

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CLEVELAND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

3 FEBRUARY 2015

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY

APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR NON-POLITICAL INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

SUMMARY

To agree a process for the appointment of a non-political independent member, in light of the resignation of one of the existing two non-political independent members.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Panel agree the arrangements for the appointment of a replacement non-political independent member as detailed at paragraph 5.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Law and Democracy (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council), in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to amend and finalise the arrangements and associated documents, detailed in the **Appendix** and paragraph 4, should it be considered necessary to do so.

DETAIL

1. Schedule 6 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires that each Police and Crime Panel appoints two non-political independent members.
2. The two independent members should be appointed in the context of ensuring that the panel has the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to discharge its functions effectively.
3. One of the existing two non-political independent members, Geoff Baines, has reluctantly found it necessary to resign, due to increased professional working duties. A replacement member is, therefore, required.
4. Attached, as an **Appendix** are draft documents associated with the appointment of independent members. These are updated versions of the documents previously agreed. The Panel is asked to consider and provide comments and views on these latest documents.
5. Subject to the Panels discussions, it is suggested that:-
 - As before, the advertising process utilises all available free opportunities, including press release, website and existing mailings and partnerships;
 - The recruitment process should be in line with existing practice and guidance issued by the Local Government Association;

- The term of office of the new member should coincide with the terms of office agreed for the two Independent Members i.e. expiring on the 6 December 2016;
- Again as previously, that a politically balanced selection sub panel of 5 drawn from the full panel is appointed to conduct short listings and interviews to determine the most suitable candidate to be the replacement non-political independent member, with the full panel endorsing the decision prior to the candidate being notified and formally appointed.

The previous sub-panel comprised:-

Cllr Norman Stephenson
 Mayor Stuart Drummond
 Cllr Ray Goddard
 Cllr Bernie Taylor
 Cllr Terry Laing

6. If the Panel agree to appoint a selection sub panel of 5, then the political balance would be Labour 3, Conservatives 1, Others 1. As Stockton is the only authority with the Conservative member on the Panel then, clearly, that member would need to be appointed under these arrangements. In terms of the other positions and with a view to reflecting the number of members within political groups, in each constituent authority, whilst providing each authority the opportunity to be represented on the Panel, the following is suggested:-

| | Labour | Conservatives | Others |
|--------------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| Hartlepool | - | - | 1 |
| Middlesbrough | 1 | - | - |
| Redcar & Cleveland | 1 | - | - |
| Stockton | 1 | 1 | |
| Total | 3 | 1 | 1 |

Name of Contact Officer: David Bond
Director of Law and Democracy, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Telephone No: 01642 527060
Email: david.bond@stockton.gov.uk