

CONFIRMATION HEARING - POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 19 September 2018

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire (the "Commissioner") to formally notify the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire (the "Panel") under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the "Act") of the Commissioner's proposal to appoint Mr Christopher Webb as the candidate for Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire (the "Deputy Commissioner") (also referred to in this report as the "candidate").

In accordance with the Act this report provides the Panel with:

- the name of the person whom the Commissioner is proposing to appoint;
- the criteria used to assess the suitability of the candidate for appointment;
- why the candidate satisfies those criteria; and
- the terms and conditions on which the candidate is to be appointed.

RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Panel reviews the proposed appointment of Mr Christopher Webb as Deputy Commissioner and makes a recommendation to the Commissioner.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. In accordance with the Act the Commissioner is entitled to appoint a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and to delegate certain functions and responsibilities to that person.

2. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

2.1. The appointment process for Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC) is set down in the Act. The DPCC is a member of the Commissioner's staff but the post is not politically restricted and as a result the DPCC can carry out political activity on behalf of the Commissioner. Section 7 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Appointment of Staff on Merit) does not apply and therefore the post is not subject to the normal competitive employment processes. (All other posts within the Commissioner's office are politically restricted and subject to normal recruitment processes).

2.2. The Commissioner may arrange for the DPCC to exercise any function of the Commissioner in accordance with the Act.

2.3. Under the Act the Panel must:

- review the proposed appointment;
- hold a Confirmation Hearing in public;

- make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed appointment, which must include a recommendation to the Commissioner as to whether or not the candidate should be appointed, and must publish their report.

2.4. Under the Act the Commissioner may accept or reject the Panel's recommendations as to whether to or not the candidate should be appointed. The Commissioner then has to notify the Panel of the decision whether to accept or reject the recommendation.

3. HOW THE CANDIDATE SATISFIES THE CRITERIA

3.1. The Commissioner is proposing to appoint Mr Christopher Webb as the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

3.2. None of the disqualifications for appointment, as set out in Section 18(6) of the Act or Paragraphs 8(2) and 8(6) of Schedule 1 of the Act, apply to Mr Webb, in that he is not:

- a member of the House of Commons, the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales, the Northern Ireland Assembly or the European Parliament.
- a police officer, a Special, a member of police staff, or Police and Crime Commissioner staff, or a member of staff of certain national policing bodies, or the City of London Police Authority.
- a British citizen, having been declared bankrupt, having been convicted of any imprisonable offence in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, or committed corrupt or illegal elections practice.

3.3. The role of DPCC provides additional capacity to assist the Commissioner to deliver his Police and Crime Plan (the "Plan"). The role incorporates statutory functions which the Commissioner may decide that Mr Webb can undertake in respect of both supporting and deputising for him. In addition, the role will be shaped to capitalise on Mr Webb's knowledge, skills and experience that he can bring to the assist the Commissioner and his team in the delivery of the Plan. The Role Description for the post of DPCC is given at Annex 1.

3.4. Through his roles, especially as a councillor, Mr Webb has worked closely with many agencies to resolve issues facing his constituents. He has attended numerous briefings on policing issues and the challenges they face under cuts to funding and new reforms. His considerable experience of work with local communities will be advantageous in supporting the Commissioner in his commitment to wide-ranging engagement with the public, communities and partners across the county.

3.5. Mr Webb has also joined local police officers on live city-wide operations, where he has had the opportunity to observe all aspects of policing up-close alongside them.

3.6. Mr Webb is able to adapt to the current political climate quickly and can resolve problems efficiently and effectively.

3.7. Mr Webb's knowledge, experience and skills, and his dedication to public service can be effectively deployed to ensure the duties of the Commissioner's office are discharged in the best way. For instance, Mr Webb's experience as a Councillor, and working with partners and stakeholders to understand issues, look for solutions and bring about change, will be beneficial in supporting, empowering and scrutinising others in the delivering of the Commissioner's Plan.

3.8. The supporting statement given at Annex 2 demonstrates the skills and experience that Mr Webb will bring to the role of DPCC.

4. Terms and Conditions of Appointment

- 4.1. The DPCC will be required to work flexibly, equating to 3 days per week. The role will attract a payment of £25,750 per annum. The terms and conditions can be subject to review as required by the Commissioner.
- 4.2. The post of DPCC is subject to medical clearance and police vetting. The DPCC will be also be asked to sign the Official Secrets Act.
- 4.3. The Act provides that a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner's appointment must end no later than the day when the Commissioner's term of office ends (i.e. the sixth day after the day of the poll at the next ordinary election in 2020) or, in the event of a by-election being called due to a vacancy in the post of Commissioner, the new Commissioner makes and delivers a declaration of acceptance of office.
- 4.4. The post will be based at the Commissioner offices but will require travel around Lancashire and beyond as required by the role.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents>

The Policing Protocol Order 2011

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/2744/made>

Policing and Crime Act 2017

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/3/contents/enacted>

6. APPENDICES

Annex 1 - Role Profile of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Annex 2 – Mr Webb's supporting statement