

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DECISION NUMBER: 17 - 2022

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

SUMMARY:

1. This paper provides for a decision to be made upon the appointment of a new Chief Finance Officer for Suffolk by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) following consideration of the PCC's proposed appointment by the Police and Crime Panel on 27 May 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. the PCC accept the Police and Crime Panel's recommendation at paragraph 2.1 and that Colette Batson be appointed as Chief Finance Officer to the Police and Crime Commissioner;
2. the Police and Crime Panel be notified of the PCC's decision to accept the Panel's recommendation.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out above is agreed.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Parry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Date: 30 June 2022

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 6 May 2022 the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) agreed that:

“1. the Police and Crime Panel be notified of the proposed appointment of Colette Batson as Chief Finance Officer the Police and Crime Commissioner.

2. [Decision 14 – 2022] be submitted to the Police and Crime Panel for consideration at the Confirmation Hearing on Friday 27 May 2022”.

1.2 On 27 May 2022 the Police and Crime Panel reviewed and considered the report to the PCC on the proposed appointment of Chief Finance Officer.

1.3 Decision 14 – 2022 made by the PCC explained the process which had been undertaken to recruit a new Chief Finance Officer and provided the information that the PCC is statutorily required to provide to the Police and Crime Panel in reviewing a proposed appointment. That Decision Paper provides the background to this paper.

1.4 The Decision Paper explained the proposed terms of appointment and that the PCC intended to appoint Colette Batson as his Chief Finance Officer.

2 POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

2.1 The Police and Crime Panel in reviewing the proposed appointment of Colette Batson as Chief Finance Officer decided as follows:

“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.”

2.2 A copy of the Panel’s written report to the PCC is attached to this paper as Appendix A.

3 RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION

3.1 Accordingly as a consequence of the PCC’s proposal and the Police and Crime Panel’s conclusions, it is now recommended that the PCC appoint Colette Batson as Chief Finance Officer upon the terms as articulated in Decision 14 – 2022; and further that the Panel be notified of the PCC’s decision to accept the Panel’s recommendation.

4 IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

4.1 It has been agreed that Colette Batson will commence in the role of Chief Finance Officer to the PCC on 13 July 2022. The appointment will accordingly take effect from this date.

4.2 As a consequence, the temporary appointment of Kenneth Kilpatrick as Temporary Chief Finance Officer to the PCC (Decision 35 – 2021) will come to an end at the commencement of Colette Batson in role on 13 July 2022.

4.3 There are no further implications and risks that require explanation in addition to the material set out above and contained within Decision 14 – 2022.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	The writer is a solicitor and the Monitoring Officer and has considered all relevant legal issues in the production of the paper.
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Yes
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	Yes
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Not applicable
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	Yes
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	Yes

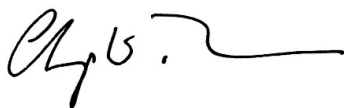
In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the (add decision-maker's title e.g. the PCC).

Signature:



Date: 30 June 2022



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