



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF CONSTABLE OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

26 MARCH 2018

PRESENT:

Gateshead Council	Councillors A Douglas (Chair) and J McClurey
Newcastle City Council	Councillor A Ainsley
North Tyneside Council	Councillor C Burdis
Northumberland County Council	Councillors S Davey and J Riddle
South Tyneside Council	Councillors G Kilgour and J Welsh
Sunderland City Council	Councillors H Trueman and M Mordey
Independent Co-opted Members	J Guy and S Isaacson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Gateshead Council

D Hill - Service Director Legal and Democratic Services
B Wilson - Democratic Services

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

V Baird QC - Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria
R Durham - Interim Chief of Staff

APOLOGIES: Councillors N Kemp (Newcastle City Council) and T Mulvenna (North Tyneside Council)

50. MEMBERSHIP OF THE NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Councillor Michael Mordey has replaced Councillor Paul Watson as a representative of Sunderland City Council on the Panel.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

51. PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF CONSTABLE FOR NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

This meeting constituted the Confirmation Hearing for the proposed appointment of a new Chief Constable for Northumbria Police required to be held under Schedule 8 to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act) to enable the Panel to report to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCC) on that proposed appointment.

The Panel considered the report of the PCC in respect of the proposed appointment of Winton Keenen as Chief Constable of Northumbria Police which, in accordance with the requirements of the Act, provided details of:-

- The criteria used to assess the candidate's suitability for appointment
- Why the candidate satisfied those criteria
- The terms and conditions on which the candidate was proposed to be appointed

Members of the Panel questioned Mr Keenen in relation to his proposed appointment. At the conclusion of their questions, the Panel thanked Mr Keenen and the PCC for attending the hearing.

52. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following business in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

53. CONSIDERATION OF THE PANEL'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PCC IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF CONSTABLE OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

The Panel Members considered Mr Keenen's responses to the questions relating to his proposed appointment as Chief Constable of Northumbria Police and were unanimous in their recommendation that the PCC should be recommended to proceed with Mr Keenen's appointment.

In reaching this decision, the Panel commented in particular that:-

- Mr Keenen had provided excellent responses to all of the Panel's questions in a strategic and detailed manner.
- Mr Keenen considered that with his experience and understanding of the force, he would give it the consistency and continuity it currently needed and, working with the other Members of the Command Team, continue to take it forward and make improvements.
- It was considered that Mr Keenen had the required leadership qualities to bring all Northumbria police officers and staff on board with his ideas and vision for the force in the future.

- Mr Keenen has a detailed knowledge of the area and he was committed to engaging with local Councils and building greater links and working closer with the area's diverse community.
- Mr Keenen stated his intention for Northumbria Police to become more involved in regional and national work as he felt that as a large force, it had a lot to contribute. He would ensure his senior command team was able to assist him in this.

The Panel also noted that the report provided by the Independent Member on the recruitment panel confirmed that the recruitment and selection process had complied with the principles of merit, fairness and openness and that the PCC had followed the College of Policing guidance on the recruitment and selection of Chief Officers and acted in accordance with the spirit of this guidance.

RESOLVED - That the PCC be recommended to proceed with the appointment of Winton Keenen to the post of Chief Constable of Northumbria Police on the terms and conditions set out in the report submitted to the Panel.