

Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

Outcomes of Consideration of the Proposed Appointment of Chief Finance Officer

On 27 May 2022 the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel held a Confirmation Hearing to consider the recommendation of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Suffolk regarding the proposed appointment of Colette Batson (the candidate) as Chief Finance Officer to the PCC's office.

Nine members of the 13-member Panel were in attendance at the meeting, as were the candidate, the PCC and the PCC's Chief Executive.

The Panel received a written report from the PCC regarding the appointment process, alongside a comprehensive role profile and details of the suitability of the candidate for appointment. Copies of the report are available on the [Suffolk County Council website](#).

The PCC introduced his report and advised that a vigorous recruitment process had been followed to fill this important role. The PCC stated that in these difficult times, when the pattern of crime was changing and the public's expectations growing, the need to work efficiently was more important than ever. The Panel heard that the vacancy for the position of Chief Finance Officer had been widely advertised both locally and nationally, and that there had been six applications received. The candidate was an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, and had former experience in both the public and private sector which was transferable to the financial policing environment.

The Panel asked questions of the PCC in relation to the advertising of the role, and the need for the post holder to look for efficiency savings and maximise income generation, including making representations to Central Government.

The Panel asked questions of the candidate in relation to her experience and her priorities when starting the role.

The Chairman thanked the PCC and the candidate for their time in attending the meeting and their responses to the Panel, and congratulated the candidate on her appointment.

The Decision of the Panel

The Panel agreed unanimously to recommend to the PCC that the candidate, Colette Batson, should be appointed to the role of Chief Finance Officer to the PCC.

The Panel also agreed to delegate to the Vice Chairman (who chaired the meeting) the preparation and publication of this formal report to the PCC on behalf of the Panel.

A copy of this report of the Panel will be placed on the County Council's [website](#).

Councillor Peter Gardiner
Vice Chairman of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

27 May 2022