

REPORT TO THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1st February 2016

Co-opted Independent Members of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

- 1. Purpose of the report**
 - 1.1 To update Members on the process for the recruitment of co-opted independent members of the Police and Crime Panel.
 - 1.2 For Members to advise about local organisations who can support in promoting this opportunity.
- 2. Background**
 - 2.1. The Panel is required to appoint two independent (non-councillor) co-opted members and the term of office of the current co-optees comes to an end in May 2016.
 - 2.2 In the November 2015 meeting the Panel agreed to establish a Selection Panel to short list and interview.
- 3. Recruitment timetable**
 - 3.1 The timescale below sets out activity.

Timescale	Activity
26 th January 2016	Advertise for applicants (six-week advertising period)
6 th March 2016	Closing date for applications
Week commencing 14 March 2016	Interview Panel shortlist applicants
21 March 2016	Interviews
April 2016	Appointments made
5 th May 2016	Election of Police and Crime commissioner
May 2016	Induction - role and responsibilities of co-opted members
June 2016 TBC	Panel meeting – appointments ratified

- 4. Application Pack**
 - 4.1 The draft press release is in Appendix 1. The application pack used in 2012 has been updated and can be found along with an application form and an easy read application form for people with visual impairments at:

<http://westmidlandspcp.co.uk/get-involved/recruitment-of-independent-panel-members/>

5. Process

- 5.1 In making these co-options, The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires that the Panel must ensure the overall Panel membership meets the balanced objective in skills, knowledge and experience necessary to discharge its functions effectively.
- 5.2 The Selection Panel will make a recommendation about the appointments to the Police and Crime Panel. Appointments will be made on merit and with due regard to the requirements set out in Schedule 6 of the legislation.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 **The Panel is asked to:**
 - a. **Note the report**
 - b. **Advise the Secretariat on who in their district can help promote the opportunity.**

Contact Officer:

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Appendix 1: Draft Press Release



Two Independent Members Sought to Scrutinise the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

The Panel is looking for two committed and energetic people who live or work in the West Midlands

- Who have a genuine interest in policing, community safety and services for victims;
- Can be an independent voice alongside elected councillors, to provide constructive challenge to the Police and Crime Commissioner; and
- Are willing to listen to the views of all sections of our local communities.

Councillor Darren Cooper (Panel Chair and Leader of Sandwell Council) said:

"We really value the independent co-optees on the Panel. They bring a different perspective to the councillors on the Panel and often ask great questions of the Police and Crime Commissioner or other officers."

This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in these now established arrangements for reducing crime and disorder and to help shape the future of policing in the West Midlands.

The role of a panel member is an important and demanding one. Those appointed will serve on the Panel from May 2016 until May 2020 and work alongside councillors from each of the seven local authorities in the force area - Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

This is a voluntary position (an unpaid role). However, travel expenses can be claimed and induction and other training will be given.

Applicants need to be: at least 18 years old, live or work within the West Midlands force area; and be able to attend at 6-8 meetings a year across the West Midlands.

For more background information about the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel please and to download an application form visit www.westmidlandspcp.co.uk

For further information please email wmpcp@birmingham.gov.uk or call Benita Wishart on 0121 464 6871.

Closing date for applications is midnight Sunday 6th March 2016.