

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Tuesday, 5th February, 2013.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson (Chairman); Cllr Chris Abbott; Mr Geoff Baines; Cllr Ken Dixon; Mrs Gwen Duncan; Cllr George Dunning; Cllr Ray Goddard; Cllr Terry Laing; Cllr Steve Nelson; Cllr Carl Richardson; Cllr Charlie Rooney (Vice Chairman) and Cllr Bernie Taylor.

Officers: Mike Batty, David Bond, Michael Henderson (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).

Also in attendance: Jacqui Cheer (Temporary Chief Constable), Barry Coppinger (Police and Crime Commissioner).

Apologies: Mayor Stuart Dummond; Cllr Peter Cox

PCP 39/12 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Ken Dixon declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest due to his son being a serving Cleveland Police Force Officer.

PCP 40/12 **Confirmation Hearing Purpose and Procedure**

The purpose of the meeting was explained, which was to hold a confirmation hearing before making a report and recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner ("the Commissioner") in relation to his proposed appointment of a Chief Constable. The hearing was a meeting of the Panel, held in public, at which the Candidate, Jacqui Cheer, was requested to appear for the purpose of answering questions relating to the proposed appointment.

The procedure to be followed was explained, and it was indicated that when the questions asked of the Candidate by Panel members were concluded, the Panel would go into closed session, in order to agree a report and recommendations to the Commissioner. The Panel's decision would be communicated to the Commissioner in writing by the next working day following the hearing, and a copy of the communication would be provided to the Candidate. The Panel's decision would normally be embargoed until a period of five days had elapsed following the hearing, however it was agreed that in the particular circumstances of this case that would not be necessary or appropriate. Details of the Panel's decision could therefore be released immediately following its communication to the Commissioner and the Candidate.

PCP 41/12 **Key Documents associated with the appointment**

Details of a report and notification and accompanying documents from the Commissioner, regarding the proposed appointment, were considered by the Panel. These provided details of the appointment process leading to the Commissioner's proposal to appoint Jacqui Cheer, as Chief Constable.

PCP 42/12 **Questioning of Candidate**

Panel members asked questions of the Candidate regarding her involvement in

partnership working and the benefits resulting from such partnerships; the sustainability of the commitment to neighbourhood policing in the present economic climate; the differences between neighbourhood policing, front line policing and visible policing; the proposals regarding special or volunteer constables; her views on how best to respond to the losses of experienced officers and the restrictions on appointing younger officers due to the recruitment freeze, and the role played by Regulation A19 in this context; her understanding and position on operational independence; and what she considered to be the most difficult and immediate challenge she faced as Chief Constable, and how she would propose to meet it.

When responses had been provided to all of the Panel Members' questions, the Candidate was given an opportunity to clarify any answers given and to ask questions of the Panel.

**PCP
43/12** **Closed session for the Panel to consider its recommendation**

The Panel agreed unanimously that Jacqui Cheer was an excellent candidate and that her appointment be fully supported.

Following this, and after the Commissioner and Candidate had returned, the Panel indicated that they were immensely impressed with the comprehensive, open and honest way in which the Candidate responded to each of the questions; and with her record of performance over the past 18 months, and with her strategic insight and forward planning and that they unanimously supported the Commissioner's recommendation that she be confirmed as Chief Constable.

RESOLVED that the Panel unanimously confirms its full support for the appointment of Jacqui Cheer as Chief Constable for the Cleveland Police Force.