

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

ON THE APPOINTMENT OF GAVIN CHAMBERS
AS CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER FOR THE OFFICER OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

18 November 2020

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document constitutes the report and recommendations of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel in respect of the proposed appointment of Mr Gavin Chambers to the Office of Chief Finance Officer for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and is submitted to the Commissioner in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 1 to Chapter 13 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- 1.2 The report recommends that Gavin Chambers be appointed as Chief Finance Officer for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**
- 1.3 In submitting its report, the Panel would like to thank Mr Chambers for his attendance at the confirmation hearing on 17 November 2020 and to congratulate him on his appointment.

2 CONFIRMATION HEARING

- 2.1 On 2 November the Panel's Secretariat received formal notification from the Commissioner's Office of Mr Chambers' proposed appointment. By law the Panel is required to hold a confirmation hearing (a meeting of the Panel held in public at which the candidate for appointment is requested to appear for the purpose of answering questions relating to that appointment) in sufficient time to enable it to submit its report and recommendations in respect of the proposed appointment to the Commissioner within three weeks of the day on which it received notification.

2.2 The confirmation hearing into this appointment was held at 6.30pm on 17 November 2020. This meeting was held as a Virtual Meeting in accordance with Regulation 5 of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

2.3 The following Panel Members were present:

Councillor Dalgarno (Chair), Central Bedfordshire Council
Councillor Bunyan, Central Bedfordshire Council
Councillor Dodwell, Central Bedfordshire Council
Councillor Nawaz, Bedford Borough Council
Councillor Weir, Bedford Borough Council
Ms Holdsworth, Independent Panel Member
Mr Melville, Independent Panel Member
Mr Downing, Independent Panel Member

The following officers of the Panel's Host Authority (Bedford Borough Council) were also present to support the Panel in conducting the hearing:

Mr Simpkins, Chief Executive and Clerk to the Panel
Ms Lyons, Chief Officer for Legal and Democratic Services
Mr Welch, Senior Democratic Services Officer

2.4 Members of the Panel questioned Mr Chambers in relation to his proposed appointment and considered his responses to their questions and other information supplied to the Panel by the Commissioner in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 1 to Chapter 13 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. This information comprised:

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

In addition to this information, at the request of the Panel, the Commissioner also provided:

- An outline of the selection process
- The role profile as advertised as part of the selection process
- Duties and responsibilities associated with the role

3 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the appointment of Gavin Chambers to the post of Chief Finance Officer for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on the terms and conditions set out in the report submitted to the Panel be confirmed.

4 REPORT PUBLICATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Panel to publish this report in such manner as the Panel determines.
- 4.2 The Panel wishes to allow the Commissioner time to receive and consider this report, convey its contents to the candidate and consider the response she wishes to make to the report, before it is published. This reflects the guidance on confirmation hearings provided by the Local Government Association, which envisages a time lapse between a hearing and the release of information about the Panel's recommendations.
- 4.3 In recognition of this, the Panel will not publish this report or provide any comment on the outcome of the hearing until noon on Thursday 24 November 2020 following which a press release will be issued and the report will be published on the Panel's webpages at: www.bedford.gov.uk/bedspcp

Cllr Ian Dalgarno
Chair, Bedfordshire Police
and Crime Panel

Philip Simpkins
Clerk, Bedfordshire Police
and Crime Panel