

Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

13 July 2020

Appointment/Re-appointment of Co-opted Independent Member

Report of the Secretary

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To inform members of the extension of the term of office of a Co-opted member with effect from September 2020.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That members formally approve a temporary relaxation of the Procedural Rule restricting Co-optees' Terms of Office to two Terms to enable the re-appointment of Mr Paul Darby for a further nine months from 16 September 2020.

3. Background

3.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires that the Panel appoint two independent co-opted members. In doing so the Panel must take account of the need for its membership to meet the balanced objective in skills, knowledge and experience necessary to discharge its functions effectively.

3.2. Under the Panels' Procedure Rules co-optees serve a four year period of office, renewable for a further four years. This provides the opportunity to benefit from the co-optee's experience and knowledge by enabling them to serve an additional term, whilst, in the longer term, enabling the recruitment of new lay representation potentially bringing a different perspective to the Panel's work. Mr Darby was reappointed for a second term in 2016.

3.3 In September 2020, Mr Darby will have completed his second period of office. Under normal circumstances, a recruitment exercise would have started in April. However, due to the COVID 19 emergency the Chairman agreed to the suggestion that Mr Darby's Term of Office be extended for a nine month period expiring in June 2021. This should allow time to recruit a new Co-optee whose formal appointment would co-incide with the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Panel and with the election of a new Commissioner.

3.4 Any changes in the Procedural Rules, including relating to appointment of co-optees, have to be approved by Members of the Panel.

3.4 Due to outbreak of the coronavirus, and the subsequent lockdown, all members of the Panel were emailed and asked if they were in agreement with the extension. All members agreed and Mr Darby indicated a willingness to serve for a further nine months.

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