

Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel

**Agenda
Item No. 8**

6 September, 2011

West Midlands Police Co-opted Member

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor Z. Ali – Communities and Partnerships

Report:

On 1 April 2009 the Police and Justice Act 2006 was enacted which created a requirement for all local authorities operating executive arrangements to have an overview and scrutiny committee that was responsible for considering crime and disorder issues. On 18 May 2009, Council awarded this remit to the Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel (CSSPP).

The regulations enacting the Police and Justice Act 2006 (as amended) created the provision for crime and disorder scrutiny committees to co-opt outside representatives.

Last year the Panel co-opted Mr Phillip Holmes JP from West Midlands Police Authority. Following the success of this arrangement the CSSPP resolved at its meeting on 7 June 2010 to again co-opted a West Midlands Police Authority member onto the CSSPP for 2010/11.

West Midlands Police Authority have nominated Mr Zahid Nawaz to be the Authorities co-opted member on the Panel for 2010/11. Mr Nawaz has been an independent member on the Authority for the last four years.

Next Steps

In order to formally appoint Mr Nawaz it is necessary for the CSSPP to make a recommendation to Council concerning the appointment as all appointments to committees are reserved for full Council.

The Councils Constitution allows for the appointment of non-voting co-opted members only (except in the case of statutory education co-opted members on the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny and Performance Panel). Therefore it is recommended that all co-opted member appointments to the CSSPP be on a non-voting basis in line with the provisions contained within the Constitution.

The legislation allows restrictions to the membership of crime and disorder co-opted members, for example: on crime and disorder issues only. In the case of the statutory education co-opted members on the Children and Young

Peoples Scrutiny and Performance Panel they are only entitled to vote on education matters but are entitled to stay and speak to any other matter being considered by the Panel. As it is recommended that crime and disorder co-opted members be non-voting members there is no compelling reason to restrict their membership, however, Members may wish to consider restricting membership to crime and disorder matters only.

Recommendations:

That subject to any comments Members may wish to make, Mr Zahid Nawaz be recommended to Council to become a non-voting co-opted member on the Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

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