



Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Police and Crime Panel Meeting

Via Video-Conference

Item 8

Police & Crime Panel Officer  
07920 833358

## Independent Panel Members

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Panel members on the position regarding the appointment of Independent Panel Members and to seek approval for a further extension of their term.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 Independent Co-opted Panel Members are recruited by the panel through a process of open recruitment. The current Independent Panel members were recruited in October 2016 for a period of 4 years, in line with the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner, meaning that a recruitment process would be due to commence in early Autumn with a view to appointees being in place in October 2020.
- 2.2 As a result of the “minded-to” Devolution Deal and proposed transfer of PCC functions under the new Mayor from May 2021 which caused a degree of uncertainty for the future role of the Panel at the time, along with the added complications of the pandemic, in September 2020, the Panel agreed to a short term extension to this term until at least the end of May 2021.
- 2.3 The Devolution Orders became law on 29th January 2021 and the PCC functions will transfer to the Combined Authority Mayor following the elections in May; the role of the Police and Crime Panel will continue with no significant change.

### 3. Current Position

- 3.1 As the end of the short-term extension approaches, arrangements need to be put in place to recruit to the two Independent Panel member roles. As the Annual meeting does not take place until mid-June, and with the current pandemic restrictions, it would seem unrealistic to commence the process until after this time when confirmation of elected member Panel membership has taken place.
- 3.2 To ensure that there can be continuity until the recruitment process is complete, the Panel is asked to consider a further short-term extension of the Independent Panel members’ term until the Autumn. This mirrors the usual timeframe for Independent

Panel member recruitment and will mean that the total period of extension is in line with that given to elected Panel members as a result of the cancelation of last year's elections.

- 3.3 In light of the circumstances, both Independent Panel members have indicated that subject to Panel agreement, they would be willing to undertake a further short-term extension to their term of office to provide Panel with continuity of membership until the recruitment process is complete.

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 Panel members are asked to approve a further short-term extension of the existing term of the Independent Co-opted Panel members until October 2021 to ensure continuity until a recruitment campaign has been undertaken and appointments approved.