

Warwickshire Police Authority – 20 March 2008

Appointment of Independent Members to the Police Authority

Report of the Chief Executive

Summary

This report sets out the timetable and process for the appointment of Independent Members to the Police Authority with effect from the 1st October 2008.

Recommendation

1. That the timetable for the appointment of Independent Members to the Police Authority be agreed.
2. That Phil Blundell, Phil Robson and Izzi Seccombe be appointed as the Police Authority's representatives on the Selection Panel.
3. That Phil Blundell, Phil Robson, Izzi Seccombe and Pauline Allwood (Home Office Representative) be appointed to serve on the Interview Panel.

1. Introduction

Members will be aware that there has been some considerable delay by the Home Office in introducing the new Independent Member Selection Process. I have now been informed by the APA that the new Regulations are expected to be laid before Parliament very shortly.

At the Authority's meeting in December 2007, I was authorised to proceed with the appointment process as soon as practicable to enable a new independent member to be appointed in early summer to replace John Rennie and that the remaining three new independent members take up their posts on the 1st October 2008.

However it would now seem expedient to appoint all new independent members with effect from the 1st October 2008. This would then enable the Authority to meet the Home Secretary's suggestion that the general appointments cycle be aligned to ensure that police authorities will be conducting independent appointments at two yearly intervals with effect from the 1st April of the appropriate year. In order to achieve this, the Home Secretary has agreed that the term of office for those members appointed with effect from the 1st October 2008 will be a tenure of four and half years until 31st March 2013.

2. Timetable for the Process

I would propose the following timetable for the process:-

31 March 2008

Official launch of recruitment and publicity

9 May 2008	Closing date for applications
2/3 June 2008	Selection Panel meets to shortlist candidates
week commencing 7 July 2008	Interview Panel for shortlisted candidates
30 July 2008	Designated Members appoint new Independent Members

3. Selection Panel

Members will recall that the process for appointing independent members to the Police Authority involves a Selection Panel. The Panel has been retained under the new regulations to produce a shortlist of applicants for interview. Under the new regulations the Panel will consist of five members, three of whom will be appointed by the Police Authority, one appointed by the Home Office and one will be appointed by the Police Authority from a list of candidates prepared by the Home Office.

The role of the Selection Panel is to consider the suitability of all of the applicants who apply for the independent member vacancies on the Authority. However there is no longer a requirement to submit the Panel's chosen long list of names (up to four times the number of vacancies) to the Home Secretary to agree a shortlist of candidates (double the number of vacancies) for interview by the Police Authority. The Selection Panel will in future nominate twice the number of applicants for the vacancies directly to the Police Authority for interview. The final appointments are then made by the councillor and independent members not subject to the current appointment process with the aid of recommendations from the Interview Panel.

It is proposed that Phil Blundell, Phil Robson and Izzi Seccombe should be appointed as members of the Selection Panel. The Home Office appointee will be Pauline Allwood while the fifth member of the Panel is still to be selected.

4. Interview Panel

The Police Authority has previously appointed an Interview Panel of five members to interview candidates and to make recommendations for appointment. In accordance with usual practice, the Authority will need to appoint an Interview Panel drawn from the councillor and eligible independent members to interview the shortlisted candidates and make recommendations for appointment by the Police Authority. Under the new arrangements, it is proposed that the Interview Panel should comprise Phil Blundell, Phil Robson and Izzi Seccombe together with the Home Office appointee, Pauline Allwood.

<p>Enquiries: about this report should be made to Neil Gulliver on 01926 412322</p>
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<p>Background Papers: As attached where appropriate</p>
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ERIC WOOD
Chief Executive