

Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey – Decision Making Record

Report Title: Temporary Chief Finance Office Arrangements
Decision number: 039/2013
Author and Job Role: Alison Bolton, Chief Executive
Protective Marking: Part One

Executive Summary:

To confirm temporary arrangements for the Chief Finance Officer for Surrey Police.

Background

On 25th November 2013, Surrey Police dismissed its Chief Finance Officer (CFO) for gross misconduct after allegations of failure to disclose a change in personal circumstances and mishandling of internal information were proven. The Chief Constable is now in the process of replacing this role. This evidently cannot be done immediately as the Chief Constable needs to undertake a recruitment and selection process. She must also ensure that the best and most effective arrangements are put in place for the role's replacement and that on-going and future collaborative plans with Sussex are taken into account.

Both the Chief Constable and PCC are obliged by law to have Chief Finance Officers, who act as professional advisors on financial matters to their respective organisations. Both roles have broadly similar statutory duties, both post holders must be professionally qualified and each has a personal fiduciary duty by virtue of their appointment as the person responsible for financial administration under the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act.

Until arrangements are made for a substantive replacement to the role of Chief Constable's Chief Finance Officer, the Commissioner agrees that his Chief Finance Officer, Ian Perkin, will cover both roles on a short term basis.

It is not advisable in the longer term for one person to share this role given each is responsible for advising a different corporation sole. It is, however, an acceptable and prudent short term solution.

Recommendation

- That the PCC's Chief Finance Officer be delegated as the Chief Finance Officer to the Chief Constable in the short term, until a substantive replacement for this role is identified.
- That the Chief Constable and PCC review the position in terms of a substantive replacement by week commencing 16th December 2013.

Police and Crime Commissioner Approval

I approve the recommendation(s):

Signature: 

Date: 05/12/2013

All decisions must be added to the decision register.

Areas of consideration

Consultation

Senior teams from the Force and OPCC have been consulted.

Financial implications

These are minimal, although the PCC would intend to remunerate his Chief Finance Officer by way of an honorarium to reflect any additional roles and responsibilities.

Legal

The Force has sought legal advice on the issue of appointing a shared CFO on a short term basis.

Risks

In the short term, risks are minimal, although it is recognised that this position is not sustainable in the longer term.

Equality and diversity

None arising.