author: Judith Shore, Democratic and Member Support Manager
Organisation: Plymouth City Council
Contact: Tel (01752) 307990 e-mail judith.shore@plymouth.gov.uk

Executive summary

The recommendation to appoint independent members arises from interviews held by the Selection Panel (a sub-committee of the Police and Crime Panel) to consider applications for the position of independent member of the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel.

The selection process was agreed at a shadow meeting of the Panel held on 25 July 2012.

Interviews were held on 5 October and two candidates were recommended for appointment as independent members of the Panel.

Implications: Police and Crime Plan, Annual Report, Peninsula Partnership Strategic Assessment, Panel Functions, Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure

The compulsory appointment of a minimum of two independent members is in accordance with The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (Schedule 6 Part 2 Section 4(3)(a))

Implications: resources including finance, human and IT

None

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action

It is recommended that the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel appoint the following people as independent members for a period of four years commencing 22 October 2012:

1. Yvonne Atkinson – independent member for Devon (includes Plymouth and Torbay)
 2. Mike Firbank – independent member for Cornwall (and the Isles of Scilly)
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Alternative options considered, and reasons for recommended action

The Panel could decide not to appoint either or both of recommended independent members, but this would mean rejecting the recommendations of the Selection Panel which considered the matter in detail and would mean the Panel was not fully constituted in time.

Background Papers

Panel arrangements and rules of procedure
Candidates' applications (confidential)

I. Background

- I.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (Schedule 6 Part 2 Section 4(3)(a)) and the Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure enable the Panel to co-opt two independent members onto the Panel for a term of four years (starting in 2012).
- I.2 The Panel must secure that (as far as is reasonably practicable) independent members of the Panel (when taken together) have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively.
- I.3 Independent members must be residents of Devon and Cornwall: one must be resident or work in Cornwall (and the Isles of Scilly) and the other must be resident or work in Devon (includes Plymouth and Torbay).
- I.4 On 25 July 2012, the Shadow Panel agreed the selection criteria and arrangements for advertising and short listing of candidates subject to the final arrangements being agreed in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.
- I.5 The advert was placed across a variety of media in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and over 60 information packs were sent to those requesting application forms. Over 20 applications were received.
- I.6 The applications and shortlist were considered and agreed against the selection criteria by the Community Safety Manager and a Business Support Manager from the Host Authority, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Panel.
- I.7 On 5 October the Selection Panel (Councillors Diviani, Kennedy and Penberthy) interviewed the shortlisted candidates. It was hoped that a female member of the Police and Crime Panel would be able to join the Selection Panel but, for personal reasons, this was not possible.
- I.8 After very careful consideration, the Selection Panel recommended that the Police and Crime Panel appoint Yvonne Atkinson and the Mike Firbank as independent members.