



## **REPORT TO THE SOUTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

### **Co-option of a new Independent Member to the South Wales Police and Crime Panel**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this paper is to set out the process that has been followed in order to co-opt a new independent member onto the South Wales Police and Crime Panel.

#### **1.0 Introduction / Background**

- 1.1 Panel Arrangements state that the Panel shall co-opt two independent co-opted Members onto the Panel and the term of office shall be until the 31st October of the same year as the next ordinary Police and Crime Commissioner Election. In this instance the term of office shall run until the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.
- 1.2 A vacancy for a co-opted member arose following the resignation of Mr. Martyn Jones who had served as one of the Panel's Co-opted members since the Panel's inception in 2012.
- 1.3 The appointment of a new compulsory non-political independent member as required by Schedule 6 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides an opportunity to readjust the experience, knowledge and skills available across the membership of a police and crime panel. By carefully selecting individuals that complement the Councillors nominated to the panel, independent co-optees can be used to fill experience, knowledge and skills gaps to help make the panel more effective. An extract from the Panel Arrangements dealing with the appointment of co-opted members is attached as appendix 1.
- 1.4 A recruitment exercise was undertaken with the closing date for receipt of applications being the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Five applications were received.
- 1.5 In accordance with the Panel Arrangements the applications were considered by a shortlisting and interview panel comprised of the Chair Councillor Richard Young, the Vice Chair Mr. Mel Jehu and Councillor Bernie Bowen Thompson. All 5 applicants were invited for an interview.

Interviews were held on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

- 1.6 The Panel Arrangements prescribe that following the interviews the shortlisting and interview panel will make a recommendation to the Panel. In making that recommendation the shortlisting and interview panel shall consider the balance of the Panel in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 and the skills required to enhance the Panel. The full Panel however appoints the co-opted member.
- 1.7 The shortlisting and interview panel recommend to the Panel that Mr. Ian be appointed as independent co-opted member until the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. However any appointment is subject to approval from the Home Secretary and a satisfactory DBS check.

### **3.0 Recommendation(s).**

- 3.1 Mr. Ian Fox be appointed as independent co-opted member on the South Wales Police and Crime Panel until the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

**Simon Jones**  
**Senior Solicitor,**  
**Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council**

## Appendix 1

### **Membership: Co-opted Members**

3.1. The South Wales Police and Crime Panel shall co-opt two members (Co-opted Members) onto the Panel. The term of office shall be until the 31st October of the same year as the next ordinary Police and Crime Commissioner election.

3.2. The selection process for co-opting members shall include a reasonable period for advertising the positions. To reflect the geographical area that the Panel represents, as far as practical, adverts shall be placed through mediums which have equality of access for residents within South Wales Police force area. The Panel will not 'target' areas within the force area for recruitment purposes, but treat the whole area with parity.

3.3. A closing date for applications will be a minimum of 2 weeks after the date of the first advert.

3.4. Application packs will be prepared and made available to those who request an application form.

3.5. The applications will be considered by the Chair, Vice Chair and one other member (the shortlisting and interview panel) against an agreed eligibility criteria and shortlisted accordingly.

3.6. The eligibility criteria will be publicly available, and only amended in future if the role of the Panel is amended either locally or through legislation, or if the operational effectiveness of the Panel is compromised due to skill or knowledge gaps, or, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 the Panel does not adequately reflect the demographics of South Wales.

3.7. If no applications are received or if all applications received fall below the minimum eligibility criteria, the vacancies shall be re-advertised in accordance with this section.

3.8. The shortlisting and interview panel will interview those shortlisted.

3.9. Following the interviews the shortlisting and interview panel will make recommendations to the Panel. In making those recommendations the shortlisting and interview panel shall consider the balance of the Panel in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 and the skills required to enhance the Panel. The Police and Crime Panel will appoint the co-opted member(s).

3.10. The host authority will be responsible for notifying the Secretary of State of the decision to co-opt Members.

3.11. The Panel shall ensure that there are always at least two Co-opted Members appointed to the Panel.

3.12. Restrictions on Co-optee membership of the Panel.

A person may not be a co-opted member of the Panel if the person is any of the following—

- (a) under 18 years old;
- (b) a member of the staff of the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner;
- (c) a member of the civilian staff of South Wales Police;
- (d) a Member of Parliament;
- (e) a member of the National Assembly for Wales;
- (f) a member of the Scottish Parliament;
- (g) a member of the European Parliament.

3.13. A Co-opted member can be removed from office through a majority vote of the Panel present, provided the member has been given no less than four weeks' notice of a proposal to remove and provided the member has an opportunity to make representations about the proposal. Examples of reasons for removal of office include (but are not limited to):-

- If the Co-opted Member has been absent from the Panel for more than 3 formal meetings without the consent of the Panel
- If the Co-opted Member has been convicted of a criminal offence but not automatically disqualified