

Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Held: WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2022 at 2:00 pm at County Hall, Glenfield

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Taylor (Chair)
Councillor Whelband (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Clair
Councillor Cutkelvin
Councillor Graham
Councillor Harper-Davies
Councillor Loydall
Councillor March
Councillor Oxley
Councillor Phillimore
Councillor Russell – substitute
Councillor Woodman
Salma Manzoor – Independent Member

In Attendance:

Rupert Matthews – Police and Crime Commissioner
Councillor Ajmer Kaur Mahal – preferred candidate

Also Present:

Kamal Adatia – Monitoring Officer
Joanne Allen – HR Advisor (Resourcing Manager)
Anita James – Senior Democratic Support Officer

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1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed those present and explained the procedure for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parisha Chavda (Independent Member), Councillor Mullaney and Councillor Clarke.

It was noted that Councillor Russell was present as a substitute in place of Councillor Clarke.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to disclose any pecuniary or other interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

Councillor Clair declared that the proposed candidate Councillor Ajmer Kaur Mahal was a close family friend and associate who had also supported him during his term as Lord Mayor raising significant funds to his chosen charity.

In accordance with the public interest and for the avoidance of any doubt Councillor Clair withdrew from the meeting.

4. CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE ROLE OF DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Following notification by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) of his intention to appoint a preferred candidate, Councillor Ajmer Kaur Mahal to the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC), the Panel held a Confirmation Hearing in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The Panel received a report setting out the powers of the Panel and the process to be followed in the Confirmation Hearing.

The Panel noted the information provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner relating to the appointment of the DPCC which included:

- The name of the preferred candidate and her experience/background;
- A statement stating why the preferred candidate met the criteria of the role;
- The proposed terms and conditions of the appointment.

The Police and Crime Commissioner addressed the Panel and outlined his reasons for deciding to appoint a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner at this time and gave an overview of the process he had undertaken to select his preferred candidate. He indicated that the role of the DPCC would include a significant amount of engagement with stakeholders and communities and therefore he had sought a candidate whose skills would be complimentary to his own, as well as having the requisite personal skills and background dealing effectively with business, stakeholders and communities.

The Panel heard that the Police and Crime Commissioner and the candidate had worked constructively together in the past on other projects.

The Police and Crime Commissioner commended to the Panel, Councillor Ajmer Kaur Mahal to serve as DPCC for as long as the Police and Crime Commissioner held office.

The Panel asked the Police and Crime Commissioner a series of questions, this included seeking assurance as to the fairness and transparency of the approach taken to the appointment; the key responsibilities and expectations of the DPCC role; and clarity as to the accuracy of information provided regarding the candidates experience and background.

The Police and Crime Commissioner also confirmed that the candidate, if successful, would remain in her role as a District Councillor and gave assurance that consideration had been given to how she would meet the commitments of the DPCC role. The Panel heard that the candidate had expressed full commitment to the DPCC role noting that many local councillors worked full time or in other roles whilst maintaining their responsibilities as a local councillor.

The Panel then asked wide ranging questions of the candidate related to her professional competence and personal independence, the answers to which enabled Members to evaluate her suitability for the role. At the end of questioning the Chair thanked the candidate and provided an opportunity to clarify any responses given.

The Chair announced that the Panel's resolution would be notified to the Police and Crime Commissioner and confirmed in writing as specified by relevant legislation.

The Chair then asked all but Members of the Panel and the Panel's support officers to withdraw from the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the press and members of the public be excluded from the meeting during the Panel's deliberations on the grounds their presence would likely involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

5. PRIVATE SESSION

The Panel held exempt discussions which examined the evidence provided in the Confirmation Hearing session.

On the basis of the information provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner, the discussions held in the Confirmation Hearing and the candidates responses to robust and varied questioning the Panel unanimously agreed the recommendation to appoint.

RESOLVED:

That the Police and Crime Commissioner be recommended to appoint the proposed candidate, Councillor Ajmer Kaur Mahal to the position of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Panel's letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner of 15 December 2022 is appended to these minutes.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary scheduled meeting of the Panel to take place on 1st February 2023 at 1pm at City Hall, Leicester.

7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.00pm.

Minute Item 5

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel.

Confirmation Hearing held on Wednesday 14th December 2022 - to consider the preferred candidate for the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

Record of Recommendation of the Panel to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Police and Crime Panel held a confirmation hearing on Wednesday 14th December 2022 at 3pm at County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire to consider the appointment of a preferred candidate, Councillor Ajmer Kaur Mahal, to the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Panel considered Councillor Ajmer Kaur Mahal's candidacy in line with the relevant law (The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011) and the recommended Local Government Association Guidance, and followed the following process:

- a. The candidate was welcomed to the meeting.
- b. The Police and Crime Commissioner presented his preferred candidate to the Panel and proposed the appointment.
- c. The Panel asked questions of the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the appointment process.
- c. The Panel asked questions of the candidate focused on her professional competence and personal independence, and during the course of questioning the candidate presented her understanding of the role.
- e. The candidate was given the opportunity to clarify any answers given during the hearing and to ask questions of the Panel about the next stage of the process.

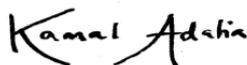
Recommendation and publication:

In line with Schedule 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Monitoring Officer advises the Police and Crime Commissioner of the recommendation of the Panel:

That the proposed candidate, Councillor Ajmer Kaur Mahal, be appointed to the position of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Panel will normally publish its decision and report five working days after the confirmation hearing has taken place. However, you may request the Chair, through the panel secretariat, to bring forward or delay publication of the Panel decision.

Signed



Kamal Adatia

Monitoring Officer

On behalf of the Chair of the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Police and Crime Panel.

15/12/22

