

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

**CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER'S CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

26 JULY 2022

PRESENT:

Gateshead Council	Councillors A Douglas and P Maughan
Newcastle City Council	Councillor J Sathian
North Tyneside Council	Councillor C Burdis
Northumberland County Council	Councillor C Horncastle
South Tyneside Council	Councillor J Welsh
Sunderland City Council	Councillors S Laws and P Stewart
Independent Co-opted Members	Mr J Klajn and Mr A Shepherd

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Gateshead Council

G Morton	- Representing the Clerk to the Panel
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

K McGuinness	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria
R Durham	- Chief of Staff

APOLOGIES: Councillors K Robinson (Newcastle City Council), C Johnson (North Tyneside Council), J Foreman (South Tyneside Council) and C Rowntree (Sunderland City Council)

34. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

RESOLVED - That Councillor A Douglas be appointed to chair the meeting.

**35. PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S
CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

This meeting constituted the Confirmation Hearing for the proposed appointment of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Chief Finance Officer required to be

held under Schedule 1 to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act).

The Panel considered the report of the PCC in respect of the proposed appointment of Kevin Laing as the PCC's Chief Finance Officer which, in accordance with the requirements of the Act, provided details of:-

- The name of the person proposed for appointment (the candidate)
- The criteria used to assess their suitability
- Why the candidate meets those criteria
- The terms and conditions on which the candidate is to be appointed.

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

36. 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.

37. CONSIDERATION OF THE PANEL'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PCC IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF THE PCC'S CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

The Panel Members considered Mr Laing's responses to the questions relating to his proposed appointment as the PCC's Chief Finance Officer and were unanimous in their recommendation that the PCC should proceed with Mr Laing's appointment.

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

- Mr Laing appeared very confident in the role that he had been carrying out on an acting basis.
- The Panel considered that Mr Laing had demonstrated he had a lot of relevant experience that he could bring to the role of the PCC's Chief Finance officer.
- Mr Laing gave good succinct answers to the questions asked by the Panel.

RESOLVED - That the PCC be recommended to proceed with the appointment of Kevin Laing to the post of the PCC's Chief Finance Officer on the terms and conditions set out in the report submitted to the Panel.