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**BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL TO HOLD CONFIRMATION HEARING WITH PROPOSED CANDIDATE FOR NEW CHIEF CONSTABLE**

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel will be considering the appointment of the new Chief Constable for Bedfordshire at its meeting on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 3pm at Borough Hall, Bedford.**

Police and Crime Commissioner, Olly Martins, recently announced that he is proposing the appointment of Colette Paul, who is currently Deputy Chief Constable of South Wales Police, and this proposal will now be considered by the Panel.

The Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel is an independent body whose role is to scrutinise and hold the Police and Crime Commissioner to account as a 'critical' friend'. Its remit includes holding confirmation hearings for a number of Senior Appointments, including that of the new Chief Constable, who will be questioned at next Tuesday's meeting. Having questioned Ms Paul, the panel will then decide whether or not to recommend that Ms Paul should be appointed. The Panel also have the power to veto the appointment.

The Chair of the Panel, Cllr Fiona Chapman MBE, said: "The Panel plays a very important role in holding the Commissioner to account and scrutinising his decisions, and the appointment of the new Chief Constable is one of the most important decisions which will have a direct effect on policing in Bedfordshire."

The confirmation hearing will enable the nature of the recruitment process to be publicly scrutinised and provide an opportunity for Panel Members to satisfy themselves about the professional competence and personal independence of the proposed candidate.

The confirmation hearing is a public meeting, and as such, is open for anyone to attend.