

ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Meeting to be held on 15 February 2023

JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report follows on from the recent paper (Decision 33/2022) to seek approval of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to appoint a chair of the Joint Audit Committee following an open and transparent recruitment process.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable appoints Mr Paul Richardson as the Chair of the Joint Audit Committee.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable will recall that in November 2022, agreed to establish a new Joint Audit Committee comprising of a chair and four members jointly appointed by the PCC and the Chief Constable, but who are independent of the PCC and Chief Constable.
- 1.2. The Chair and Members of the Committee would be recruited through open competition, in conjunction with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable or their representatives, to ensure that the Committee has all the necessary skills and experience to fulfil its terms of reference, in accordance with the job description. They will also be subject to vetting.
- 1.3. Recruitment was undertaken in a two-stage process. The first stage was to recruit a chair of the Joint Committee. The second stage was to recruit up to four Independent Members. Both processes were undertaken through an open and transparent process with consideration given to how to attract a broad range of suitably experienced applicants.
- 1.4. Advertising for the position of the Chair and Members commenced in December 2022. Candidates were required to complete an application form and explain why they believed they were suitable for the role.
- 1.5. Two applications were received for the role of the Chair, and both were interviewed in early January 2023.

- 1.6. The panel agreed a set of interview questions and a related scoring matrix based on the role profile and the person specification to support the interview process.
- 1.7. Independent Audit Committee Chairs are recruited for an initial term of five years. They may then be re-appointed for a second term of up to a maximum of a further five years, subject to the agreement of the PCC and the Chief Constable.
- 1.8. Following the interview process Mr Paul Richardson was selected as the preferred candidate for Chair of the Joint Audit Committee.
- 1.9. As the Joint Audit Committee provides independent assurance to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable it is necessary for the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to approve the appointments.
- 1.10. On joining the Committee, each member will attend an induction training course to help them understand the roles of the PCC and the Chief Constable, the Police and Crime Panel and the organisations pertaining to the PCC and Chief Constable. Further training on specific relevant topics will be provided as necessary, according to the members' own relevant experience and emerging business needs of the Committee. Members will be expected to attend all such training and to develop their skills as part of a member development programme. Training needs will be considered during the annual appraisal process and a training & development programme established both for the Committee and its individual members as appropriate.
- 1.11. Advertising for the four remaining Independent Members is due to end on the 10 February 2023. Again, candidates are required to complete an application form and explain why they believed they were suitable for the role.

Links to the Police and Crime Plan

1. The Joint Audit Committee provides a mechanism through which assurance can be sought and the public assured with regards to the probity, regularity, and value for money of resources deployed in the pursuit of the Police and Crime Plan.

2. Consultations

None

3. Implications

a. Legal

The appointment is in line with the Terms of reference for the Audit Committee as previously approved

b. Financial

There are no additional costs associated with this paper over and above those in servicing the current Joint Audit and Ethics Committee.

c. Equality considerations

There are no direct Equality implications in the making of this decision.

d. Data Protection Impact Assessment

There are no direct Data protection implications in the making of this decision.

4. Risk Management

None

5. Background Papers

Report to the Accountability Report -Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee in November 2022

6. Public access to information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation.

Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC website within 3 working days of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form.