AGM/Register of Interests

- 1. In accordance with the Partnership Constitution, the first meeting after 1 September serves as the Annual General Meeting.
- 2. The business to be conducted is the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair and representatives on other bodies.
- 3. A list of the appointments to be made and of the current office holders is set out below:

a) Appointment of Chair Geoff Lee

b) Appointment of Vice Chair Jane Humphreys

c) Representatives on the LSP TBC

4. Detailed below is a suggested way forward for the partnership to consider in relation to the future chairing arrangements of SSP.

4.1. INTRODUCTION

The Safer Stockton Partnership has been running successfully since it was established in 1998, in response to Sections 55 and 56 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Over the years a wide range of partners have contributed to its work ensuring that Stockton remains the safest place in the Tees Valley.

4.2. BACKGROUND

The current constitution of the SSP was revised in February 2011 and includes a list of voting members that are eligible to sit on the Partnership. From this membership the roles of Chair and Vice Chair are elected on an annual basis at the AGM which usually takes place in the autumn.

The Safer Stockton Partnership has always benefitted from an effective chair; this has assisted in terms of maintaining the profile of the partnership at a local level, as well as ensuring that the partnership is in a position to contribute to agendas and issues at both a regional and national level.

The current chair of SSP, Geoff Lee, was appointed chair of the partnership in 2005 following Dave Pickard's transfer from Stockton District to Police Headquarters. Geoff originally joined the partnership from the original date of its formation following implementation of the Crime and Disorder Act, as Chair of SSP and representative of Cleveland Police. Following his retirement he returned to the partnership in 2005 as a representative of Tristar Homes. After 12 ½ years his tenure as a Tristar Board member ended on 15 September. Under the terms of the current SSP constitution this means that Geoff will no longer be a member of SSP.

4.3. SUGGESTED WAY FORWARD

The partnership is currently adapting to a number of significant changes that have occurred within some of its member organisations, in particular Cleveland Police and Durham Tees Valley Probation. In addition to this the wider community safety landscape across Tees Valley is changing placing a greater strain on resources and the effective sustainability of partnerships.

The SSP is regarded as one of the strongest partnerships across the Tees Valley and as such sustainability over the coming months is essential. In order to ensure consistency over this period, Geoff Lee has indicated his willingness to be adopted as an independent member of SSP and to Chair of SSP for the duration of the current meeting cycle which ends on 5th May 2015. After this time the partnership will need to identify a new Chair. It is proposed that the SSP agrees to Geoff continuing in his role at the AGM which is due to take place on 7th October 2014.

Although Geoff has represented Tristar Homes on the partnership for the duration of his tenure as Chair, he has operated in an independent manner. This approach has served the partnership well, contributing to its overall success and integrity among member organisations.

The appointment of an Independent Chair post May 2015 will also bring the cycle of SSP meetings in line with the municipal diary which will be of benefit in terms of the ongoing administration arrangements.

It is therefore recommended that the SSP considers the appointment of an independent Chair, post May 2015. Leading up to this point the partnership has enough time to develop a suitable role description and agree a suitable process to ensure that the correct individual is identified.

An independent Chair will ensure that the partnership continues to discuss issues and challenge developments in an effective and equitable manner, ensuring that the Chair retains overall accountability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Geoff Lee continues as chair of the Safer Stockton Partnership until the end of the current meeting cycle, 5th May 2015

It is recommended that the Safer Stockton Partnership approve the appointment of an independent chair, post May 2015.

5. Register of Interests

SSP members will have received via email a declaration form which needs to be completed and returned by the end of October. This process was agreed at SSP in May 2009 and has been completed on an annual basis.

Steven Hume Community Safety and Security Manager