

Report to the Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley

Title: Proposed Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley

Date: 6 December 2012

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Thames Valley Police & Crime
Panel



Background

On 6th December 2012 the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel held a confirmation hearing to consider the Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley's proposed candidate for the position of Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley.

This was in fulfilment of the Panel's statutory duties under the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011, to:

- i. Review the proposed senior appointment
- ii. Make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed senior appointment
- iii. Include within the report a recommendation to the Police & Crime Commissioner as to whether or not the candidate should be appointed
- iv. Publish its report in a manner of its own determination

Ahead of the confirmation hearing, the Panel received and duly considered the information provided by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, including:

- (a) the name of the person whom the Commissioner proposed to appoint;
- (b) the criteria used to assess the suitability of the candidate for the appointment;
- (c) why the candidate satisfies those criteria; and
- (d) the terms and conditions on which the candidate is to be appointed.

The Confirmation Hearing

During the confirmation hearing the Panel heard the following; the proposed Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley:

- Had been a Member of the Thames Valley Police Authority and the Chairman of its Complaints and Professional Standards Committee;
- is an experienced councillor, being the Executive Deputy Leader of Wycombe District Council and a Member of Buckinghamshire County Council. Therefore he has extensive experience of engaging with, and acting as the advocate of, the communities he serves;
- was an experienced magistrate, being appointed in 1987 and serving for over 4 years;
- owned a successful small business; and

- played a large role in community safety. One example was a part he played in addressing a terrorist incident in High Wycombe.

The extent to which the proposed Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner complemented the skills and experience of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley was explored by the Panel; it was stated that the proposed Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner:

- Shares the Commissioner's values and respects the tradition of non-politicised British policing, as well as the view that the primary role of the police service and the Commissioner involves acting on behalf of the public to cut crime and improve crime detection rates;
- complements the Commissioner's own experience, skills and knowledge in terms of his governance experience as the former Chairman of the Police Authority's Complaints and Professional Standards Committee; whereas, the Commissioner's experience and skills had involved a focus on performance management and holding the Force to account as then Chairman of the Authority's Performance Review Committee;
- had worked together with the Commissioner on the Police Authority for a number of years, developing a good working relationship; and
- will act as a critical friend to the Commissioner and liaise with Community Safety Partnerships.

The Panel also heard that the proposed Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner holds knowledge of specific areas of Thames Valley that would complement that of the Police & Crime Commissioner, insofar as:

- The proposed Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner held background knowledge of the views of the communities of Buckinghamshire, complementing the Commissioner's knowledge of those across Berkshire. Together, their combined experience as former members of the Police Authority will also inform their understanding of the service needs of the communities across Oxfordshire in particular and of the balance required between urban and rural communities in general across Thames Valley.
- Although the proposed Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner has knowledge of one particular locality, he will be acting as the Deputy for all areas. However, it was not good use of taxpayers' money for the Commissioner to travel significant distances across the Thames Valley so, where appropriate, the proposed Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner would be dealing with some local issues. However, there would be a balance of representation across all three communities.

On the basis of the information provided, the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel – with one abstention from the vote - agreed the following recommendation to the Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley.

RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley be appointed to the position of Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley.