

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE
ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MARK COOPER
AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER OF BEDFORDSHIRE

5 OCTOBER 2016

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 Mark Cooper to the post of Chief of Staff of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner of Bedfordshire and is submitted to the Commissioner in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- 1.2 The report recommends that Mark Cooper be appointed Chief of Staff of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner of Bedfordshire.
- 1.3 In submitting its report, the Panel would like to thank Mr Cooper for his attendance at the Confirmation Hearing on 5 October 2016 and to congratulate him on his appointment.

2 CONFIRMATION HEARING

- 2.1 On 23 September 2016 the Panel's Host Authority (Bedford Borough Council) received formal notification from the Commissioner's Office of Mr Cooper's 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 for this appointment was held at 10.00 am on 5 October 2016 at Borough Hall, Bedford. The following Panel Members were present:

Councillor Chapman (Panel Chair), Central Bedfordshire Council
Mr Cain (Panel Vice-Chair), Independent Member

Councillor Dodwell, Central Bedfordshire Council, Councillors Foster and Holland, Bedford Borough Council and Councillor Saleem, Luton Borough Council

The following officers of the Panel's Host Authority were also present to support the Panel in conducting the hearing:

Mrs B Morris, Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Human Resources)
Mr K Simmons, Head of Democratic and Registration Services
Mrs M Clarke, Democratic Services Officer

2.3 Members of the Panel questioned Mr Cooper 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 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.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the appointment of Mark Cooper to the post of Chief of Staff of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner of Bedfordshire 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 he 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 Friday 7 October 2016, 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

Fiona Chapman MBE
Chair, Bedfordshire Police
and Crime Panel

Philip Simpkins
Clerk, Bedfordshire Police
and Crime Panel