

Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

Friday 18 August 2017

PRESENT:

Councillor Croad, in the Chair.

Councillor Batters, Vice Chair.

Councillors Atherfold, Philippa Davey, Downie, Excell, Hackett, James, Mathews, Rule, Sanders, Towill, Wingate and Wright.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Squires and Sutton and Sarah Wakfer.

Also in attendance: Jo Heather (Democratic and Governance Officer, Cornwall Council), Alison Hernandez (Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner), Duncan Walton (OPCC Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer) and Lynn Young (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 11.50 am.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

13. **Minutes**

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2017.

14. **Declarations of Interest**

The following declaration of interest was made in accordance with the code of conduct –

Name	Minute Number and Item	Reason	Interest
Councillor Croad	15 – Confirmation Hearings	Both preferred candidates are known to him on a professional basis in his capacity as a Devon County Councillor	Personal
Councillor Excell	15 – Confirmation Hearings	The preferred candidate for the post of Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer is known to him	Personal
Councillor Mathews	15 – Confirmation Hearings	Devon County Councillor and Chair of Devon County Council Audit Committee	Personal
Councillor Sanders	15 – Confirmation	Devon County Councillor	Personal

	Hearings	(neither preferred candidate is known to him)	
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15. **Confirmation Hearings**

The Chair advised Panel members that two confirmation hearings would take place today for the following posts –

- Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer
- Treasurer

The Chair welcomed Mrs Frances Hughes (the preferred candidate for the post of Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer) to the meeting and outlined the procedure for the confirmation hearing. After the hearing, the Panel would adjourn to consider the appointment, in private. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) would then be advised of the Panel’s decision and the Panel would seek to agree with the PCC how and when an announcement would be made.

The Chair gave the PCC the opportunity to address the Panel to outline her reasons and deliberations for choosing Mrs Frances Hughes as her preferred candidate; Mrs Hughes was then invited to address the Panel in order to advise them how she met the criteria for the post.

Mrs Hughes responded to questions from Panel members on –

- the Police Estate, in particular the building of the new Criminal Justice Hub at Middlemoor and the shared estate;
- interface with the media on behalf of the PCC;
- her ability to act personally independent of the PCC;
- the future of policing, in particular her vision of policing in rural areas in the 21st century;
- the promotion of Equality and Diversity opportunities within the Devon and Cornwall Police;
- her plans for community policing/engagement with communities;
- her ability to deal with any conflicts that could arise between the Chief Constable and the PCC;
- the use of CCTV for community safety.

The Chair welcomed Mrs Nicola Allen (the preferred candidate for the post of Treasurer) to the meeting and outlined the procedure for the confirmation hearing. After the hearing, the Panel would adjourn to consider the appointment, in private. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) would then be advised of the Panel’s decision and the Panel would seek to agree with the PCC how and when an announcement would be made.

The Chair gave Duncan Walton (Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer) the opportunity to address the Panel to outline his reasons and deliberations for

choosing Mrs Nicola Allen as his preferred candidate; Mrs Allen was then invited to address the Panel in order to advise them how she met the criteria for the post.

Mrs Allen responded to questions from Panel members on –

- her views on solo working, having previously been part of a team;
- the relationship of the OPCC Treasurer with the Police and Crime Panel;
- her ability to deal with any conflicts that could arise between the Chief Constable and the PCC on matters of performance or related funding;
- collaborative working, in particular with Cornwall;
- her views on frontline services versus the digital agenda;
- her views on the ‘one public estate’ and how she would encourage participation;
- her views on working with Dorset (in the Strategic Alliance);
- the savings realised through the Strategic Alliance with Dorset (question answered by Duncan Walton).

Agreed that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public are excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Panel adjourned at 11.25 am to consider the suitability of the candidates for the posts of Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer and Treasurer.

Following the adjournment, the Panel reconvened at 11.45 am and the Chair advised that the Panel had had the opportunity, in private session, to consider and review –

- the Police and Crime Commissioner’s recruitment and selection processes;
- details about the candidates;
- the criteria used to assess the candidates;
- how the candidates satisfied that criteria and their terms and conditions of employment;

in order to satisfy themselves as to whether or not Mrs Hughes and Mrs Allen were suitable appointments.

The Panel reached a decision in respect of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s proposed appointment of Mrs Frances Hughes as Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer and Mrs Nicola Allen as Treasurer and the OPCC Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer had been informed.

Following a vote,

Agreed that the Panel confirmed the Police and Crime Commissioner’s proposed appointments and recommends to her that Mrs Frances Hughes is appointed as Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer and Mrs Nicola Allen is appointed as Treasurer.

A separate letter outlining the Panel's decision will be provided to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on the next working day after this meeting.