

## SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

### APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

15 September 2020

#### Purpose of the Report

1. At the 7 February 2020 Police and Crime Panel meeting, it was agreed that an open recruitment exercise would continue to be undertaken for the Panel to appoint two new co-opted independent members onto the Surrey Police and Crime Panel for a four year term.
2. The purpose of this paper is to set out the process that has been followed in order to select two co-opted independent members on to the Surrey Police and Crime Panel and to recommend appointment to the positions.

#### Background

3. 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. The co-opted independent members must not be members of local authorities covered by the Surrey Police area. In co-opting an independent member, the Act requires that the Panel must secure that (as far as reasonably practicable) the appointed and co-opted member of the Panel has the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively.
4. The appointment of co-opted independent members provides an opportunity for the Panel to broaden its experience, knowledge and skills. Independent members have full voting rights and are selected through a thorough, fair and transparent recruitment process.
5. Recruitment was necessary as one co-opted independent member's current term of office ended in May 2020 after serving two terms; with a further vacancy of the other co-opted independent member who from 31 October 2019 was no longer a Surrey resident or worked in the county.
6. As stated in paragraph 2.18 of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel Constitution, co-opted independent members may serve a maximum of two terms.
7. A thorough, open and fair recruitment exercise was undertaken and applications for the two roles were invited. A cross-party selection panel comprising of the Panel's

Chairman, Vice-Chairman and three Panel members met in July 2020 to consider applications and hold interviews for the roles.

8. The cross-party selection panel agreed that two candidates best demonstrated that they met the Panel's requirements, and agreed that those individuals would be recommended to the Panel for appointment to the two roles of co-opted independent member.
9. The recommended candidates have provisionally accepted their offers and have been invited to attend the Panel's September meeting awaiting the full Panel's approval of their appointment.

#### **Recommendations**

1. That Mr Philip Walker is appointed to the vacant role of co-opted independent member on the Surrey Police and Crime Panel for a four year term.
2. That Mr Martin Stilwell is appointed to the vacant role of co-opted independent member on the Surrey Police and Crime Panel for a four year term.

#### **Next Steps**

None.

#### **Report Contact Details:**

Amelia Christopher - Committee Manager:

[amelia.christopher@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:amelia.christopher@surreycc.gov.uk)

020 8213 2838

#### **Sources/ Background paper:**

Police and Crime Panels: Guidance on appointing independent and co-opted members

Surrey Police and Crime Panel - Constitution (version 2018)