CO-OPTION OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER ON TO THE HUMBERSIDE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 Two compulsory non-political independent members are required to form part of the Police and Crime Panel under Schedule 6 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

1.2 There is currently an independent member vacancy on the Humberside Police and Crime Panel.

1.3 This report outlines the options for the recruitment of co-opted independent members of the Police and Crime Panel, including the possible establishment of a selection panel to shortlist and interview candidates.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act introduced significant changes in police governance and accountability, in particular replacing the Police Authorities with directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners.

2.2 The Act requires the establishment of a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) whose membership comprises a minimum of two co-opted independent members to the PCP and that the appointment of these members must be agreed by the Panel itself.

2.3 The appointment of independent co-opted members provides an opportunity for the Panel to broaden its experience, knowledge and skills.

2.4 The process for selecting independent co-optees must be determined by each individual force area. A three member panel, supported by North Lincolnshire Council Democratic Services Officers, led on this in the spring of 2016. Following a rigorous selection process, the Panel re-appointed Mrs Sue Whittaker. The appointment was ratified by the Humberside Police and Crime Panel at its meeting on 27 June 2016.
2.5 The Secretary to the Panel again advertised for the vacant position in the Summer of 2016. Unfortunately, no applicants were deemed suitable for the position.

2.6 Interviews were again held on 13 September 2018 for the vacant position of Independent Co-opted Member. Unfortunately, no applicants were deemed suitable for the position.

2.7 The independent member position has remained vacant ever since.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 There are two options for consideration –

   a) Option 1 – To advertise for the vacant position of independent member on the Humberside Police and Crime Panel.

   b) Option 2 - That the Panel continues with just one independent member.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Option 1 would allow the Panel to appoint a second independent member. The appointment would add to the experience, knowledge and skills of the Panel.

4.2 Option 2 would result in the Panel continuing to operate with only one independent member. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act states that the Panel membership should comprise a minimum of two co-opted independent members.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 There are no financial and staffing resource implications as existing resources are available through the Police and Crime Panel Grant and Secretariat respectively.

5.2 There are no IT implications.

6. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

6.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act requires Police and Crime Panels to appoint two co-opted independent members. Therefore, there is no requirement to consult on whether to appoint co-opted members.
7. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Panel is asked to –

7.1 Consider the appointment of a Selection Panel to shortlist and interview candidates?

7.2 Consider an appropriate recruitment timetable and process?

**SECRETARY OF THE HUMBERSIDE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report**

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011  
Local Government Association Guidance on appointing independent co-opted members